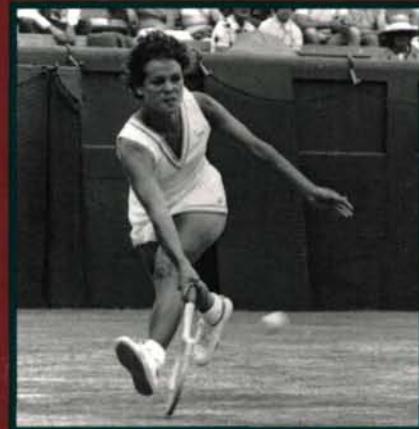
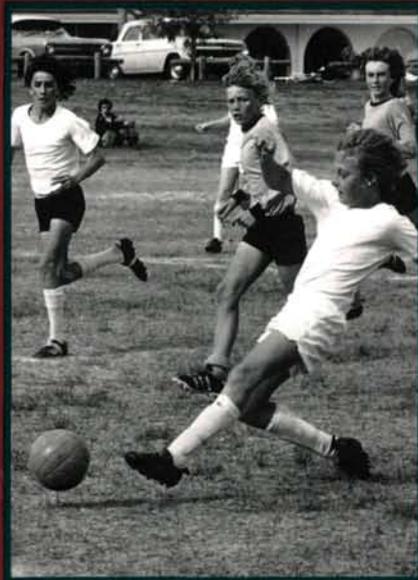


# A Sporting Nation

**Celebrating Australia's Sporting Life**



*featuring, among others*

Mina Wylie • Don Bradman, the 'Bodyline' Test series, Bill O'Reilly • Jack Brabham •  
Hubert Opperman • Alex Jesaulenko • Adrian Quist, Margaret Court • Phar Lap, the Melbourne Cup •  
Bernard ('Midget') Farrelly • Ern McQuillan, Vic Patrick • 'Gelignite' Jack Murray •  
Melbourne Olympics 1956 and Sydney Olympics 2000

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Published by the National Library of Australia  
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

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National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

A sporting nation: celebrating Australia's sporting life.

Bibliography.

Includes index.

ISBN 0 642 10704 1.

1. Sports—Australia. 2. Sports—Australia—History. 3. Popular culture—Australia—History. 4. Sports—Social aspects—Australia. I. Cliff, Paul. II. Halligan, Marion, 1940-. III. Mathews, Marlene. IV. Rolls, Eric C. (Eric Charles), 1923-.

V. National Library of Australia. VI. Title

796.0994

Designer: Noel Wendtman

National Library of Australia photographers: Loui Seselja, Barry Le Lievre,

Jim Normahas, Andrew Stawowczyk Long

Printed by: Lamb Printers, Perth

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#### **In the same series**

*Acquired Tastes: Celebrating Australia's Culinary History* (1998)

ISBN 0 642 10693 2

*(title page)* Fanny Durack's gold medal, 1912 Stockholm Olympics

See p. 79

*(this page)* Skateboarder in carpark (detail)

