

BOOK NOTES

Ken Piesse, ed., *The A-TO-Z of Cricket. Interviews with Australia's Leading Cricketers.* Wedneil Publications, Melbourne, 1983. Illus., pp.218. \$6.95 paper.

This is an invaluable reference work which includes basic biographical material of all the Australian players currently involved in first class cricket presumably along the lines of successful annual volumes produced by British Conservative MP, Iain Sproat. While some of the material is directed towards young fans (such as 'favourite food', 'favourite television show' and 'last book read') and will clearly or hopefully date soon, the basic biodata about each player will be very useful for the cricket writer. Some of the material is quite revealing: while the

majority of players still 'drink', there are very few who smoke despite the close links between cricket and the tobacco industry.

It is to be hoped that Ken Piesse will bring out an updated volume each season and perhaps tighten a few of his questions. To tell us that the parents of one player are 'Ian and Freda' and another are 'Denis and Marg' is not likely to enthrall most fans but it would be interesting to know about the occupation(s) of the parents.