

THE 1972 AUSTRALIAN MEN'S TOUR

The backbone of this history was written by the late Horrie Webber with invaluable contributions provided in 2020 by several members of the tour, with editing and additions by John Nolan
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The Australian Lacrosse Council (A.L.C), having committed itself to an overseas visit as a preliminary to the world championships of 1974 to be held in Australia, appointed a committee to devise the overall conduct of the organisation and conduct of the 1972 tour. The committee comprised of Mr Noel Jeffrey (International Liaison Officer) (I.L.O.); Mr Peter Drew from the South Australian Lacrosse Association (SALA); Mr Reg Ponton from the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association (VALA); and Mr Laurie Turnbull from the Western Australian Lacrosse Association (WALA).

This was a group of experienced men, each highly respected in his own state. There may be elements of bias towards Victoria, but it must be remembered that Noel Jeffrey no longer served actively on the VALA, but had for some time held the position under the A.L.C. of the I.L.O., and had been given full authority to instigate and carry out proposals with international officials and organisations. It is difficult to imagine a better chosen committee.

It is relatively easy to conceive a grandiose scheme, but far less easy to arouse practical interest in it, especially when the interest must be demonstrated through the bank account. An information booklet was compiled early in 1971, setting out the proposed program of matches, the expenses that would be met by hosts, the expenses that members must be prepared to defray from their own resources. One need not detail all the possibilities, but the committee examined the matters closely, and potential members knew accurately what expenses they would need to face.

Under Noel Jeffrey's guidance an itinerary was devised, its course would be roughly west to east; and would include North America, England, Europe and Hong Kong. The tour would last 8 or 10 weeks.

On 15 February 1971 Noel Jeffrey was able to conclude a letter with the words: "The purpose of this statement is to indicate to all senior lacrosse players and officials in Australia that the tour is definitely on and to encourage all those who are eligible to begin planning to make the trip." The decision having been made, it now remained to be implemented.

The selection of players received attention. After the experiences of the 1962 and 1967 tours the committee decided that the official party should consist of 21 players and 5 officials. This decision was made before the selection of individuals would be considered. This was to be an Australian representative side, and therefore it was required that candidates should meet certain standards. This tour would be undertaken by amateurs largely at their own expense and thus might not contain all the best exponents of the game. Some might not be able to afford it; others might not be able to get leave from their work. It was decided that nominees for places in the team must be players of either colts or senior Interstate standard, and must be current players resident in Australia.

Subject to the nominations received the selected team should consist of 2 goalkeepers, 4 specialised defence men, 4 specialised attack men and 11

midfielders. Where practicable, preference should be given to big fast men and physically strong midfielders. If possible, 2 emergencies should be named for each of the field categories, to stand by in the case of withdrawal of selected players. The presence of wives and tourists at the 1967 tours had already provided some issues and inconvenience. The committee laid down clearly to players and officials that, wives accompanying the team would be regarded as part of a supporters group, and that the interests of wives would at all times rank second to those of the team. Early team selection was essential.

Each state was required to appoint a special selection sub-committee, comprising the A.L.C. delegate, the state coach and one other. Each state association should call for nominations for team officials and players. These nominations should be delivered to the A.L.C. secretary by 31 July 1971. The A.L.C. secretary would conduct a special postal ballot for selection of team officials no later than 31 August 1971. The A.L.C., at a special meeting convened for the purpose at which the elected team manager and coach would make the final team selection no later than 30 September 1971.

A special consideration for selection was the players' previous reputation concerning behaviour and conduct. The committee was all too aware of the poor reputation brought upon by some Australian lacrosse players in Canada, and appreciative of the exemplary behaviour of the Baltimore Lancers Club during their recent tour of Australia. Penalties and even the possibility of expulsion from the team were included in the contracts of players selected as Australian representatives in 1972. It is clear that the administrators in 1971 had done all in their power to avoid all interstate jealousies, and to recruit the best team possible to represent Australia.

There were five officials - team manager, team coach, assistant team manager, assistant coach and the trainer. It was only too likely that there might be differences of opinion, even arising to altercation, between officials. The committee therefore drew up in detail the responsibilities and privileges of each official position. Harmony and effective administration are brought about more by mutual respect and good sense than by regulation, but the survey and allocation of duties ensured that there would be a responsible officer to deal with such contingencies as may arise.