Photograph by NLA Photographic Services

Canberra Life Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

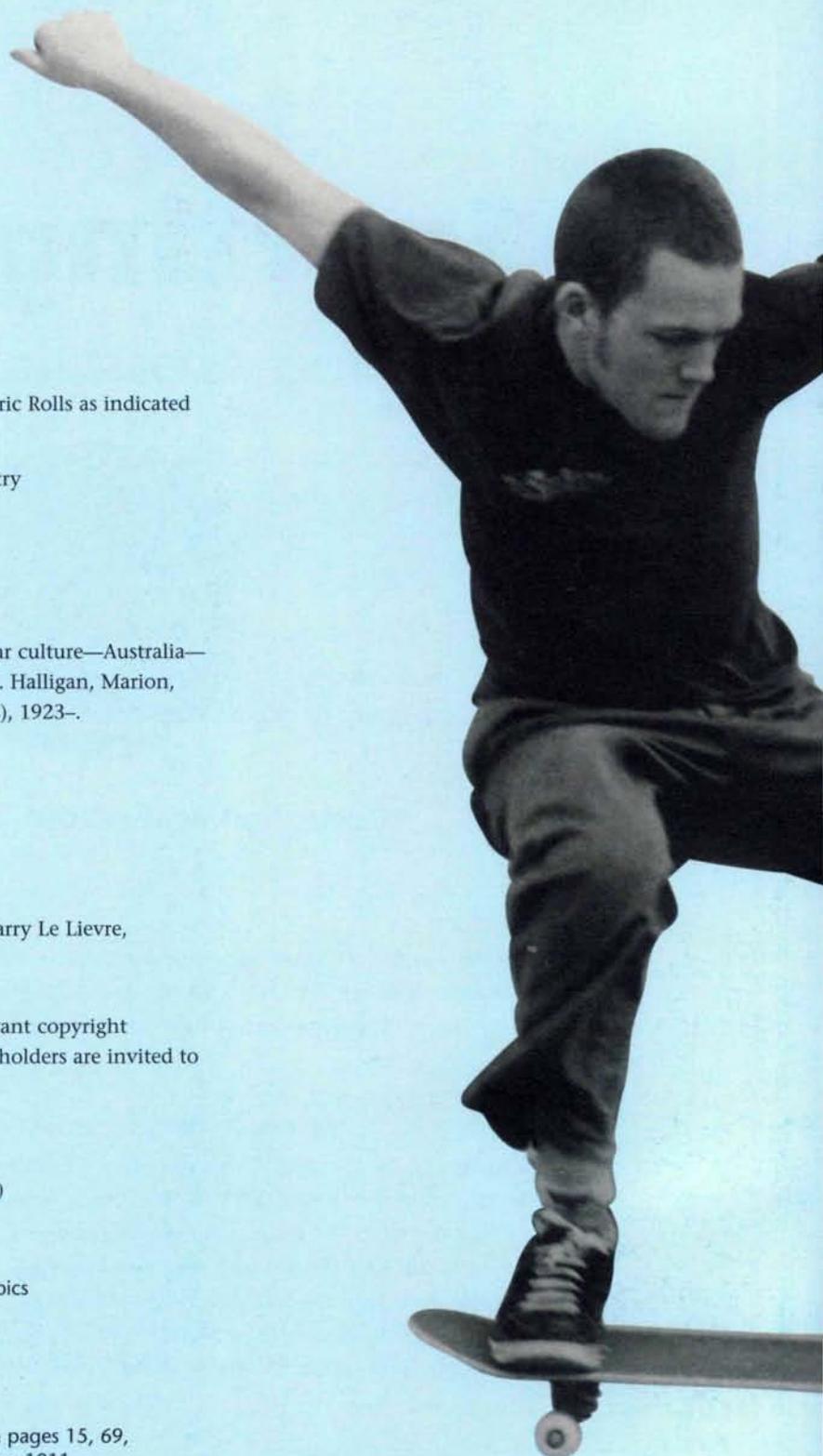
*(front and back cover)* Composite of photographs appearing on pages 15, 69, 76 and 90 of this book, with background collage of images from 1911

