



**THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR SPORTS HISTORY**
SPORTING TRADITIONS XXV
Bond University, Gold Coast, Queensland
21-24 July 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kombumerri people of the Yugambeh language group, on whose traditional lands Bond University now stands, and their elders past, present and emerging.

Australian Society for Sports History

Executive Committee 2023-2025

President: Jane E. Hunt

Secretary: Andrew Eyers

Treasurer: Abdel Halabi

Publications Officer: Greg Blood

General Members: Bruce Coe, Chelsea Litchfield, Murray Phillips, Janet Beverley, Doug Booth

Previous Sporting Traditions Conferences

1977	Sydney	2001	Adelaide
1979	Sydney	2003	Sydney
1981	Melbourne	2005	Melbourne
1983	Melbourne	2007	Canberra
1985	Adelaide	2009	Wellington, NZ
1987	Melbourne	2011	Kingscliff
1989	Sydney	2013	Canberra
1991	Canberra	2015	Darwin
1993	Launceston	2017	Sydney
1995	Brisbane	2019	Bathurst
1997	Perth	2022	Geelong
1999	Queenstown, NZ	2023	Canberra

WELCOME

Dear Australian Society for Sports History Members,

I have the unique pleasure of welcoming you to the 25th Sporting Traditions conference on what is my home ground, Bond University. Since its first classes in 1989, Bond University has formally and informally been the home of a rich sporting culture. Long before the University took shape, the Kombumerri people, the traditional custodians of this land, walked and moved here in accordance with their ways of knowing, being and doing, carefully protecting and passing on knowledge from one generation to the next. Although we don't match the 20,000 years of traditional sharing of knowledge of the Kombumerri people, both Bond and ASSH have long histories of sharing knowledge about active pasts with each other, the public and scholars around the world.

A quick glance over ASSH publications and programs since the first conference in 1977 is both encouraging and concerning. It shows that the Australian tradition of sport history is not just about the statistics of past performances, or the details of individual careers or institutions, our collective work as an organisation reflects broad shifts and changes in Australia and abroad, as well as the evolution of sport history as an academic discipline and area of public interest. Sport history has always provided a mechanism for understanding the broader social, cultural, economic and political context, regardless of whether the histories we create are the product of critical scholarship for academic audiences or well-researched and captivating storytelling for the Australian public. My concern is that our numbers are dwindling. I do believe that sport is still valued as a way of shaping and understanding societies and cultures, and that value is recognised in other expressions. Sport history is researched and written and talked about in a variety of different ways – in different academic disciplines, in journalistic outputs, and in social media.

Our task, if we are to continue beyond the half century anniversary at the next Sporting Traditions conference, is to think about how we can pass our passion and insights onto the next and future generations. This conference does this by announcing our inaugural Public Sport History Award and by sharing our passion and tradition with one of our sibling organisations, the Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies. The 2032 Brisbane Summer Olympic Games encourage us to connect the past to the future, and I am delighted that Day 3 of this conference is dedicated to that task.

I hope that, in and around the very full program, you find time to enjoy my part of the world, the lakes, the beaches, the weather, and our coffee. I look forward to sharing our interest in the sporting past and future, and our present, with you at Bond University.

Regards,

Jane E. Hunt

President, Australian Society for Sports History

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Adele Pavlidis (Griffith University) – Feminist Perspectives in Australian Sport

Dr Adele Pavlidis is an Associate Professor in Sociology with the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, and previously a DECRA Fellow (2018 to 2021). She is author of three books, *Sport, Gender and Power: The Rise of Roller Derby* (2016, Routledge, with Simone Fullagar), *Feminism and a Vital Politics of Depression and Recovery* (Palgrave, with Simone Fullagar and Wendy O'Brien) and *Feminist Futures in Sport: Exploring the Affective Dynamics of Change in Australian Rules Football and Roller Derby* (2025, Palgrave, with Simone Fullagar and Wendy O'Brien). She has published widely on a range of sociocultural issues in sport and leisure, with a focus on gender and power relations. Theoretically her work traverses contemporary scholarship on affect, power and organizations, and she is deeply interested in social, cultural and personal transformation and the entanglements between people, organizations, and wellbeing.

