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Bats in for run

AUSTRALIAN Test cricket captain Steve Waugh gets his bats from India but his successor may be able to look closer to home.

A company called Australian Cricket Bat Willow (ACBW) has planted 17,000 willow trees in regional Victoria, aiming to have Australia producing its own cricket bats within seven years.

According to Dr John Lill, chairman of ACBW and former Melbourne Cricket Club secretary, Australia has a rich history in making cricket bats.

He said Australia grew willow trees and made bats from them until 1956, when the Slazenger bat company in England bought the Crockett bat business.

Crockett made bats for such cricket legends as Lindsay Hassett, Australian captain from 1949-1953.