On the previous trip the supporters group had provided some difficulties. The sub-committee therefore legislated to reduce any potential cause of friction to a minimum. They believed that supporters, including the wives of players and officials should be encouraged to attend. Among the previous supporters there had been many who joined the party merely to enjoy economical experience in travel. For many of them the games they saw in America were their first experiences of lacrosse. This had led to certain variations of interest, and led to embarrassment and friction. It was therefore decided that supporters for the 1972 tour would be accepted only if they had a past or present interest in lacrosse. It was evident that circumstances might arise where hosts might find difficulty in providing accommodation for more than the Australian team and its officials. Members of the support group were therefore strongly advised to secure membership of the YMCA or the YWCA before departure, in case at some stage of the tour they needed to find their own accommodation.

The support group were required to nominate a spokesman whose responsibility would be to effect liaison with the manager and the assistant to the manager, to co-operate with them at all times, and look to them for guidance. He would act as the supporters' organiser. This prevented unpleasant situations where abrasive men, or

generous subscribers to the tour finances looking for special privileges, or from forming little trouble groups among supporters who fancied themselves as having been exploited.

It was made clear that members of the supporters group would not be regarded as part of an official party. An order of precedence is sometimes needed for official gatherings. The ALC president or a vice president might well be, at any rate for part of the tour, be a member of the supporters group. In such a case, with the agreement of the host party, the ALC president or vice president should rank equally with the team manager and coach. It was hoped that by such provisions all likelihood of jealousies between officials would be avoided. The team selectors on tour should comprise the coach, the team captain and the assistant coach.

We need not detail the items of uniforms worn by members of the team at various occasions but we must realise that match uniforms, practice gear, formal clothing, informal attire, ties, belts, and badges need careful designing, wise choice of materials, and skilful manufacture. They cannot be provided hastily, and these matters of clothing and uniform required much skill, time and work on behalf of the Committee of 1971. We must never lose sight of the fact that the ultimate aim of the exercise was to the hosting of the world championship in Melbourne in 1974. The 1972 touring team was the show-case of Australian lacrosse. Nor can there be any doubt that the ALC produced a masterly document, which could well be the model of organisation of future international tours.

The itinerary of the tour was planned to be as follows:

Days	Venue
3	Melbourne
5	Los Angeles
5	San Francisco
3	Bowling Green University, Toledo Ohio
4	Denison University, Grantville Ohio
7	Baltimore, Maryland
5	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Cornell University, New York State)
10	Cortland State Teachers' College, New York State, Yale University, Connecticut
3	New York for sight seeing
7	London: 1 or 2 matches
3	Paris
3	Rome
5	Hong Kong University
3	Singapore

The team would depart Australia 23 March and return 26 May 1972, a nine week tour.

It was unfortunate that at this advanced stage in negotiations; Noel Jeffrey was obliged to tender his resignation from the position of I.L.O. His services in this position had been invaluable as had his contribution to the ALC generally, and the VALA. Noel Jeffrey was at that time already a senior executive in his firm, and had been promoted to a more senior position overseas. It was anticipated that he would

be absent from Australia for several years. This was a severe loss at this critical time and nominations for his replacement were requested by 24 August 1971.

The result of the ballot conducted through the associations resulted in the appointment of the following officials:

Tour Manager:	Mr Laurie Turnbull (W.A.)
Tour Coach:	Mr Terry Allington (Victoria)
Assistant to the Manager	Mr Barry Wilkinson (Victoria)
Assistant to the Coach	Mr Frank Hogarth (Victoria)
Trainer	Mr Jim Walker (Victoria)

Don Hobbs (SALA) was appointed I.L.O and Don Harris (VALA), who had undertaken to act as organiser of the support group but due to the withdrawal of Barry Wilkinson, was appointed assistant manager.

Until 1972 there had not been any real cohesion in international lacrosse. Though there were similarities in the game as played in different countries, there were also fundamental differences.

