



Dear ACA Members

My name is Ian Callen. I played cricket for Victoria in the late 70's and early 80's. I was also lucky enough to play a Test in Adelaide against India to help us win the series 3/2. I am very proud to be Australian Test player #291. Unfortunately, during that Test I sustained a back injury that hampered the rest of my career. Although I played on I realised my career would not be a long one... so I began to plan for my life after cricket.

I went to the UK to learn how to make Cricket bats for my own brand but found it difficult sourcing the quantities of English Willow (Salix Alba Caerulea) I required. One or two English companies held the monopoly on the whole business. It was then I decided to restart the English Willow industry in Australia. This idea was not new... the Crockett Family had done it very successfully, only for the industry to disappear in 1956. So I knew it could be done. For me the long process began in 1985 and today my company Willow Blue Australia is producing quality English Willow. Under the name of "WillowBlue" we are exporting to India and Pakistan. I also supply local Australian bat makers who I have trained. Our "WillowBlue" English Willow has excellent rebound and lasting qualities and has been well received by our customers.

However, it is now time for me to retire and having taken the industry as far as I can, I am looking to pass my project on to the next generation. Three billion people participate in the game of cricket worldwide and there is a shortage of English Willow to make bats. There is still a lot to be achieved.

I would love the business to be taken forward by someone within the Australian Cricket family... the reason for my letter.

I have listed the business, the freehold property and the assets for sale with Benchmark Business Brokers and Mr. Ripple Parekh will be handling the sale for me. If you would like further information please contact **Ripple Parekh – 0435 525 458 Email ID – ripple@benchmarkbusiness.com.au**

Best wishes