Auvita Rapilla (IOC Member, Oceania Region) – Oceania Perspectives on the Olympic Games – Reet and Max Howell Lecture

Auvita Rapilla currently serves on several boards including the Papua New Guinea National Olympic Committee (PNGOC); Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC); Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC); The International Olympic Truce Centre; and is a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Serving in various capacities on the Board within the PNGOC since 1994, Auvita is a Master Educator for the Oceania Sport Education Program, has a Degree in Public Administration, and an IOC accredited Masters in Sport Organisation Management (MEMOS XI), for which she received the inaugural Alberto Madella Best Research Award in 2008 and IOC Women & Sport Trophy in 2009. First female elected Secretary-General of the PNGOC where she served in the role from 2011 to 2023 when she finished full time employment. During her tenure as Secretary General, Auvita also served as Executive member on the 2015 Pacific Games Authority, PNG Games Council and the PNG Sports Anti-Doping Organisation. Association of National Olympic Committees She was also a member of the Pacific Games Council Disputes Tribunal, 2015 Pacific Games Bid Committee and as PNG Chef de Mission for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. The current Chair of the IOC Olympism365 Commission, Auvita became the first woman from the Pacific to be elected to the IOC in 2016 and serves on several IOC Commissions. In April 2025, she was also appointed Chancellor of IBS University located near Port Moresby. Auvita values sport as a way to foster positive social change for individuals and communities and ultimately advance broader aims of sustainable development and peace.

Lionel Frost (Monash University/ Sporting Traditions Editor) – *Sporting Traditions Journal*, Past and Future

Lionel Frost is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Monash University. A past president of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, and former editor of *Australian Economic History Review*, Frost has been editor (or co-editor) of *Sporting Traditions* since 2007. Frost's work on sports economics and sports history include *The Old Dark Navy Blues: A History of the Carlton Football Club* (1998), *Immortals: Football People and the Evolution of Australian Rules* (2005), as well as articles in *Business History* and *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review*. Frost's publications in urban and environmental history include contributions to *The Cambridge World History*, *The Cambridge Economic History of Australia*, and *Cities in a Sunburnt Country: Water and the Making of Urban Australia*. Frost is a Chief Investigator on *A Tale of Two Cities: Long-run social and economic mobility in Australia*, an ARC Linkage Project (LP240200877) linking more than 3 million digitised convict-era records, tracing thousands of life courses across South Australia and Tasmania to explore how nature and nurture shaped the life outcomes of the children of convicts and passage-assisted migrants.

Sporting Traditions XXV Program

Monday 21 July 2025 – ASSH President’s Reception	
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Location: University Club (The Cecil and Ida Green University Club and Restaurant, University Centre – Building 6, 3 rd floor)
Tuesday 22 July 2025 – General Program Part 1 Location: Princeton Room (University Centre – Building 6, 3rd floor)	
8 am – 8:45 am	Registration & Tea / Coffee
8:45 am – 9 am	Welcome to Country by John Graham & Bond University Welcome by Dr Lisa Gowthorp Associate Dean – External Engagement
9 am – 10:30 am	Keynote Address: Adele Pavlidis (Griffith University) – ‘Feminist Perspectives in Australian Sport’, followed by Q&A
10:30 am – 11 am	Morning Tea
11 am – 12:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “‘Don’t worry!’: The rise of netball and international governance 1926-1963’, Sam Oldfield (Manchester Metropolitan University) ▪ ‘Playing in drag: how cross-dressing changed cricket in Australia’, Marion Stell (The University of Queensland) ▪ ‘Women’s experiences as football (soccer) match officials in Australia’, Chels Litchfield, Oli Meredith (Charles Sturt University) and Allyson Flynn (University of Canberra)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘Island of Origin: Cultural Continuity and Connection in the Torres Strait’, Gary Osmond, Alistair Harvey and Murray G. Phillips (The University of Queensland) ▪ ‘Golf Dreaming - An Aboriginal Social, Political, Cultural and Historical Perspective of Golf’, John Maynard (University of Newcastle) ▪ ‘Playing Through Time: A Historical Analysis of Sports Film Genres in American Cinema, 1920-2024’, Lisa J. Hackett (University of New England)
3 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “‘Capitals of football’: Melbourne, Glasgow and the evolution of their football codes’, Mark Pennings and Lionel Frost (Monash University) ▪ ‘Riding the bumps with a grin: The forgotten and under-appreciated circumstances of Hawthorn’s 1925 league admittance’, Andrew Eysers (Victoria University) ▪ ‘Fit Only for Savages: death, danger and debate in New Zealand rugby 1870-1914’, Greg Ryan (Lincoln University) ▪ ‘The Mean in Football Rivalry: A Case Study of Rochester v Echuca’, Rodney Gillett (Charles Sturt University)