Thus the unification of the rules, given such impetus by the Australian authorities, and taken up with some reluctance by other lacrosse playing countries may have saved the game from becoming an isometric exercise played under various names, in different regions; or indeed from complete disintegration. Of course, the need to standardise rules had begun prior to 1972, but by 1972 sufficient important contacts had been made in different parts of the world for real progress to have been made. The names of men such as Noel Jeffrey and Laurie Turnbull carried weight in international deliberations and Judge Hammerman in America carried similar influence. The project of a world championship in 1974 made it imperative that a generally accepted code of laws must be devised, added the final incentive.

It must be accepted that in 1972 this prospect was by no means certain. For one thing, the estimate of their skill held by the Australian lacrosseurs was by no means universal. There were clubs in the United States who refused to accept a fixture with the 1972 touring side because they considered that the Australians would not reach a standard to give them worthwhile competition. The capability of the Australian team was soon evident and added weight to discussions about the world championships in Melbourne in 1974.

Looking forward to 1974 in terms of the style of game and rules there was less divergence between the English code of rules and the Australian, than between the American and Canadian codes. While it would take too long to detail all the differences the main one was perhaps the degree of roughness allowed in America compared with other countries. Though hitting your opponent with the crosse was permissible in the USA, it was not acceptable to Australians and Englishmen. The amount of "checking" was also much more widely allowed.

The use of substitutes was also a cause of friction. All countries agreed that there should be 10 men on the field at a time, but the number of times substitutions could be made was unlimited in America. Thus the Australian team numbering 21 only, frequently opposed groups of 45. This of course, laid a great strain on the team with the smaller number of substitutes. The difference arose, apparently, from a difference in "tradition". English and Australian clubs selected a team with a reasonable number of substitutes. Therefore other members did not play or formed

a second team. In the American system every member of the club was entitled to play: there were no second teams.

There were many other differences, in which some of the American laws were better. The rules applying in Canada, the home of the game, were more widely different. In Canada, lacrosse had become an almost exclusively professional game of box lacrosse, played by teams of 6 a side. Few Canadians had any experience of field lacrosse games played ten a side. For this reason among others, no match was played in Canada. The prestige of the 1972 touring side was such that their views received consideration. It may be no exaggeration to state that the game of lacrosse achieved its unified form during the 1972 season, though the result of the work was not fully evident until 1974.

A game is more than rules. Rules are only the framework within strategy and tactics may be applied and the ALC realised this and its plans began by ensuring that the team selected, would consist of the biggest men available. Even then the stature of the players available would not equal the height and weight of the American teams, chosen as they were from American footballers exercising themselves in their off-season. Thus it was necessary for the coach appointed by the ALC to analyse the style of game played in America, and devise a set of counter measures. This made all the more difficult because the members of the team came from three different states, each several hundred or thousand miles from the other. To overcome this, the Australian coach, Terry Allington, drew up a sheet of coaching instructions which his colleagues in the other states could put into practice.

The first necessity Terry Allington perceived was fitness. The Australian team would be matched not only against bigger men, but also against teams with an almost unlimited number of substitutes available. Fitness such as he foresaw as necessary could not be achieved before the time when the team members gathered in Melbourne. He therefore directed that training should begin about the middle of October 1971. Players should then begin a regime of jogging or running at least ten miles a week. This should be increased in the new year. The tactics should be similar to those which had characterised the best state teams for many years. The basis of this strategy should be fast movement of ball and men.

American lacrosse players indulged in a rugged game, of which "checking" was a dominant feature. Terry Allington regarded useless checking as a waste of time. It also gave rise to unnecessary penalties. His counter to this aspect of American rigour was to train a team with enough stamina and speed to force them out of position.

The Australian team must be fast enough, both with running and stick work to prevent the Americans from settling down and dictating the pace of the game. He had observed when American teams had the ball behind the goals, they always hold it until their players were in position. The Australians would counter these tactics by harassing the men behind the goals all the time.

He instructed that all Australian players should become adept at running with the stick in one hand. Australian tradition was to carry it with two hands, but Americans had adopted a technique of carrying the stick in one hand and warding off or blocking opponent's checks with the other arm. If the Australians adopted this American technique, their opponents would be taken by surprise.

