



Fine innings: MCG general manager Stephen Gough admires a new statue of Sir Donald Bradman. Picture: PETER WARD

Don leads parade

DON Bradman is once again raising his bat to crowds at the MCG.

A 2.75m statue of Sir Donald, the first in a series of 10 bronze tributes to be installed in Yarra Park, was lifted into place yesterday.

Athletics legend Betty Cuthbert will follow within two months, while a likeness of AFL great Ron Barassi is to be unveiled by year's end.

Leigh Matthews, Haydn Bunton, Dick Reynolds, Shirley Strickland, Bill Ponsford, Dennis Lillee and Keith Miller complete the "parade of the champions".

All will be unveiled in time for the March 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Tattersall's has provided \$1 million for the project.

By **SHAUN PHILLIPS**,
sports affairs reporter

Sculptor Louis Laumen said each piece took four months to complete.

"It takes two months for me to do my work, which includes intensive research and meeting the subject, if possible," Laumen said.

"I have to find a model of suitable size to pose, and once I've finished, the foundry process is very involved and takes another two months."

Security lighting and video surveillance will protect the sculptures. A BAT signed by Bradman's 1948 Invincibles team and its English opponents sold for \$21,000 at a Melbourne auction on Tuesday night.