

'It wasn't a good time, but we
believed in what we were doing'

DENNIS LILLEE

'In every failure you're
acquiring knowledge'

ELIZABETH DAY

'We did some things that have
started to make a difference'

RICHARD SCOLYER

'It was really the happenstance
of the day and the opportunity
it gave me'

JULIA GILLARD



TESTED

Big Decisions. Small Decisions.
The remarkable power of resolve.

PAT CUMMINS

Australia's Test cricket captain in conversation with inspiring
leaders and achievers – from Julia Gillard to Dennis Lillee

Tested Pat Cummins

Pat Cummins is the Cricket captain of Australia. This book is not about cricket. It's about the power of *resolve*

Pat Cummins interviewed the following for this book ..

John Bertrand, Richard Scoyler, Julia Gillard, John Moriarty, Dennis Lillee, Shaun Christie David, Nedd Brockmann, Elizabeth Day, Ronnie Screwvala, Rob Sitch and Becky Cummins

I firmly believe that everyone has the capacity to start from square one, on everything, if they are given the space to do so.

It wasn't till I started putting together a presentation for the selection committee that I realized I had strong views as captain, what type of captain id want to be and what kind of team id like to lead.

I wanted to foster an environment of respect and I wanted the team to be role models for young players, while being authentic and honest.

Being a cricketer is part of my life, it doesn't define me.

In the ten years I took to become captain, I developed resolve.

Resolve is the drive to keep going, the wisdom to know where to focus your energies and the fortitude to fight against the obstacles that you find along the way.

When I sat with publishers they wanted me to wrote a biography or a tour diary. I never wanted to do that.

Id met the author Ben Mckelvey a few years when he did an article on me. Ben and I put together an ambitious wish list of accomplished people I might speak to about their testing moments, their leadership journeys.

“ You have to have emotion, to do well at anything, you have to have passion and luck too, its very very important” John Bertrand

At MIT, a professor told John that ‘until you can put a problem into numbers, you’ll never be able to solve it’

According to John, as a leader you need to have an ambition beyond what seems possible.

Vision was a word that came up in all conversations. When everything was going awry, it's vision that centered them and gave them solid ground to return to.

I love playing in India, especially the passion that the games are played with.

The Australian swimming team had a bad Olympics because everyone was shooting for gold and there was zero team work. They then changed the metric to best personal performance on time and measured conversion rate – how many in the team bettered their best timing and they won a lot of medals after that.

You control your personal best and that's what you should focus on.

When you are at the top of anything, you are crossing into unknown territory.

The best captains and coaches get the answer out of the player, rather than telling them what's right or wrong.

Flow state is achieved by doing all the hard work and training, taking yourself back to the first time you fell in love with what you do, performing for performance's sake only.

Every cancer researcher puts greatly needed runs on the board but only a few hit the winning runs. Richard Scoyler hit some winning runs.

Richard used to run a MDT – multidisciplinary team meeting every week at the research Institute.

Richard thinks of his legacy in a different way – as a friend, father, husband and patient.

I was a bit nervous about meeting Julia Gillard, I was in high school when she was prime Minister.

As captain, you need to ensure that you are always fresh, making good decisions and always there for your players.

Perception can be everything in politics.

I took two things from meeting Julia:

1. I don't want to be in politics

2. I was impressed at how strong she was in keeping the right team around her and keeping them to the central values.

Too often leaders want to win . The manner of winning is just as important as winning.

**Before embarking on a journey of revenge ,
dig two graves.**

**Dennis Lillee is a complete professional.
He is always prepared for every meeting,
always thinking about possible
eventualities.**

The trouble with change is, if you don't change you get stale, and if you change there is no guarantee it will succeed.

In the 70s, Lillee was a teller at the Commonwealth Bank in Perth. He studied accountancy at night hoping to become a manager.

Lillee shared a manager with Paul Hogan of Crocodile Dundee fame.

Lillee and a host of world series players wanted to protect their future and yet build the game, that's why they aligned with Kerry Packer.

Packer didn't want to give Ashley Mallett a contract but Ian Chappell and Lillee wanted it. So Packer padded up and face Mallett in the nets. Mallett bowled packer and got a world series contract!

Packer was hands on in every aspect of the competition, like a true professional.

You have to change or you will become stagnant, you don't want to change so much that you are unrecognizable.

A great coach doesn't rave and rant, they instill in their players a sense of personal responsibility.

A competitor competes regardless of incentives.

A professional is a custodian for future generations.

Ideas are cheap, but the moment you say you will do something about the idea, then you learn a lot about yourself.

The people I interviewed had extraordinary success, but they also had a lot of failures. Elizabeth Day, the British author failed at many things.

Elizabeth Day runs a popular podcast *How to Fail*

Many people think of failure as the end of something, the more you fail, the more you realize that there is life after failure.

If you are a sportsperson, you will fail a lot.

Our failures cannot be ignored but they must be seen for what they are – things that have simply happened.

**So much of cricket and so much of life is
defined by luck**

They say timing is everything in life. There is some truth to that. To a certain extent, you have to make your own timing.