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Australia has the early advantage in the 2025-26 Ashes after their eight wicket win in Perth. Our own Travis Head played a blinder – one of four such match winning innings in the past four years. His hundreds at the Gabba in 2021/22, the 2023 World Test Final, the 2023 World Cup final and the one on Saturday were all sensational and either won or put Australia in a winning positions.

Travis may have been short of runs coming into the match, but he answered the call when needed to open and dragged Australia over the line. The Poms were rattled – their bowlers and skipper Stokes had no answer to the onslaught. Having said that I wouldn't write off England just yet but unless they change a few things a similar result will happen. Their paceman troubled the Aussie batsman in the first dig, but it was their batsmen who let them down on the second day, with rash shots after they led at one stage by 105 with nine wickets in hand.

Mitch Starc who was also sensational – like Head he looked a bit off playing Shield in the lead in, but like most great players, performed when the time came. At 36 he is still going as well as ever and continues to have the wood on Ben Stokes who he now has out 11 times in Tests.

It is the third Ashes Test in the last six where England have wasted an opportunity to beat Australia. In 2023, Edgbaston and Lord's were Tests where the Poms held sway and then let Australia in. There batting is like a car stuck on 100kph with no gears – they can't and will not slow down when the match situation calls for it.

The Gabba pitch will be similar to Perth, so when batting a smart approach will be needed. I am sure the Aussie will bat with respect to the conditions, if the Poms don't – Australia will almost certainly go 2-nil ahead.



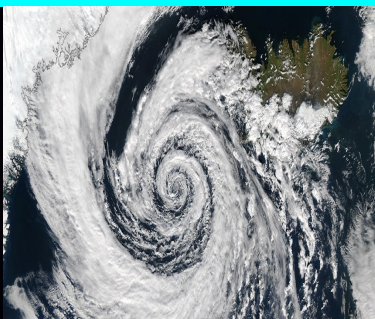
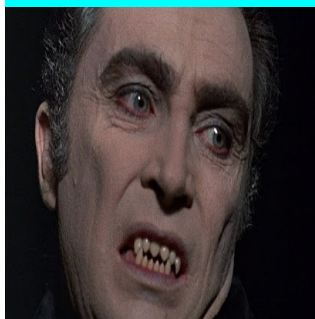
Morphett Parks	Caulfield	Rosehill	Doomben
Crystal Clear	The Shark	Harbour Harry	Jungle Jim
R1 : 3 , 1 , 2 , 6	1: 2 , 8 , 4 , 3	1 : 4 , 2 , 11 , 3	1: 11 , 9 , 8 , 4
R2 : 8 , 9 , 14 , 10	2 : 4 , 5 , 10 , 12	2 : 4 , 11 , 9 , 14	2: 6 , 11 , 9 , 1
R3 : 4 , 3 , 1 , 2	3 : 15 , 1 , 10 , 7	3 : 6 , 15 , 2 , 4	3: 14 , 12 , 13 , 3
R4: 5 , 7 , 2 , 4	4 : 1 , 2 , 6 , 10	4 : 4 , 1 , 3 , 2	4: 6 , 10 , 3 , 2
R5: 3 , 7 , 1 , 5	5 : 1 , 3 , 2 , 7	5 : 3 , 1 , 7 , 11	5 : 9 , 4 , 2 , 10
R6: 2 , 4 , 1 , 6	6 : 2 , 5 , 1 , 8	6 : 20 , 14 , 11 , 7	6: 12 , 6 , 4 , 15
R7: 8 , 3 , 2 , 13	7 : 5 , 3 , 1 , 8	7 : 1 , 5 , 2 , 9	7: 2 , 9 , 5 , 10
R8: 7 , 6 , 4 , 9	8 : 13 , 1 , 14 , 10	8 : 4 , 10 , 8 , 18	8: 4 , 9 , 15 , 7
R9: 4 , 3 , 1 , 2	9 : 5 , 7 , 6 , 1	9 : 14 , 15 , 8 , 3	9: 3 , 11 , 16 , 7
	10: 10 , 13 , 11 , 6	10: 16 , 4 , 7 , 1	10 : 19 , 2 , 8 , 9

Jimmy Olsen MR 5 # 11 Halemo BR 5 # 10 Galpin MR 10 # 13 Persian Spirit	The Mailman MR 5 # 1 Different Gravy SR 5 # 3 Lyles BR 6 # 12 Now Is The Hour	Tower Of Knowledge AR 2 # 9 Flittering Ruby AR 6 # 4 Heaven Rocks AR 8 # 13 San Lucido
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The 2025 Jungle Dawn Classic—1400 Metres

1 . Bonjoy 2. Luvnwar 3. Madame Magic 4 . Angel Undercover 5. Zephyra 6. Toropa
7. Earthstorm 8 . Secret Attraction 9. Chollima 10. Dun With The Blues 11. Cherry Can Run
12. Soldanelle 13. Objectify 14. Be Bardot 15. Yorga Pride 16. Chino La Diva 17. Amjaad

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Name the Jockeys of the 13 Caulfield / Melbourne Cup Doubles Winners

2025 Jamie Melham , 2023 Mark Zahra, 2001 Scott Seamer, 1997 Jim Cas-
sidy, 1995 Damien Oliver , 1991 Steven King 1982 Bret Thompson /
Mick Dittman, 1966 John Miller , 1962 Les Coles , 1954 Arthur Ward / Jack
Pertell, 1939 Teddy Preston, 1937 Ashley Reed , 1906 Tom Clayton