



## DAVID DOWN UNDER

venues to the astonished Cassidy and crew: The Eden Park, in Auckland, New Zealand, with a seating capacity of 22,500; The Randwick Race Course, Sydney, the Milton Tennis Court, Brisbane, the Memorial Drive Tennis Court, Adelaide, and the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground in Perth, all with even larger capacities.

These in themselves were impressive. But when the venerable Melbourne Cricket Ground was mentioned, that was the moment when they knew that they had the right people working for them in Australia.

### SPECIAL

You see, the Melbourne Cricket Ground is something special to Australians. The Americans have their Yankee Stadium, we have Lord's Cricket Ground, and the Empire Stadium at Wembley, and the Australians have the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

As daft about sport as the Aussies are, you can be sure that it took some doing to get the use of such an important ground. In fact, as Patti Mostyn pointed out to me, "The Melbourne Grounds hold 65,000 people and have never been open for use by a singing star before.

"It's the country's hallowed ground, and the only

other mass usage of it to date has been for Billy Graham." And that puts David in some pretty rare company, because even the Rolling Stones and the Jackson 5 were not permitted to use the famous grounds.

After the details were finally fixed, they were first released in the Australian press last January. And not just in small columns on the back page either, but in big, bold headlines on the front page.

One paper printed the following on its front page:

#### CASSIDY DATES ANNOUNCED!!

The letters were about an inch high, and a photograph of David appeared below the headline, with the caption: "David Cassidy, what is he really like? Find out this week inside our pages."

Yes, Australia has been really anxious for David's tour. And if anything, their neighbour New Zealand were even more keen to have David. You see, because New Zealand is so small, they seem to be missed whenever major attractions go on tour.

### REPORTS

But not this time they weren't. David played there on the 26th of February, and the first reports have already begun to filter in. According to the local papers, the Cassidy concert

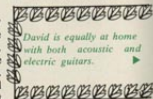
was "the biggest concert visit since the Beatles a decade ago, both in audience size and dollar gross."

### STATISTIC

But that sort of statistic doesn't mean very much to the thousands upon thousands of fans who attended the concerts across the subcontinents down under. It's not the number of tickets sold or seats filled that mean something to a fan of David's.

The important things are the memories that the concerts gave so many fans. When David bounded on to the stage, waved to them and launched into "Daydreamer", when he traded his electric guitar for a softer, more melodious acoustic guitar, and began the ballad "Some Old Woman". These are the things that meant so much to the fans down under.

And they are also the things that will mean so much to all of us, when David arrives in May. THEN we will have our turn to sample and savour David's enormous talent.



*David is equally at home with both acoustic and electric guitars. ▶*

