



Seven's cricket set to sizzle this summer

Test match cricket and Big Bash all in one place

(10 July, 2018) Australia's new home of cricket, Channel 7, today unveiled an outline of its coverage plans and revealed more commentators for the summer ahead.

For the first time ever, a sole free-to-air broadcaster will broadcast both Test and BBL cricket in Australia. For the next six years, Seven will broadcast:

- 43 Big Bash League matches, including all marquee matches and finals
- All home international tests, including the 2021-22 home Ashes series, and every year the iconic Boxing Day and New Year's Test matches
- Key Women's Big Bash League and International matches
- The most prestigious individual prizes in Australian cricket; the Allan Border Medal and Belinda Clark Award.

Seven's Head of Cricket, Dave Barham commented:

"We are looking forward to the summer of cricket enormously. Throughout the coverage, we will be showcasing the players, bringing out their character and personality with more than 30 player features and vignettes. Heartland cricket will also be championed as Seven highlights stories at community level and local cricket.

"And we'll do all of this while respecting the history of cricket, now that we are custodians of the sport."

Seven's **Mel McLaughlin** and **James Brayshaw** will form a dual-hosted team for the first time ever in Australian cricket broadcasting in Test cricket.

Three key ball-by-ball callers will call the Test action for Seven including international sports broadcaster and commentator **Alison Mitchell**, veteran broadcaster **Tim Lane** and **James Brayshaw**.

This follows the announcement recently that Australia's highest ever run-scorer, **Ricky Ponting**, will call Test matches and BBL on Seven, along with **Damien Fleming** and **Michael Slater**, while **Glenn McGrath** will provide expert commentary for Test matches.

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Excitingly, **Bruce McAvaney** will also be part of Seven's cricket coverage this summer. Australia's best sports interviewer and most revered broadcaster, will interview the sport's most iconic figures during the lunch break at the Melbourne and Sydney Test Matches.

Seven's commentary team members announced to date; (More commentary team members to be announced closer to summer.)

Ricky Ponting – expert commentator

Australia's highest ever run-scorer and former captain, Ricky Ponting, is set to join the new home of cricket, Channel 7.

Ponting, one of the most decorated cricketers to ever wear the baggy green, is currently regarded as the best cricket commentator in the world. His intimate knowledge of the game is matched by his ability to communicate to all cricket fans of varying interest and understanding.

Damien Fleming – expert commentator

Fleming compiled an impressive career for Australia across Tests and ODIs as a fast-medium swing bowler including a Test hat-trick on debut and a key role in the 1999 World Cup winning team. He's been equally successful throughout his time in the commentary box on television and radio where fans have enjoyed his entertaining and insightful 'bowlology' theories.

Michael Slater – expert commentator

Michael Slater was Australia's aggressive stroke-playing star at the top of the order for a decade, including during the team's golden run of success where they won a record 16 consecutive Tests in a row. He has brought an upbeat, vibrant and fun style to his commentary that fans have enjoyed.

Glenn McGrath – expert commentator

McGrath, the world's highest Test wicket taker among fast bowlers with 564, was renowned for his impeccable line, length and bounce that regularly knocked over some of the best batsman of all time. He joins the Seven commentary box after various stints in radio and television and is set to give fans insight into the toils of fast bowling.

Alison Mitchell – Test match caller

International sports broadcaster and commentator, Alison Mitchell, is an award-winning journalist and has won plaudits around the world for her polished and professional cricket commentary.

Having started her career at the BBC where she has worked extensively across television and radio in broadcasting and journalism, Alison has over 10 years' experience in ball-by-ball commentary around the world including England, Australia, Sri Lanka and India.

A meticulous researcher and lover of the game, Alison also has an excellent ability to draw out the best from the experts alongside her in the commentary box.

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Mel McLaughlin and James Brayshaw - Hosts

McLaughlin has hosted many major sporting events on the national and world stage including Big Bash League cricket, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, FIFA World Cups, Olympic Winter Games and Commonwealth Games. Brayshaw, a first-class cricketer for 10 years including two winning Sheffield Shields, will bring his upbeat style to Seven's cricket and will also call BBL matches throughout the summer. Together the pair will bring a fresh approach to Test cricket broadcasting.

Lisa Sthalekar - expert commentator

The former Australian women's captain carved out an impressive career as an all-rounder including the honour of being the Australian Women's cricketer of the year in 2007 and 2008. And has since made a successful transition to the commentary box with inside knowledge of the women's game at the highest level.