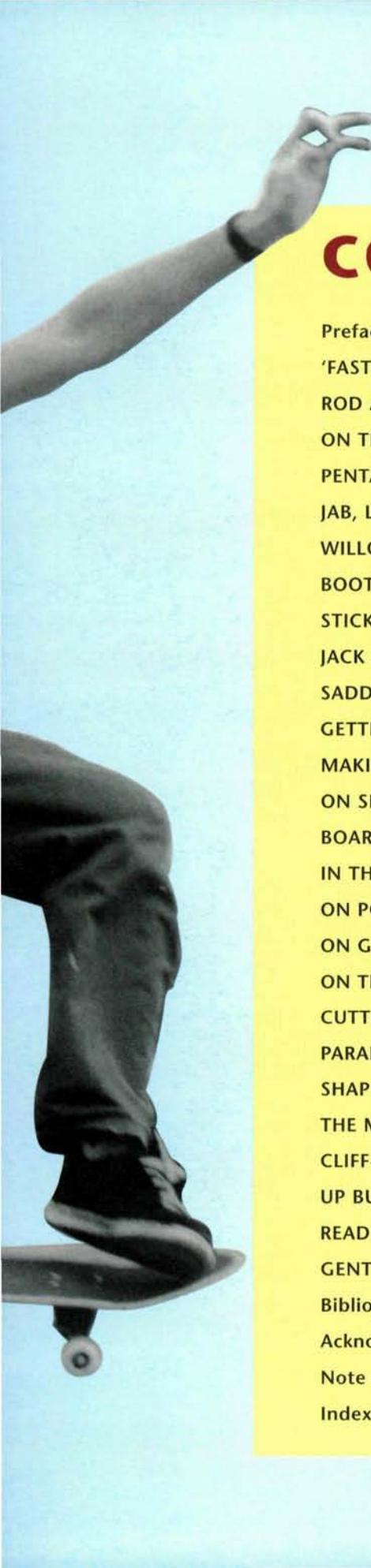
*Mick Simmons Catalogue* (Ephemera Collection)

*(Index, page 128)* Luther Daniels Bradley (1853–1917)

*The Underground Route*

MS 7448; from the Manuscript Collection





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THE AUSTRALIAN

PRICE 6<sup>d.</sup>

# SPORTING AND DRAMATIC

NEWS



Vol. I., No. 4.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney,  
for transmission by post as a newspaper.

September 1, 1928.



*Supreme Value*

The New ESSEX Tourer

YOUR CAR TRADED IN



R. F. OLIVER & OLIVER LTD., 147-9 Castlereagh St., Sydney

£270

Sports reported alongside theatrical pursuits in an early journal  
*The Australian Sporting and Dramatic News*, September 1928  
(Sydney: Ernest Selby, 1928-1930)

# Preface

SPORT ACROSS ITS WHOLE ARRAY—for competitor and spectator, from suburban backyard to Olympic field—has traditionally been recognised as a defining element of national life. In paying homage to Australia’s sporting culture, the present work brings together a broad sampling from across the National Library of Australia’s Collection.

The book’s material is structured impressionistically rather than schematically. The basic text is excerpted from interviews in the Library’s oral history holdings, supported by three feature essays, along with connecting material and extended captions. A main aim of the publication was to demonstrate the broad extent and diversity of the material held in the National Library’s collections—ranging from items of realia (such as Fanny Durack’s 1912 Olympic gold medal), through its manuscript items (cutting-book albums of Donald Bradman and Hubert Opperman), pictorial material (oil paintings, engravings, photographs, posters, cartoons), ephemera (sports catalogues, entrance tickets and even a T-shirt), and oral histories.

A particular delight of compiling the book, and something which points up the special value of the National Library of Australia as an archival resource and a collecting institution, was being able to match up parts of the same story across the Library’s separate collections. To give just one instance, the book’s opening section on the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games uses news photographs of the construction of the village (from the Pictorial Collection), events tickets and a program (from the Ephemera Collection), an athlete’s recollection of competing in the Games (from the Oral History Collection), and the popular face of the Games as evoked by a period magazine (from the Newspaper and Microform Collection).

The depth of the separate collections is also evident in this publication. In the instance of the oral history material, the speaking voices range from 1912 Olympian swimmer Mina Wylie through to the 1960s vernacular of surfer and boardmaker Bernard (‘Midget’) Farrelly. They incorporate 1930s jockey Billy Cook’s lament on missing a ride on Phar Lap, Adrian Quist’s clarification on the pioneering of shorts in Australian tennis, and ‘Gelignite’ Jack Murray’s recollection of seeing Hitler (a ‘little guy ... all pomp and what-have-you’) at Avis Speedway in mid-1930s Berlin.

To the numerous sports unrepresented in the book—and to the many other sportspeople who have over recent decades contributed to the Library’s oral history records but not found space on these pages—apologies. There is ample material within the Library’s collections for a second book on the subject—and perhaps even a third.