5:30 pm – 7 pm	ASSH Annual General Meeting Location: 6_3_23 (University Centre – Building 6, 3rd floor)
----------------	--

Wednesday 23 July 2025 – Olympic Papers Joint program of ASSH and The Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies. Location: Princeton Room (University Centre – Building 6, 3rd floor)	
8:30 am – 9 am	Tea & Coffee
9 am – 10:30 am	'Introduction & The Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies', Stephen Townsend (The University of Queensland) Keynote Address: Auvita Rapilla (IOC Member, Oceania Region) – 'Oceania Perspective on the Olympic Games', followed by Q&A – supported by Reet and Max Howell Lecture
10:30 am – 11 am	Morning Tea
11am – 12:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Bidding for the 1996 Olympic Games: An Australian "domestic"', Dr Ian Jobling (The University of Queensland) and Sallyanne Atkinson AO (Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, The University of Queensland) ▪ 'Games of the XXXV Olympiad, Brisbane 2032', by Bruce Coe (Independent scholar)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Revisiting the Olympic and Paralympic Program 1994-2000: Lessons for Brisbane 2032', Greg Blood (Independent scholar) ▪ 'Disappointment, Devastation, and Exhilaration: Australian women's hockey's Olympic experiences during the 1980s', Janet Beverley (Independent scholar) ▪ 'Changing Attitudes to Golf in the Olympics', Michael Sheret (Independent scholar)
3 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'The Development of Victoria University's Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre and Related Archives', Richard Baka, Tracy Taylor, Akhtar Nawaz and Rob Hess (Victoria University) ▪ 'Patterns of Queensland's sport and recreation heritage: enhancing community access to sport history knowledge via the Queensland Heritage Register', Kate Kirby (University of the Sunshine Coast) ▪ 'Ambition, opportunity and success: Constructive intersections in memories of the 1991 International Triathlon Union Triathlon World Championships, Gold Coast, Australia', Jane E. Hunt (Bond University) ▪ 'Teaching sport history? That's ancient history!', Jackey Osborne (Charles Sturt University)

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Sporting Traditions Conference Dinner & ASSH Awards Location: The Cecil and Ida Green University Club and Restaurant (University Centre – Building 6, 3rd floor)
-------------------	--

Thursday 24 July 2025 - General Program Part 2 Location: Princeton Room (University Centre – Building 6, 3rd floor)	
8 am – 9 am	Tea & Coffee
9 am – 10 am	Keynote Speaker: Lionel Frost (Monash University) – ‘ <i>Sporting Traditions – Past & Future</i> ’ ‘ <i>Celestial Footy</i> – Exploring the 140-year participation experience of Chinese Australians in Australian rules football’, Patrick Skene (Independent Scholar)
10 am – 10:30 am	
10:30 am – 11 am	Morning Tea
11 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Exploring the lived experiences of Australian sports fans and their interactions with the Supercars Championship’, Jordan Treloar (Charles Sturt University) • ‘Exhibitions, challenges and tours - Frederick Cavill’s visit to South Australia in 1880’, Michael Harry (Independent scholar) • ‘Randolph Lycett – A Glamorous Character on the World Tennis Stage in the 1920s’, Richard Naughton (Monash University) • ‘A Supplementary Winter Sport? Overview of the Historical Development of Table Tennis in New Zealand’, Ngo Song Ze (Massey University)
3 pm – 5 pm	Bond University Women's Network (BUWN) Women in Sport Speakers Forum - Oceanic Game Changers. Register here: BUWN Women in Sport Speaker Forum 2025 Tickets, Thu 24/07/2025 at 3:00 pm Eventbrite Location: Fabian Fay Clubhouse Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Auvita Rapilla (PNG Olympic Committee board member since 1994; IOC board member since 2015) ▪ Sierra Keung (founder of Pacifika Sisters, Senior Lecturer Auckland University of Technology) ▪ Eddie Aholelei (Assistant Coach Queensland Rugby Union Women, Head Coach Tonga Women's National Rugby Team, Co-Founder of Youth in Union)