The American enthusiasm for and rigor in checking must be countered. The coach suggested Australian players should keep their shoulders close to the Americans when they have the ball and are being checked. The orthodox reaction of a player is to get away from his man, but this allows the checker more power to the stick, and this is what the checker will expect you to do. By keeping your body close to the American it will restrict his checks, particularly if we can delete the “poke” check from the rules.

Australian teams should adopt the practice of “two on one” on ground balls. This was needed because of the American practice of checking off the opponent about to take control of the ball. The technique was new to Australians because of differences in the rules of checking. Concentration on this form of play would therefore be necessary. The resounding success brought about by Terry Allington’s wise directions and the loyalty with which they were practiced is evident from the high degree of success the team achieved.

But the best of coaches and the wisest of managers cannot produce first-class results without the calibre of players capable of being brought to this standard of excellence. This, then, is the appropriate time to see who the members of the team were, and what types of men were chosen. The lists made available followed the scheme laid down by Judge Hammerman to facilitate congenial billeting during the visit of the Lancer’s Club, setting out such things as age, occupation, religion and interests, height and weight.



Back row (L to R): Michael Raggatt, Noel Speck, Barry Thompson, Mike Hislop, Rod Scott, Doug Fox, Ron Twomey, Peter Stiglich, Ian Toy & Ross Turnbull
Middle row: Ken Read, Graham Antrim, Dave Thompson, Dennis Falland, Roger Attenborough, Allan Datson, Brian Griffin, Bill Stubbs, Jeff Kelly & John Carter
Seated: Jim Walker (Trainer), Frank Hogarth (Asst coach), Laurie Turnbull (Manager), Terry Allington (Coach) & Don Harris (Asst Manager)
Absent: Peter Hobbs

Thus the team comprised 8 from S.A., 7 from Victoria and 6 from W.A.

The team was first announced in September/October 1971 and formed up as three state based squads until coming together in March 1972 prior to departure. Team fitness was essential and was attended to vigorously. As then 22-year-old Ron Twomey explained the key challenges ahead for the players required significant personal development. Players had to not only adapt to different rules they had to completely change the way they played. He points out that all players at the time of selection used wooden sticks and only received STX plastic sticks toward the end of 1971. Few Aussie players were ambidextrous and only occasionally threw cross arm with wooden sticks. However as Ron explained all of the attack and midfield players trained and mastered the plastic sticks and could play either hand before departure. "The speed and intensity of our stick skills and our fitness prepared us for the task ahead". As can be seen from the photos most of the defenders though continued using hickory sticks.

The S.A. and W.A. members of the touring party arrived in Melbourne late on Sunday 19 March and were billeted by their Victorian counterparts. During the 3 days in Melbourne the team trained at La Trobe University and had a practice match against Victorian players prepared to give up time to come out and play mid week.

As to the cost of the tour no one seems to recall but Ian Toy did recall that it seemed very good value at the time and Laurie Turnbull had gone to great lengths to make sure it was affordable, even to the point on their return to Australia, the team had 5 transit flights between Rome and Hong Kong, thus a flight today that would take approximately 12 hours took close to 24 hours.

The touring party departed Melbourne on Thursday 23 March for Sydney, from where the team boarded an international flight on a 747 Pan Am Jumbo jet and flew to Los Angeles via Nandi and Honolulu, arriving 4pm local time the same day.



The touring party with supporters at Melbourne airport about to depart.

Pictured above, standing, from left to right are:- Mike Hislop, Sandra Sinclair, Michael Raggatt, Laurie Turnbull, Jim Walker, Rod Scott (Partly obscured), Jeff Kelly, Ross Turnbull, Dave Thompson, Dennis Falland, John Carter, Roger Attenborough (Partly obscured), Bill Stubbs, Peter Hobbs, Noel Speck, Mrs Hogarth, Ken Read, Barry Thompson (Partly obscured), Don Harris, Frank Hogarth, Ron Twomey, Terry Allington, Brian Griffin, Mavis Allington, Ian Toy, Doug Fox, Graeme Antrim, Peter Stiglich, Ray Trevaskis (Partly obscured), Allan Datson.

Front row supporters – Helen Whiting, Christine Speck, Lyn Attenborough, Pam Read & Pam Hislop.

