

Michael Slater

Former Australian test cricketer, commentator & MC

Michael Slater is a former Australian test cricketer and cricket commentator. In 2008 he was appointed as commentator on Nine's *TODAY On Sunday* to present the sports news, as a regular co-host of *Wide World of Sports*, as well as his cricket commentary role throughout the summer.

A combative and wholehearted cricketer, Michael Slater (affectionately known as "Slats") played many vital innings both for New South Wales and as an Australian opener with his adventurous brand of strokeplay.

A product of Wagga Wagga, his was a meteoric rise. Following a stint at the Australian Cricket Academy, Michael Slater made rapid strides, turning a place in the New South Wales Second XI at the start of the 1992-93 season into a berth in Australia's 1993 Ashes squad by the end of that summer. After notching a half-century in the opening match of that series - and complementing it with a brilliant century in the following encounter at Lord's, Michael Slater soon became a regular in his nation's Test team.

Aside from the period between October 1996 and March 1998, Michael occupied a position at the top of the Australian Test batting line-up for close to a decade.

Amid a golden run of success for the team as a whole, individual highlights have included his 219 against Sri Lanka in Perth in 1995-96; and his brilliant home series against New Zealand in 1993-94 (which netted him 305 runs at 76.25) and England (623 runs at 62.30) in 1994-95. Michael Slater's signature trait of kissing his helmet whenever he reached three figures was seen 14 times, and he made scores in the nineties on a record-breaking nine occasions.

He was also one of only four players to have played in each of the 16 matches between late 1999 and early 2001 which delivered the then Australian team the greatest run of consecutive victories in the history of Test cricket.

Michael Slater played his last Test against England in August 2001. He returned to State cricket and was a key member of the NSW team which won the Pura Cup and ING Cup Double in 2002-03. Slats was the leading First Class run scorer for NSW that season with 770 runs.

In June 2004, Michael brought down the curtain on his dazzling cricket career following a long



battle with depression, which he has spoken publicly about.

In 2005 he released his best-selling autobiography, *Slats - The Michael Slater Story*. In 2006 Michael joined Nine's prestigious *Wide World Of Sports* cricket commentary team where he has cemented himself as one of the best cricket commentators in the world - as is evidenced by his continued work around the world for broadcasters such as ESPN, BskyB, Sony etc. Michael also appeared as a reporter on Channel Nine's logie-award winning health and lifestyle program, in addition to some radio work on Triple M. In 2008, Michael signed up with Radio 2KY as a co-presenter on the hugely popular *The Big Sports Breakfast* and further cemented his reputation as a versatile media talent, by signing as a sports presenter on *Today on Sunday*.

Michael Slater and wife Jo live in Sydney. They have a son, Jack, born in 2006, and daughter Isabella, born in 2007.

Client testimonials

“ Mr Slater was extremely professional and managed to meet our expectations very nicely. He was a hit, everyone was impressed with what he has to say and how he said it.

- Mazda NSW

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