THURSDAY 24TH JULY 2025 3PM – 5PM

Fabian Fay Club House

Bond University

REGISTER NOW

\$10 general admission | \$5 discounted student admission

SPEAKER PANEL ANNOUNCED

Dr Sierra Keung
Academic Lead for Pasifika Sisters in Sport



LinkedIn

Eddie Aholelei
Assistant Coach Queensland Reds
Women's Rugby



LinkedIn

Auvita Rapilla
IOC Member, Oceania Region



LinkedIn

Please contact BUWN regarding any event enquiries - BUWN@bond.edu.au

ABSTRACTS

Richard Baka, Tracy Taylor, Akhtar Nawaz and Rob Hess

Victoria University

The Development of Victoria University's Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre and Related Archives

This paper consists of three distinct sections. The first part summarises the evolution of Victoria University's Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre (OPRC). This Centre was established in 2020, and is part of a worldwide network of Olympic Studies and Research Centres officially approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Against this background, the second aspect of the paper outlines the current resources of the OPRC and specifically acknowledges and highlights the recent generous donation of Olympic-related materials from the collection of John Deane. The third and concluding part of the paper is a brief case study based on the use of primary sources from the IOC's extensive library and archives located in Lausanne, Switzerland, whereby an audacious plan of the newly formed nation of Pakistan to host the Olympic Games in the 1950s is contextualised by the authors. Note: Rob Hess will be presenting the paper

Dr Janet Beverley

Independent scholar

Disappointment, Devastation, and Exhilaration: Australian women's hockey's Olympic experiences during the 1980s.

The International Olympic Committee confirmed women's hockey's participation in the Olympic Games to the Fédération Internationale de Hockey in April 1976. The USSR hosted the first women's hockey Olympic competition in Moscow in 1980. Men's hockey participated in the 1908 and 1920 Olympic Games and has been a constant feature of the Olympic program since 1928. This presentation focuses on the involvement of the Australian women's hockey team in the 1980, 1984, and 1988 Olympic Games. First, it examines the United States boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games, specifically its impact on the Australian Women's Hockey Association (AWHA) and the players selected to represent Australia. Then, it analyses the results of the team's final matches at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games, centring on the effect of the results on the players. This research utilises evidence from player interviews, newspaper articles, and AWHA documents to generate insights into player experiences. The presentation also highlights how competition and international organisation rules and regulations can lead to unexpected and unfair outcomes.

Greg Blood

Independent Scholar

Revisiting the Olympic and Paralympic Program 1994-2000: Lessons for Brisbane 2032

After Sydney won the right to host the 2000 Olympic and Paralympics Games in 1993, the Australian Olympic Committee released its '*Gold Medal Plan*' in October 1993 that was costed at \$437 million

over seven years. The Australian Government responded in November 1994 in announcing '*Olympic Athlete Program*' (OAP) which provided an additional \$135 million (ended up at \$140 million) over six years to prepare Australian athletes for Sydney 2000. This paper examines the rationale for this funding and its impact on 2000 Australian Olympic and Paralympics results and the future development of high-performance sport in Australia. The lessons for Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics are outlined.

Dr Bruce Coe coebb@bigpond.net.au

Independent Scholar

Games of the XXXV Olympiad, Brisbane 2032

After finishing a creditable third in the voting to host the Games of the XXV Olympiad in 1992 behind Barcelona, the hometown of the then President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Manuel Samaranch, and Paris Brisbane waited almost three decades before embarking on another tilt at staging the 'greatest show on Earth'. In two different ways John Coates was crucial to both bids. In between he was kernel to delivering to 'Syd-er-ney' the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000, following which Samaranch described as 'the best Olympic Games ever'. This paper chronicles the awarding of the Games of the XXXV Olympiad in 2032 to Brisbane.

Andrew Evers

Ph.D. student, Victoria University

Riding the bumps with a grin: The forgotten and under-appreciated circumstances of Hawthorn's 1925 league admittance

This presentation offers new information on the Hawthorn Football Club's 1925 ascension into the Victorian Football League (VFL), which is timely with Hawthorn enjoying its VFL/AFL 1925-2025 centenary. Hawthorn appeared a poor addition to the VFL, floundering through its initial 30 years, before it found a means to compete, with grand success arriving from the 1950s. With wins few and far between, the 1920s weren't mired in doom and gloom; a hearty band of worthy volunteers and benefactors made the Hawthorn club a vibrant, inclusive, welcoming operation. Despite their fine intentions, the club was out of its depth in footballing terms, and its local middle-class populace failed to identify with, or even adopt, their elite footballing operation as other districts did. The curious but critical role of the local municipal council and its effect on the early challenges the club negotiated are also given consideration.

