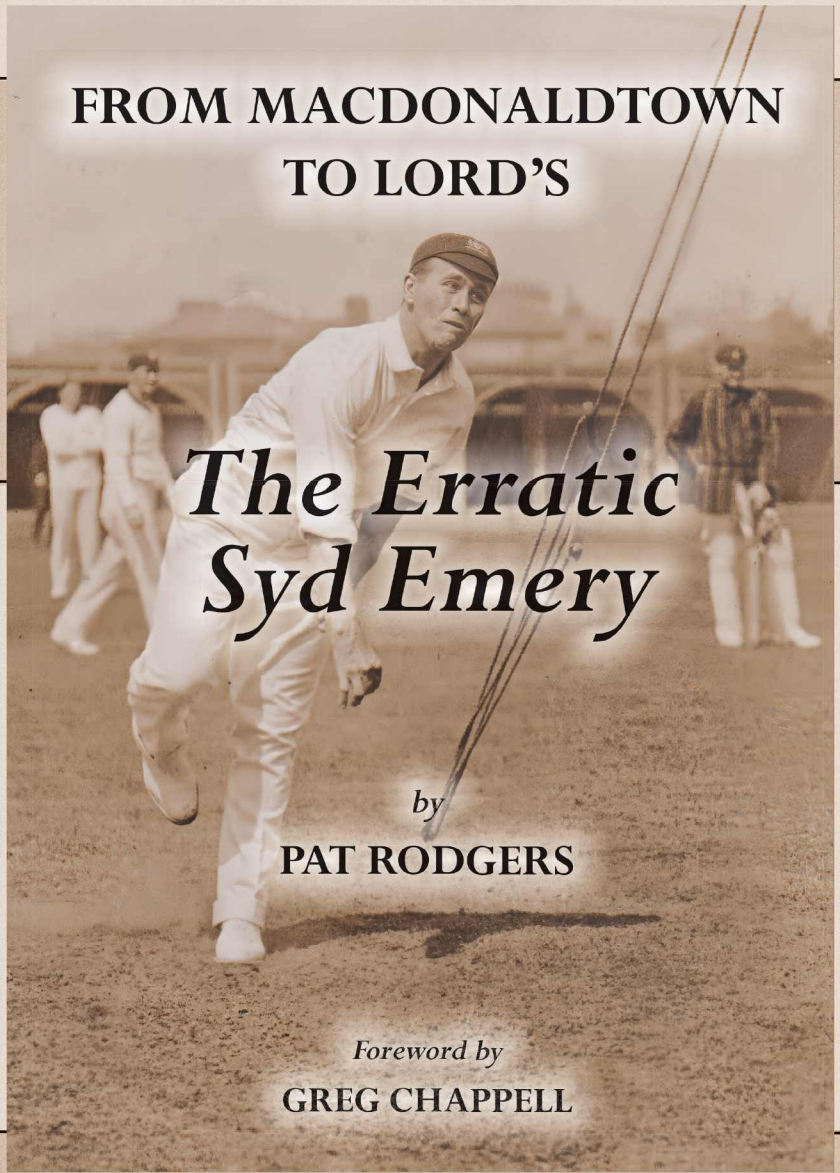

Pat Rodgers was born in Sydney and has been a History teacher and cricket coach for over 35 years. He played Grade cricket with Sydney University. Pat is currently the History Coordinator and First XI coach at St Pius X College in Chatswood. A combination of his love for both history and cricket has resulted in him writing historical pieces for various cricket publications. His special interest is in the pre-World War I era.

In the first decade of the 20th century, Syd Emery emerged from the tough inner-city Sydney suburb of Macdonaldtown to embark on a cricket career that spanned the oceans and several decades. He was a pioneer of a new style of bowling – the bosie or googly – and became so successful that he was selected for New South Wales and Australia in a rapid rise. While his bowling puzzled many batsmen including the great Jack Hobbs at Lord's in 1912, Syd could never achieve consistent control. Syd was also a puzzling individual who once claimed that he would be a great man "if I could control myself". He received a moniker of 'Mad Mick' that endured, and which partly explains his colourful personality, but this investigation into Emery's life reveals many more parts to the character of one of the most intriguing figures of cricket's Golden Age.

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