It is hoped, nonetheless, that for all its necessary selectiveness, *A Sporting Nation* succeeds in giving a lively impression of the depth and breadth—and the colourful tradition—of Australia’s past and more recent sporting life.



Poster for the 1938 Empire Games, Sydney, coinciding with Australia's 150th Anniversary celebrations. Australia topped the Games points tally, with sprinter Decima Norman standing out  
Australian National Travel Association  
From the Pictorial Collection

# 'Faster, higher, stronger'

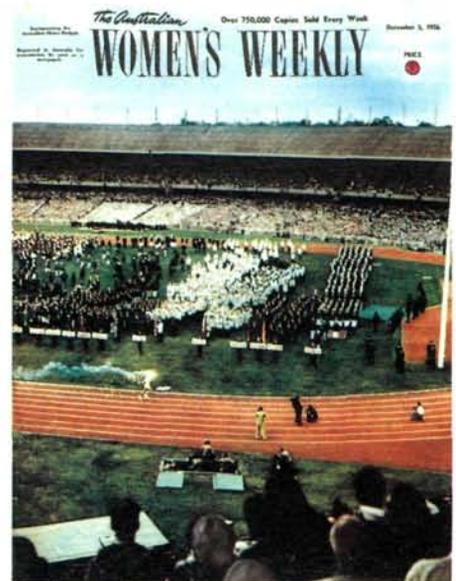
## MELBOURNE 1956

### Opening and closing ceremonies

I GUESS ALL SPORTSWOMEN'S and men's ideal is to represent one's country at the Olympic Games, and especially to have the opportunity to represent in your home country ... I will never forget the experience of being in the [Olympic] village in Melbourne. I can remember, that with a couple of weeks to go to the Olympics, there was a lot of apprehension ... when Russia invaded Hungary, and there was a lot of discussion as to whether athletes from Europe would be even coming to Melbourne. But ... once we were inside the village ... there was no indication whatsoever of any political storm. And I think it's something that I will always remember Melbourne for ... the friendliness amongst the teams in the village. There was no sign of racism and there was no sign of any political differences whatsoever ... everybody belonged with everybody else ... It was something that I will never forget, marching onto the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of the home crowd ...

At these Games in Melbourne, it was the first time in the closing ceremony that teams were intermingled. Up to this stage at all Olympics, teams had marched ... in their teams. But because of the tremendous friendliness that was evident in these Games in Melbourne, and the success that they had been, all athletes ... marched onto the field as one complete team.

MARLENE MATHEWS



Games opening as featured on *The Australian Women's Weekly* cover for 5 December 1956. Ron Clarke bears the Olympic torch into Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Australian team of 314 is at the far right of the picture. Fellow distance runner John Landy took the Olympic Oath on behalf of competitors, and rower Mervyn Wood (attending his fourth Olympics) was Australian flag bearer  
(Reproduced courtesy of *The Australian Women's Weekly*)



Model for the Melbourne Olympics medallion, sculpted by Andor Meszaros  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

*I will always remember  
Melbourne for ... the  
friendliness amongst the  
teams in the village*



Souvenir program  
From the Ephemera Collection

## GETTING READY

MELBOURNE BEAT ARGENTINA by one vote to host the sixteenth Olympiad. The Games committee was chaired by Sir Frank Beaurepaire, who had been a key campaigner to bring the Games to the southern hemisphere for the first time. In March 1952, Carlton Cricket Ground was chosen as the main stadium site after trustees of Melbourne Cricket Ground had refused to make the latter available. In February 1953, however, they relented and the MCG became the main venue.



Italian models in a promotional shot at the Games construction site  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection



Testing the composition of the Olympics cinder track, 1955  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection



THE GAMES WERE OPENED by the Duke of Edinburgh on 22 November 1956, Sir Frank Beaurepaire failing to see his vision, having died six months earlier. Millions viewed the Games live on television which was then in its infancy in Australia. Despite cold war tensions and events in Suez and Hungary, the two-week long 'Friendly Games', as they were hailed, were a great success, with competitors breaking ranks at the closing ceremony to sing, dance and parade arm-in-arm before a jubilant crowd.