Rodney Gillett

Charles Sturt University

The Mean in Football Rivalry: A Case Study of Rochester v Echuca

Rivalry in football arouses high emotions among players and supporters at all levels. The research to date demonstrates that rivalries are unique and complex, underpinned by a range of social,

historical, geographic and/or cultural factors. As such each rivalry must be studied in-depth to more fully understand the underlying factors that determine the conception of rivalry. To achieve this task this study undertook a case study of the rivalry between two country football clubs, Rochester and Echuca in northern Victoria, that have been playing against each other since 1876. To test rival conceptions of rivalry the methodology adapted for this study was a mixed method analysis of nine of the core elements of rivalry identified by Tyler and Cobbs (2015). The findings show that historical competition was the major variable closely followed by geographic proximity, recent competition and frequency of competition. It reveals that the animosity surrounding the rivalry runs deep and both sides share equivalent perceptions of the rivalry.

Lisa J. Hackett

University of New England,

Playing Through Time: A Historical Analysis of Sports Film Genres in American Cinema, 1920-2024

This study analyses genre patterns in American sports films from 1920-2024 using comprehensive data from the Internet Movie Database (IMDB). Through quantitative analysis of over 500 popular sports films, this paper examines the evolution of genre conventions, gender representation, sports coverage, narrative tropes, and reception patterns. The findings reveal significant disparities in sports representation, with sports such as boxing, athletics, and American football dominating the landscape. Female and other gendered protagonists appear in a relatively small number of sports films, though this representation has increased notably since 2000. Redemption narratives and biographical stories emerge as persistent tropes, featuring protagonists overcoming significant personal or social obstacles. Critical reception data indicates these narrative patterns correlate strongly with both audience ratings and critical success. The research demonstrates how sports cinema has historically reinforced particular sporting hierarchies while adhering to specific narrative conventions, though recent productions show emerging shifts in both sport selection and gender representation.

Michael Harry

Independent Scholar

Exhibitions, challenges and tours - Frederick Cavill's visit to South Australia in 1880

Renowned Swimming Professor and pioneer of British marathon swimming, Frederick Cavill, visited Melbourne in February 1879 during a world tour. The following year he returned to Australia with three of his children. Arriving in Adelaide in February 1880, Cavill and the children performed in an 'Aquatic Carnival' at Port Adelaide. Several weeks later, he completed an ocean swim of over twelve miles from Glenelg to Semaphore after failing in an earlier attempt when challenged by notorious local controversialist, Duncan (DCF) Moodie. Cavill remained in South Australia for five months, performing further exhibitions and encouraging the local development of swimming facilities and instruction. In June he barely survived a boating accident at the mouth of the Murray River which claimed the life of a companion. The paper examines Cavill's eventful stay in South Australia, the impact of his visit and the remarkable public interest it generated.

Dr Jane E. Hunt

Bond University

Ambition, opportunity and success: Constructive intersections in memories of the 1991 International Triathlon Union Triathlon World Championships, Gold Coast, Australia

Research about tourism, culture and entertainment on the Gold Coast debates the relative influence of localised independent, entrepreneurial and innovative visions as well as international forces in the development of the city's key characteristics (Goldsmith et al., 2010; Griffin, 2004; Hadju, 2005; Sanderson, 2003; Wise & Breen, 2004). More than a decade old, the debate failed to consider the role of sport in shaping the culture and identity of the city until the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games inspired self-conscious articulations of identity and meaning. Yet, the Gold Coast has a long history of hosting large sport events with fields of Australian and international athletes. Founded in 1979 for example, the Gold Coast Marathon now attracts more than 55,000 competing and non-competing attendees from more than fifty countries and every state and territory of Australia (goldcoastmarathon.com.au, 2024). In this paper, I highlight the intersection of local and international sporting influences in the shaping understandings of local culture and identity in Gold Coast collective memory (Hunt, 2019; Hunt, 2024a; Hunt 2024b). With a focus on primary materials relating to the ITU Triathlon World Championships (TWC) held on the Gold Coast in October 1991, I suggest that the meanings embedded in diverse narratives about the 1991 TWC by entrepreneurs, sport administrators, athletes and gender equality advocates alike have one dominant intersecting theme – aspirationalism. The partial realisation of the aims of diverse stakeholders represents a persuasive element in collective memory related to the TWC. Combined with similar themes in memory of other large Gold Coast sport events, I propose that such success narratives constructed collective memory of the Gold Coast as a location and community suited to hosting large sporting events, which, in turn, contributed to perceptions of the area's capacity to attract mega-sporting events such as the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