Accordingly to Ken Read “Training in LA the pollution was so bad that training was called off, with our white training T shirts ingrained with black pollution”.

The players were billeted at the Terminal Island Naval Base and the supporters at nearby army barracks while in Long Beach, and in Monterey the team was accommodated at the Naval Post Graduate School. The entourage was billeted with families throughout most of the U.S. and English legs of the tour.

Following an official reception at the Australian Consulate at Long Beach prior to the first game, Terry Allington called the players together and advised that “If the Consulate’s Australian flag was not put on his bunk the tour would not proceed and the whole entourage would return to Australia on the next flight available”. Fortunately, the alleged missing flag mysteriously appeared, neatly folded on Terry’s bunk!

The first match was in LA against the South California All-Stars where Australia notched up a comfortable 15-3 victory. The next two days were sightseeing including a trip to Disneyland. From LA the team bussed to Monterey and played a match against the Naval Post Graduate School on 29 March, again an easy win, 29-6, before bussing to San Francisco, where the team stayed at the Alameda Naval Base. Ron Twomey recalls it was an aircraft carrier base and the USS Enterprise was docked when the team arrived.

On 1 April the team played the North California All-Stars and again won convincingly, 16-3.

The team flew to Toledo, Ohio on Monday 3 April and played Bowling Green University the following day, again another easy victory, 15-6, and backed up the following day against Denison University (Columbus, Ohio), winning 13-10. During their stay the team was accommodated at Denison University.

On Saturday 8 April the team flew to Baltimore and the following day played the Wolf Pack (Mt Washington), narrowly winning 16-15. Due to injury Australia could only field 18 players against the Wolf Pack with a large crowd watching the game.



Above is Ian Toy clearing against Denison, with Barry Thompson looking on.

The Carlings club was regarded as the strongest in the country and they had scouted the Australian team well following the Aussies win over the Wolf Pack (Mount Washington). Carlings defence dominated shutting out Griffin and Raggatt in the first quarter with the score being 4-1, in Carlings' favour.

Australia rallied early in the second quarter to get close at 6 – 4 before Carlings again took control to lead 9 – 4 at half time. The second half score was closer at 5 – 3 with Carlings taking the match 14 – 7 in front of a crowd of 3,000. This was the only game that Brian Griffin was held scoreless and Michael Raggatt to one goal and 3 assists. Clearly the Americans had done their homework.

Coach Terry Allington commented after the game “We had trouble clearing the ball. That is something we will have to work on. We have never faced a team that could ride so well. With so much manpower every one of the home team players was fresh and could give pursuit and ride. But the big difference as Terry Allington stated was “The American tactics, Carlings converted five times in the extra-man situation, and the Australians only once”.

Terry Allington also graciously added “They were a better team in all respects of the game, but we are still learning. They outmanned us, how many players did they have?.” As the local newspaper reported “Carlings had a 40 man squad and 36 saw action. The Australians brought only 21 players on this 13 game world tour which started 18 days ago. The previous 6 games and all of the travelling had to take something out of the “Outback Gang”. This was probably the first game any of the Australians had played under lights.

The Aussies' schedule and limited number of players (21) was taking its toll with only 18 players fielded against Mount Washington on the 9 April and 19 against Carlings under lights on 12 April. The ongoing performance of the Aussie team had aroused

great admiration and even more importantly, the Australian team made many influential friends.

During their stay in Baltimore the entourage undertook sight-seeing, including a visit to Washington, as well as watching an army vs navy lacrosse match.

The Aussies went on to convincingly beat Yale 14 – 6 at Yale on 18 April and were accommodated at the dormitories of Yale.

The team then flew to Ithaca to play Cornell University on 20 April, which was coached by the forceful and aggressive Ritchie Moran. The team was accommodated on campus at Cornell. This was the first time the players had seen or trained on an “Astro turf” surface.