(left) Souvenir envelope, and complimentary tickets to athletics and hockey events, provided to staff by the Myer Emporium from the Ephemera Collection



Mustering for tickets  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

## COMPETING: Melbourne, 1956



Australia had 'cheered itself hoarse at the victories of the girls in the Olympics', according to the *Weekly* for 12 December 1956. The cover shows Sydney sprint stars Betty Cuthbert (right) and Marlene Mathews, gold and bronze medallists respectively in the 100-m event. Cuthbert also took gold, and Mathews bronze, in the 200-m race. The pair would duel for world record times over succeeding years

(Reproduced courtesy of *The Australian Womens' Weekly*)

*I can remember seeing five bottoms out in front of me, and me still sitting on the blocks ...*

BUT OF COURSE that [opening] excitement ... is only very shortlived ... then you've got to set your mind to the actual competition. The heats of the 100 metres were run on the Saturday. And I used to be terribly nervous when I ran ... to the extent that I was sick, and used to wonder how one leg would sort of go after the other—but once the gun went, of course that was all forgotten. So it was a very nervous experience, to go out there and run ... but I won my heat and I won my semi-final. And then we had a day's rest on the Sunday before the final on the Monday. I suppose having won the heat and won my semi-final it was only natural that I was favourite to take out the final on the Monday, but [that final is] ... the only race, probably, in my whole life that I would really want to have over again ...

For some reason I wasn't as nervous as I normally was, and yet I knew that it was the final of an Olympic 100 metres ... When the gun went—and, as I said earlier, I was always a very slow starter—on this particular occasion I can remember seeing five bottoms out in front of me, and me still sitting on the blocks, so by the time I got to the 50 metres—looking at films of the race, I was practically last— ... I realised where I was, that I'd better do something quick. So I guess I was lucky to get the bronze medal for third. I think I would have to say it was probably the most disappointing run of my life, not that I take it away from the winner, Betty Cuthbert—or the German girl, Stubnik, who got second—but personally it was ... the worst race I think I ever ran in my whole career.

[Though] I guess it did something for me, inasmuch as when it came around to the 200 metres ... [which] I never looked upon as being one of my better events, I was determined to do something ... Up until this stage I didn't really have many thoughts of even making the final ... but having run so badly in the 100 metres, I had a lot more determination. So I surprised myself, I guess, by ... running well enough to take out the bronze medal ...

As well as the disappointment of the 100 metres, the biggest disappointment was not being selected to run in the 4 x 100 metres relay ... although I had trained with the relay squad, right up until the day before, when they announced the team. So it was rather a trying experience to sit up in the grandstand and see the Australian team come home and win a gold medal ... it was one of the disappointments that you have to swallow. So you don't dwell on these disappointments, you put them behind you and then look towards the next goal.



Marlene Mathews in 1958  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

## Rome, 1960

BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS of the Australian team in 1956, and again in 1958, it was thought that the team again would ... produce these world-class performances. And I've got to admit that when we left Australia both Betty [Cuthbert] and I thought that we were running well enough to produce the performances ... The heats ... were held at nine o'clock in the morning, and I can remember thinking how foreign this was ... having to get up at six o'clock in the morning and have something to eat, so that you would be prepared to run at nine o'clock. The hurdlers were on before us, and I can still remember the looks of disappointment on their faces when they came back to the village ... [And] when we went out to run our heats of the 100 metres it was the same story ... I can remember getting to about 70 metres in the heat and it was like hitting a brick wall ... we hadn't had enough competition to really get us into form ... So, really it was rather a dismal day for us, because I was the only athlete lucky enough to at least get through to the semi-final ...

It was our first experience of running against the Russian athletes since 1956, and the Russians had obviously taken a tremendous stride ... in all it was rather an awe-inspiring experience for us. We realised at this stage that we weren't going to get by on the natural ability we had got by on in 1956 ... and that the training that we had done leading up to these Games was not going to get us through to the finals ...