Dr Ian Jobling, The University of Queensland, and Sallyanne Atkinson AO, The University of Queensland

Bidding for the 1996 Olympic Games: an Australian 'domestic'

Presentations on Australian bids for Olympic Games comes from two different perspectives. Sallyanne Atkinson, former Lord Mayor and leader of Brisbane's bid for the 1992 Olympics, and member of the presentation teams to the IOC 1996 Melbourne and Sydney 2000 bids. Dr. Ian Jobling is an internationally known author and Olympic historian, and founder of the UQ Queensland Centre Olympic Studies.

The presenters have been commissioned by the current Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner to research and write the story of the 'Road to the 2032 Olympic Games'. This presentation on the most positive outcomes of the Brisbane Olympic bid in coming third to Barcelona and Paris in a six-city tussle, which led to the Australian Olympic Federation deciding to hold a 'domestic bid' for the 1996 Olympic Games.

Dr Kate Kirby

University of the Sunshine Coast & 2025 Queensland Heritage Register Fellowship, State Library of Queensland

Patterns of Queensland's sport and recreation heritage: enhancing community access to sport history knowledge via the Queensland Heritage Register

This presentation shares knowledge from a completed PhD study into regional Queensland sport history and heritage, and how interest in an old clay tennis court in Central Queensland led to a 2025 SLQ Heritage Register Fellowship. Sport heritage is a growing area of concern for heritage professionals internationally. With seven years until hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the associated Legacy Strategy focuses on realising future sporting legacies. However, the existing Queensland Heritage Register already shares (and hides) community sporting legacies.

This project explores how sport and recreation patterns in Queensland's history and heritage are shared in existing Queensland Heritage Register entries. The research questions how heritage registers, as large open-access datasets, communicate tangible and intangible elements of sport heritage. In addition, the complexities of heritage significance assessments, threshold indicators and metadata decisions in communicating sport history are also discussed.

Associate Professor Chels Litchfield and Dr Oli Meredith (Charles Sturt University); Dr Allyson Flynn (University of Canberra)

Women's experiences as football (soccer) match officials in Australia

The sporting stage is one that can break down, but also uphold, gendered stereotypes. Therefore, the appointments of women in roles such as coaching, officiating, on boards, as CEOs and within sports journalism, do not come without challenges for women. This has been the case for female match officials and referees in sport around the world as detailed by a number of scholars. A number of these studies focus specifically on the experiences of women match officials in football (soccer). Specific challenges for match officials in football include dealing with sexist attitudes, dissenting voices, lack of female facilities and uniforms, and a perceived lack of (football) knowledge. The current study builds on the research carried out on female identified match officials and investigated such issues in a year where Australia co-hosted a Women's World Cup. While, as a region, we celebrated the achievements and prestige of hosting a Women's World Cup, we must also consider the experiences of all women in football, especially those who are rarely a focus of academic or mainstream enquiry. These women's refereeing experiences and expertise varied, from community level (both junior and adults), at tournaments, sub-elite/state level, through to national/elite level football in Australia. Their experiences focus on two key themes, including 'barriers and challenges'; and 'abuse, discrimination and exclusion'. This presentation will detail the experiences and perspectives of these participants through both their own words and through an analysis of survey data.

Emeritus Professor John Maynard

Director Purai Global Indigenous History Centre, The University of Newcastle

Golf Dreaming - An Aboriginal Social, Political, Cultural and Historical Perspective of Golf

Recently published book *Golf Dreaming - An Aboriginal Social, Political, Cultural and Historical Perspective of Golf* delves into the fascinating and often-overlooked Aboriginal connection to golf. Historical accounts reveal that some traditional Aboriginal games bore similarities to golf, long before the sport gained global prominence. This history by Emeritus Professor of History, John Maynard, is rich with intriguing stories, from the barriers Aboriginal people faced in accessing golf courses and equipment, to the lesser-known links between Australian golf courses and significant Aboriginal sites, including burial grounds. Through these narratives, *Golf Dreaming* explores the sport's unique cultural intersections and its challenges, providing a fresh perspective on golf's place in Australia's sporting and cultural history.