What appears surprising in this match was the coach’s decision to start with the number 2 goalkeeper, Dave Thompson, when Doug Fox, who had played all of the games to this point in goals other than Bowling Green and Yale (Where he played in attack and scored a goal and gave two assists) had dominated. The game seemed to get away from Australia where they were down 10 – 4 at half-time, with Cornell scoring 7 goals in the second quarter, with Doug Fox coming to goals late in the second quarter. The game changed in the third quarter, with Australia scoring 4 goals and Cornell held scoreless. In the final quarter Cornell had 21 shots for 6 goals, and with Australia scoring only 3 goals suffered its second and largest defeat of the tour. Cornell had 68 shots to Australia’s 34, with Cornell having 23 and 21 shots in the 2nd and 4th quarters respectively. But make no mistakes, this was a quality team that Australia was playing, one of the very best in the U.S. and they had done their homework before the team arrived. It was also the first time any of the Australia players had played on the recent surface innovation of “Astro turf”, which several players indicated was difficult to adapt to, as well as playing in extremely cold and icy conditions.

Australia’s 20 played well, putting up a spirited effort against Cornell’s 39 players and some questionable rule interpretations to lose 16 -11. These games were building power and confidence within the Australian team and the whole touring group, which became very evident when the team arrived in England rested and ready for action.

Following the match against Cornell the team flew from Ithaca to Toronto staying at the Waldorf Astoria, with sightseeing including a trip to Niagara Falls and in the evening the team watched a box lacrosse match.

While Fairfield in upstate NY and Yorktown in Connecticut were not highly ranked teams they were effectively quality state league or A grade equivalents and were no match for the Australians. The team was billeted by lacrosse families in both locations.

On Saturday 24 April the entourage flew from Yorktown to New York City where they took time out for some final sightseeing in the “Big Apple” before flying on 2 May direct to London. The team stayed at the NYC YMCA.

There is little doubt that the 1972 tour would not have inspired other nations to commit themselves to the world championships if they had shown the sort of form demonstrated by previous touring teams. The American lacrosse public was in fact astounded at the quality of the Australian play. There would be little incentive for the

best American players to make the journey to Australia merely to give the players "Down under" a lesson. The Australians played against 11 of the best teams in the United States, they were only beaten twice; once by Carlings Lacrosse Club and once by Cornell University.

The Australian team was met with great cordiality in England. As tradition would have it, Australian team management and captains are normally generously hosted by the Centurion Club to a dinner at the House of Commons, normally preceded by a tour of the Houses of Parliament, and this tour was no different with the guests hosted by the Centurions on Friday 5 May.

While in London most of the team stayed in the accommodation units at Crystal Palace Stadium and also practised on the famous Crystal Palace stadium. Ken Read recalled that he and his wife Pam were billeted some distance from the Crystal Palace stadium and when he approached a cab driver to take him to the ground he refused, responding that "I won't take you as I know Australians don't tip!" Ken had to get to training via the train.

The success of the Australian team in England was outstanding and their performances on the field emphasised the level of development and experience the team had achieved since its formation. The Aussies defeated the South of England team at Hurlingham Park in London 28 goals to 2 on 6 May then travelled to Manchester to defeat the All England team 19 to 3 three days later. The team was billeted by lacrosse families in Manchester.

The manager in his official report wrote: "I report that formal discussions were held with the appropriate officers in America, Canada and England. Where the writer had had some misgivings as to the possibility of Canada and England sending a team to Melbourne in 1974 for the anticipated World Series, these are now changed considerably. Coincidentally, both those teams receive from their respective governments 50% of the airfares necessary to send teams overseas. A full report will be forthcoming from the Liaison Officer of the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse (IAFL), "I will briefly say that it appears almost certain that we can expect a team from all countries in 1974." Mr. Turnbull concluded his report in these words: "There is no doubt in my mind that the greatest achievement of the team, was the wonderful international relations which has been further cemented between so many families of all ages, university students and leading sporting identities." There is no doubt that the 1972 international tour was a wonderful success in every way.

The publication "All Sports" (1 June 1972) wrote: "We have been told exclusively that following the success of the tour, the IAFL, has selected Melbourne as the host city for the 1974 world series to mark the centenary of the game in Australia."

We are not sure why this date is used as lacrosse started in Melbourne in 1876!