This [1960] team of course had the great Australian miler, Herb Elliott, who proved to be the only athlete to collect a ... gold medal.

## MUNICH, 1972

IN 1972 ... I was given the appointment of Assistant Manager–Women, to the Olympic team ... It was rather a unique experience, because in the team there were a couple of athletes who were just coming into competition when I'd retired ...

Melbourne ... although it was many years previous, was still very fresh in my memory, and I found it very difficult to understand the changes that had been brought about—not only in track-and-field, but in all sports. The village, for instance, in 1972 ... looked like a concrete jungle. There was no fraternisation between the teams—and of course at this stage, Russia, America and East Germany had become the teams to beat ... [They] had taken such giant strides ... into the scientific side of sport ...

I guess I was disillusioned ... by the way that sport was going ... it had become a professional business. Racism had crept into the Games, politics had become a part of the Games ... the black African nations ... [had] Rhodesia expelled from the 1972 Olympic Games. Also those Games, of course ... [saw] the massacre of so many of the Israeli Olympic team ... I will always remember the stunned silence amongst the athletes ... the Australian women's quarters were within eyesight of the Israeli team quarters ... [We could] see the terrorists walking around ... with the machine guns over their shoulders ... the German tanks lumbering through the village ... Had the Games been cancelled at this stage, it would have been the end of the Olympics ... Fortunately I think, for all future young sportspeople, the Games went on after a day's mourning.

MARLENE MATHEWS

*the great Australian miler, Herb Elliott ... proved to be the only athlete to collect a ... gold medal*

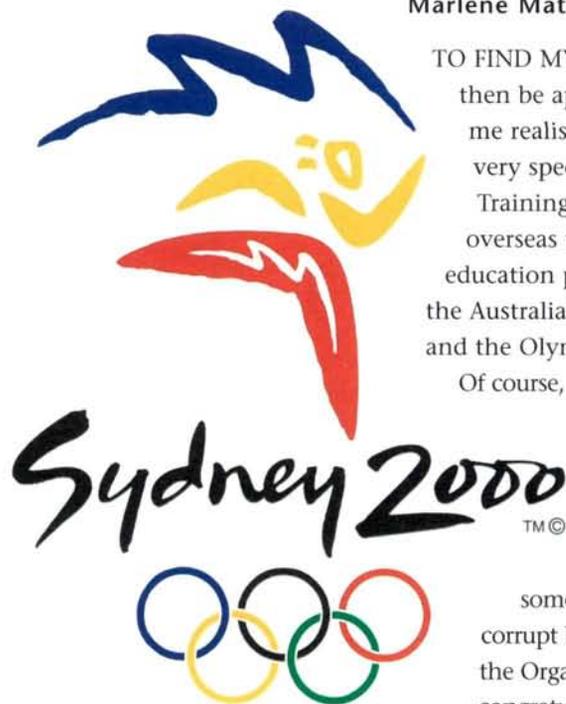


Champion 1500-m runner Herb Elliott was sole Australian gold medallist in athletics at the 1960 Rome Olympics, following four years on the athletics success at Melbourne. The Rome Games also produced tremendous Australian performances in swimming (five golds, five silver, three bronze) and equestrian events (two golds, one silver). Here (above), two years before Rome, Elliott leads Merv Lincoln in the mile at Olympic Park, Melbourne in June 1958

*had the Games been cancelled at this stage, it would have been the end of the Olympics*

## OLYMPICS: THEN AND NOW

### Marlene Mathews reflects on the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games



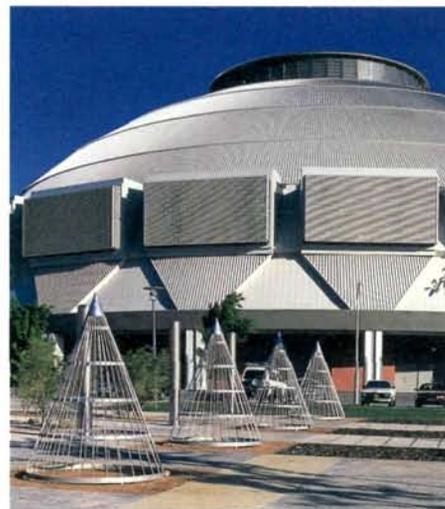
Logo from Sydney 2000 Web site  
(Reproduced courtesy of SOCOG)