Richard Naughton

Monash University

Randolph Lycett – A Glamorous Character on the World Tennis Stage in the 1920s

The presentation considers the unusual sporting career of Randolph Lycett, who was born in Birmingham, but grew up and learned his tennis skills in Melbourne. At the time of the First World War, Lycett enlisted in the AIF, and served in Europe before returning to Australia in 1919. At that time, he was confronted by a domestic dispute that received considerable publicity involving his wife's claim for maintenance for herself and three children. He did not return to Australia after that time. Lycett then proved to be a distinguished performer at Wimbledon during the 1920s and won doubles' championships on six occasions. He also reached the final of the singles' event in 1922, the first year the Championship was played at its new home in Church Road. There was occasional talk of Lycett being able to represent Australia in the Davis Cup. This ended when he played for Great Britain in 1921.

Ngo Song Ze (Amos)

Master of Arts candidate in History at Massey University

A Supplementary Winter Sport? Overview of the Historical Development of Table Tennis in New Zealand

Table Tennis (Ping Pong) has a long history in New Zealand since its debut in the 1890s. However, scholarly discussion on the topic of table tennis in New Zealand has been scarce, and it remains a minor sport. It will be argued, however, that an examination of historical records, indicates table tennis established itself as an organized sport during the inter-war period. Through its appeal as a winter sport, table tennis attracted a large constituency from the sporting community. However, its perception as a winter sport arguably revealed its characterization as a "supplementary" activity to Tennis. This paper examines the construction of the complex levels of public perceptions that positioned table tennis in its supplementary position. In addition, it explores how events such as the

Hungarian Table Tennis Exhibition Tours, which took place both in Australia and New Zealand, influenced public attitudes towards the sport.

Dr Samantha-Jayne Oldfield

Institute of Sport, Manchester Metropolitan University

‘Don’t worry!’: The rise of netball and international governance 1926-1963

Throughout the twentieth century women’s sporting rights started to be realised, with major tournaments and competitions starting to, reluctantly, open their doors to female athletes after women’s sporting organisations, and their dedicated committee members, pushed forward international playing agenda. Formed in 1926, the All England Netball Association (AENA) aimed to expand netball’s reach beyond the confines of the UK by disseminating rules and establishing worldwide netball networks. However, with no globally agreed laws, there was difficulty providing international competition. To unify netball, the AENA committee brought together key netballing figures from across the Commonwealth in the hope of agreeing a new version of the game for international dissemination. This was realised in 1960 when the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) was established. This paper will explore the development of netball’s international governance, considering the efforts of the AENA committee in creating a unified voice

Dr Jackey Osborne

Charles Sturt University

Teaching sport history? That’s ancient history!

In an era increasingly shaped by generative AI, teaching sport history at the tertiary level demands both adaptability and creativity. This presentation explores how educators might design assignments that resist automation while deepening student engagement and interest. Offering practical strategies and reflections for navigating the shifting terrain of sport history education in the GenAI age, the paper reaffirms the value of studying sport history itself, highlighting crucial insights into culture, politics, and social change all from a distance of 2000-odd years.

Gary Osmond, Alistair Harvey and Murray G. Phillips

The University of Queensland

Island of Origin: Cultural Continuity and Connection in the Torres Strait

Island of Origin: Cultural Continuity and Connection in the Torres Strait Island of Origin is a rugby league carnival that has been held in the Torres Strait since 1985. Inspired by the State of Origin, the competition sees players align with teams representing their individual island heritage or that of forebears in a continuing tradition of island cultural exchange and connection maintenance that has occurred over millennia. In this paper, we analyse Island of Origin as a cultural performance with links to traditional inter-island exchange and cultural practices such as dance and music.

The archipelagic turn within the interdisciplinary field of island studies informs our analysis by highlighting the natural and cultural interconnectivities between the islands represented in this sporting competition and between Islanders who reside in the Torres Strait and those who visit from outside to play or watch the competition. We argue that Island of Origin represents a creative tool of cultural continuity and connection in the Torres Strait.

Mark Pennings, Independent scholar, and Lionel Frost, Monash University

‘Capitals of football’: Melbourne, Glasgow and the evolution of their football codes

Nineteenth-century Glasgow created a mass-market for watching soccer. Amateur clubs, playing on parklands, spearheaded the formation of the Scottish Football Association in 1873. Working-class clubs drove the development of team play and the rise of professionalism, including the Scottish Football League (SFL) in 1890. Gold-rush migrants and the sports they brought with them drove the evolution of Australian Rules football. Public servants and private schoolboys formed Melbourne’s first clubs, drawing on bonding social capital; inner-city and suburban clubs drew on local pride and bridging social capital. The Victorian Football Association (1877) formalised play and prevented disputes over rules, but did not develop into an equivalent of the SFL. Payment of players was not formally recognised until 1910 – 18 years later than in Scotland. We consider how urban characteristics shaped the process of football club formation, and how organisational structures differed in the two cities.

