

Hit for six

An international tour bowled this maiden over. By Sarah Melenhorst

For Charlotte Killeen, landing a spot on the Cricket Without Borders team was a dream come true. The chance to play her favourite sport in Singapore and London last month was a golden opportunity.

The year 11 student at Korowa Anglican Girls' School in Glen Iris says the international tour promotes women's cricket, and provides an opportunity for players to hone their skills in friendly matches.

"We were all there with the same opportunity to have fun and make the most of it, but we were still competitive," she says.

The Australian team played against male and female teams, and defeated two of the male teams.

"I think that the boys teams we beat were surprised that we did ... I don't think they realised that just because we are females, we aren't weaker than them."

Killeen, a batter and wicketkeeper, was pleased with her form after finishing the tour with a batting average of 28 as well as taking two catches and three stumpings.

She also tried her hand at bowling, taking a wicket in the process. The team managed to

squeeze in day watching the Australian women's team battle England at the hallowed Lord's Cricket Ground.

Proudly wearing pink T-shirts courtesy of team sponsors Pink Finance and the McGrath Foundation, Killeen says the girls were thrilled to support their country.

"There were a lot of people at the ground supporting England," she says.

"English women's cricket is doing better than women's cricket here, but hopefully Australia will one day progress to that standard."

After finishing high school next year, Killeen plans to study science at university and continue playing cricket.

This year, she is combining commitments with Dandenong Women's Cricket Club and her school team in the Girls Sport Victoria competition. Last year, Korowa's team made the grand final against Methodist Ladies' College and hope to go one better.

As for Killeen's long-term playing future, she says there is no finish line in sight.

"I just hope to keep playing until I physically can't any more." ■



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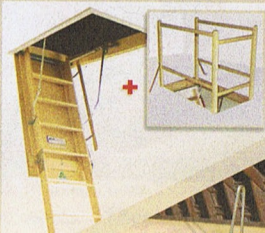
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