Tim Lane – Test match caller

The veteran sport broadcaster and award-winning journalist, has earned enormous respect from cricket-loving fans with decades of experience calling the game. He will call Test matches on Seven this summer as Australia faces India and Sri Lanka.

Abbey Gelmi – host

Abbey has worked in sports journalism and presenting for the past four years on national breakfast television, covering breaking sports news. As the granddaughter of Australian middle distance great Herb Elliot sport is in Abbey's blood.

Greg Blewett - expert commentator

A stylish right hander who played both Test and ODI cricket for Australia delighting fans with his penchant for shots square of the wicket and a powerful cover drive. Blewett has impressed listeners in recent years with his radio commentary.

Simon Katich – expert commentator

A left handed batsman who played 56 Tests for Australia amassing 10 Test centuries to his name, Katich joins Seven's cricket for expert Test commentary in Melbourne and Sydney. More recently he has provided expert comments for ABC radio.

Jason Gillespie – expert commentator

A wildly popular figure among fans as a fast bowler for Australia through the late 90s and early 2000s, he formed Australia's statistically most successful opening bowling pair ever with Glenn McGrath. He has carved out a successful coaching career at Sussex and joins Seven for an expert role at the Adelaide Test match.

Brad Hodge – expert commentator

With a Test double century to his name and a reputation as one of the most consistent BBL players in the world, viewers have also come to know Hodge via his insightful and playful on-field interviews during play at the BBL. He'll provide expert commentary throughout the Big Bash.

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Before you enjoy the summer of cricket, Seven's new entertainment shows will bowl you over!

FAMILY FUN

LITTLE BIG SHOTS

You won't believe what this new bunch of kids are going to do, or say, when **Shane Jacobson** returns with a new season of the #1 feel-good hit of 2017. The stars may be little but this show is big!

DANCE BOSS

People from all walks of life will become stars right before your eyes in this brand new television dance competition hosted by entertainment icon **Dannii Minogue**. Pitting extraordinary amateur dancers from ordinary workplaces against each other in epic dance battles, DANCE BOSS sees 12 crews of workers from the same workplace or profession compete to win a \$100,000 pay cheque and realise their dance dreams.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Get ready for The 100 – the biggest judging panel Australia has ever seen, headed by singing superstar **Ronan Keating**. Who can get them all on their feet singing along? Get set for one big party as **Julia Zemiro** hosts this singing competition like no other.

RELATIONSHIP TV

THE SINGLE WIVES

Romance isn't dead if you understand the secrets of attraction. Globally renowned dating coach **Matthew Hussey** is joined by host **Fifi Box** as he helps guide four brave women searching for their second chance at love. It's not about finding your fairytale, it's about creating your fairytale in this relationship crash course you won't want to miss!

TAKE ME OUT

Joel Creasey plays modern matchmaker in this cheeky, outrageous and fun new dating series which sees single guys trying to impress a panel of 30 flirty women. Surely they can convince one of them to go on a date!

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST SHOW

THE GOOD DOCTOR

Australia's number one show is back! **Freddie Highmore** returns as Dr Shaun Murphy in the second season of this feel-good medical drama which is a ratings phenomenon around the world.

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EVENT TELEVISION

UNDERCURRENT

Has an innocent woman gone to jail? In the tradition of *Making a Murderer* and *The Jinx* comes this gripping Australian true crime series.

JIMMY BARNES: WORKING CLASS BOY

Son. Brother. Father. Singer. Fighter. Immigrant. Storyteller. Survivor. Icon. To understand the man, you must meet the boy. Based on the #1 bestselling book, this documentary sets **Jimmy Barnes'** raw, and sometimes darkly funny story against a backdrop of archival footage and interviews with family and friends.

THE REAL FULL MONTY

For one night only, eight male celebrities dare to bare all to help shine a light on men's health issues. This feel-good documentary takes you on a journey with these brave men, from the awkwardness of the first rehearsal to the final triumphant moment standing in front of a packed theatre in nothing but their birthday suits.

NEW DRAMA

9-1-1

From creators Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk (the *American Horror Story* franchise, *Nip/Tuck*) comes hit US drama 9-1-1, which follows the high-pressure lives of police officers, paramedics and firefighters who are thrust into the most frightening, shocking and heart-stopping situations. The action-packed, provocative series stars Academy Award® and Emmy® Award nominee **Angela Bassett** (*American Horror Story*, *What's Love Got to Do with It*), Emmy® Award and Golden Globe® nominee **Peter Krause** (*The Catch*, *Six Feet Under*) and Emmy® Award nominee **Connie Britton** (*Nashville*, *Friday Night Lights*, *American Horror Story*).

Ends...

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