Details of the games are:

In America

Australia	15	v	South California All Stars	3
Australia	29	v	Naval Port Graduate School	6
Australia	16	v	North California All Stars	3
Australia	15	v	Bowling Green State University	6
Australia	13	v	Denison University	10
Australia	16	v	Mount Washington L.C.	15
Australia	7	v	Carlings Lacrosse Club	14
Australia	14	v	Yale University	6

Australia	11	v	Cornell University	16
Australia	28	v	Fairfield Country L.C.	4
Australia	27	v	Yorktown Athletic Club	7

In England

Australia	28	v	South of England	2
Australia	19	v	England	3

The results being 13 games played, with 11 wins and 2 losses.

Looking at the stats on the American leg of the tour Australia had 547 shots for 191 goals (35%), averaging 42 shots and 15 goals per game, but only 37 and 34 shots respectively against Carling and Cornell. While Brian Griffin was clearly the highest goal scorer on tour with 51 goals against American teams he was held scoreless against Carling and scored only one against Cornell. Clearly the Americans had, as they had in prior tours, done their homework.

The entourage did some sightseeing in their final 3 days in London and flew from London to Paris on 12 May, with two days of sightseeing, with most of the entourage flying to Rome on 14 May, where a few more days of sightseeing was undertaken. Some of the entourage took the train from Paris to Geneva and then drove to Rome via northern Italy and the French Riviera. On 18 May the entourage flew to Hong Kong, and while there were long haul Jumbo jets flying in those days, for whatever reason, probably economics, this flight had transit stops in Istanbul, Beirut, Karachi, New Delhi, Bangkok, before finally landing in Hong Kong. Maybe it was a cost issue but what would be normally a 12 hour flight from Rome would have taken a full day!

Arriving on May 19 the entourage stayed at the Cathay Hotel on Hong Kong Island and was supposed to conduct a coaching clinic, but unfortunately had to be called off due to heavy rain. The following day a few "6 on 6" scrimmage matches were played at the football stadium against the Hong Kong players, many of whom were English expatriate players.

From Hong Kong the entourage flew to Singapore 23 May, where they stayed for a couple of days, and then on to Perth where they cleared customs and the non-Western Australians flew home on the "Red eye special".

Why was this team so much more successful than its predecessors in 1962 and 1967? Was it a better team? Was the competition not as good? Were there other factors? Was overseas travel now becoming more affordable? No doubt the length of the trip, 9 weeks, would have been an issue for some vying for selection.

The 1972 Australian team proved to be a talented and balanced team with all 21 players having prior representative experience at state level. The team consisted of 8 players between 26 to 30 years old and 13 players between 25 to 22 years old. The team and its experienced coaches and managers were the basis for a successful international tour.

According to Ian Toy his observations were that the tour was enjoyable and an education for all involved. "I consider Terry Allington's coaching talents the prime reason the team had such on-field success. He treated all the players as equals, and was the best coach I played under. Terry coached/managed the attack players in a manner that ensured no one player was able to dictate. I also believe the leadership

skills of Doug Fox ensured the defence unit became a key factor in the team's success. I think another factor was that management made it very clear that the on-field success was dependent on all players placing limits on, and being disciplined with, their social/drinking activities".

Ron Twomey felt that the level of fitness was very important and Terry Allington made it very clear once the team was selected that the team would have to be of the highest level of fitness if they were to succeed in the U.S. This became more apparent when the Australian team, with a maximum of 21 players, played Carling as an example, which fielded 39 players in their match.

Ron also felt that unlike previous tours, the team had the equipment needed to play prior to departing. As he explained "All team members trained and mastered the plastic stick and all could play either hand prior to departure. The speed and intensity of our stick skills and our fitness prepared us for the task ahead.

What cannot be underestimated is the homework that the Americans had done, with scouts virtually at every match, whereas Australia did not have these resources or opportunities. Thus teams of the ilk of Carlings and Cornell had playing intelligence and statistics before the Australian team arrived and knew which players in particular they had to counter.

This was certainly the most successful Australian team to leave Australia's shores and clearly the team, including the coach and management, performed exceedingly well against a nation and teams that have far more depth and financial fire power than Australia, where not only did the players and officials have to come up with the money but had to be able to take and afford 9 weeks of annual leave.

Well done Australia, a major leap forward for Australian lacrosse.