

NEIL DANSIE OAM AWARD



Neil Dansie OAM was an Australian first-class cricketer and long-term administrator for South Australia. He is the seventh leading run-scorer for South Australia in Sheffield Shield.

Nicknamed "Nodder" due to his habit of nodding in agreement when in conversation, Dansie was born in Nuriootpa, South Australia, the grandson of Sam Dansie, a leading country cricketer who represented a Broken Hill team against the touring Marylebone Cricket Club side. Dansie moved to Adelaide with his family as a child and excelled in a wide range of sports, including cricket, Australian rules football and baseball. He made his first grade cricket debut for Kensington Cricket Club aged 15, one of the youngest ever debutants in the South Australian Grade Cricket League.

In January 1949, Dansie was the last player to bat with Don Bradman in an official match, when Bradman played his final innings for Kensington against Port Adelaide Cricket Club at Alberton Oval.

Dansie made his first-class cricket debut on 27 January 1950 on the WACA Ground against WA making 36 and 13. Dansie quickly gained a reputation as a hard-hitting batsman with a liking for the pull, sweep and cut shots and a steady off-spin and leg-spin bowler, as well as being known as one of the great characters of South Australian cricket, including gaining the title of being the world's fastest eater.

He became only the second player to reach milestone of 100 Sheffield Shield appearances and he achieved this feat in 1966. He had a prolific run for South Australia in first-class cricket scoring 6692 runs which accounted for more than 3/4th of his total first-class runs. His total tally of 6692 runs in 107 first-class matches puts him in the list of all-time top run scorers for South Australia in Sheffield Shield history.

Despite being touted as one of the brightest prospects in Australian domestic setup, he never received a Baggy Green Cap. He was touted by many as a potential test match prospect throughout the 1950s.

Neil Dansie OAM was SACUSA patron from 2008/2009 until his passing in 2023.

The Neil Dansie OAM Memorial award is presented and recognises an individual who has contributed and volunteer to the members of SACUSA behind the scenes with a positive attitude, a willingness to help in whatever capacity necessary, and a commitment to excellence.

Criteria:

- The candidate can be from any association.
- The worthiness of the candidate will be determined by the SACUSA Committee from those received.

We thank the Dansie Family for donating this award in honour of our past patron Neil Dansie OAM.

Year	Winner	Club
2023/24	Mick Harper	Sturt
2024/25	Terry Murch	SACUSA
2025/26	Tom Lowrey OAM	Prospect