Greg Ryan

Professor of History, Lincoln University

Fit Only for Savages: death, danger and debate in New Zealand rugby 1870-1914.

On 10 June 1877 Frederick Pilling, a player for the Parnell rugby club in Auckland, New Zealand, died from injuries sustained in a game against Ponsonby. Three days later the Auckland coroner declared that rugby was ‘fit only for savages’ and a jury recommended immediate modification to the rules. Other deaths, including that of New Zealand representative Barney Armit who succumbed after a tackle in 1899, reveal periodic debate about safety on the field, the style of overly competitive or simply rough play developing in New Zealand, and whether the rewards of play outweighed the risks. Yet these counter currents have been consistently sidelined by popular narratives of the easy acceptance of rugby as a virtuous element within the shaping of colonial manhood and an emergent national identity. To the contrary, this paper focuses on critique of the brutality of the so-called ‘national game’ and the claims of unity made for it.

Michael Sheret

Australian Golf Heritage Society

Changing Attitudes to Golf in the Olympics

In the early days of the Olympics, golf's ruling body made it very clear that they considered golf to be unsuitable as an Olympic sport. This attitude changed in the lead up to the re-introduction of golf to the Olympics in Rio in 2016.

Patrick Skene

Independent Scholar

Celestial Footy – Exploring the 140 year participation experience of Chinese Australians in Australian rules football

Author Patrick Skene will share insights from his book 'Celestial Footy – the story of Chinese heritage Aussie Rules', which details more than 140 years of Chinese community participation in the great Australian Game, dating back to 1882 in Bendigo. It is not well known that more Chinese Australians played Aussie rules than all the other sports combined, from its roots on the Goldfields before expanding across the country including Darwin, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Broome, Adelaide and Derby. Topics covered include pioneers Wally Koochew and Les Kew Ming, Chinese football teams including Ballarat's Golden Point Rice Eaters, the Miners vs Market Gardeners, the Darwin Buffaloes and Melbourne's Young Chinese League team. In addition to historical figures the presentation will also cover modern day champions such as Les Fong, Lin Jong, Sophie Li, Bailey Banfield, Callum Ah Chee and Darcy Vescio. Patrick will also explore how football was used as a vehicle for integration for Chinese Australian community members against a backdrop of exclusion, assimilation and the struggle to maintain a Chinese-Australian identity during the White Australian Policy.

Dr Marion Stell

The University of Queensland

Playing in drag: how cross-dressing changed cricket in Australia

Fancy dress cricket matches enjoyed a remarkable popularity across Australia, especially from the late 1880s until the mid-1930s. Participants and spectators from the local community enjoyed a fun and comical day out, and the games provided an acceptable way for clubs and associations to raise money for themselves or local charity. Originally, participants were male, many of whom enthusiastically performed the role of 'lady' cricketers, but gradually women themselves played in the matches, some of whom went on to play for Australia. Cross-dressing behaviours that were 'transgressive' in private were socially permissible on the cricket ground. These games provide a new and novel way to view the rise in the popularity of cricket through the lens of cross-dressing and gender relations in Australia.

Jordan Treloar, Chelsea Litchfield and Jaquelyn Osborne

Charles Sturt University

Exploring the lived experiences of Australian sports fans and their interactions with the Supercars Championship

This presentation will focus on my current PhD research project which investigates the impact of Holden, Ford and Australian motorsport on Australian sports fandom and sporting culture. Specifically, this study focuses on participant interactions with the Ford and Holden brands and to what extent these brands, automotive and Australian motorsport culture has had on their lives. This study also investigates the differences in experiences between participants of differing generations and gender identities in this traditionally male-dominated domain. Given the discontinuation of Holden in 2020, the potential and ability for the Holden vs Ford rivalry to transition into alternative rivalries will also be examined. Data has been collected via one-on-one interviews of motorsport community members ranging from 18-75 years old, and thematic analysis has been used to identify themes and specific findings. These themes, findings and my overall PhD progress will be showcased in this presentation.