*after all these years, to be an  
Olympian is still something  
very special*

TO FIND MYSELF on the Sydney Bid Committee for the 2000 Olympics and to then be appointed a member of the 2000 Australian Team Executive made me realise that, after all these years, to be an Olympian is still something very special. My involvement also incorporates the role of pre-Olympics Training Adviser with the Queensland Olympic Council (QOC) hosting overseas teams coming to train under Australian conditions, serving in education programs associated with the Olympics, fundraising activities for the Australian team, and in guest-speaking engagements promoting Olympism and the Olympic Games.

Of course, all has not been plain sailing since Juan Antonio Samaranch made the 24 September 1993 announcement that Sydney was to host the 2000 Olympics. Political egos and personal agendas caused many changes in the administration of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) in the early days, and after the initial euphoria had died down there seemed to be some loss of Games interest among the Australian public. Allegations of corrupt bids and bribery amongst IOC members created many headaches for the Organising Committee—erupting just when Sydney was basking in congratulations on their preparation of facilities, venues and overall planning and administration. This controversy took its toll on corporate sponsorship and many cutbacks had to be made—though none that will compromise the presentation of the Games. All Olympics organisers are extremely confident that the Sydney Games will still be as predicted—the best Games ever.

My recent involvement with the 2000 Games and the Olympic Movement has given me opportunities to visit many areas of Australia, from capital cities to the remotest areas of Queensland and New South Wales. In 1995 the QOC organised a train journey throughout Queensland covering 7000 kilometres, taking the Olympics to the remotest parts of the State. Three carriages were devoted to presenting Olympic memorabilia, and 60 Olympians travelled with the train over a period of three weeks. To see the faces of thousands of school children viewing for themselves such icons as Dawn Fraser's swimmers, Dunc Grey's bicycle, Marjorie Jackson's spikes, Michael Wenden's Olympic medals—and meeting some of their Olympic heroes in the flesh—was an unforgettable experience. During the Games preparations I have also had the opportunity to meet up with some of my friends and compatriots from former Games, as they have accompanied (in their roles as sports



Dome and Pavilions—indoor venues  
(Reproduced courtesy of Olympic Co-ordination  
Authority; Bob Peters)



Olympic gold medal hockey player Nova Peris-Kneebone will lead off the torch relay across Australia  
 Photograph by Dean McNicholl; courtesy *Canberra Times*  
 From the Pictorial Collection

administrators) their national teams from Europe, Great Britain and the USA. I am looking forward to meeting up with many more in the Village in 2000.

Of course, huge changes have taken place in the Olympics over the 44 years since Melbourne. In the 1956 Games, 67 nations had participated and 3184 athletes had competed. In Sydney—at least at this stage—200 nations will compete, embracing 10 200 athletes. At Melbourne, in my own sport of athletics, there were only four track

events for women: the 100 metres, 200 metres, 80 metres hurdles and the 4 x 100 metre relay. In Sydney there will be 11 track events. Indeed, the overall number of women's events has increased from 26 in 1956, to 168 in 2000.

There are a number of other differences. In 1956, men and women were segregated within the village by a three-metre high wire fence. Broadcasting of the event has also changed radically. 1956 saw the introduction of TV into Australia—the first telecast being only days before the Melbourne opening ceremony. The host broadcasting rights then were purchased for a mere £8000. In 2000 the host broadcaster has paid in the billions of dollars. During this same period too, of course, the world's sporting nations have become hugely more professional in their approach to the Olympics, and even the word 'amateur' no longer applies to many competing athletes.

Meeting up with my friends and compatriots from former Games has provided the opportunity to reminisce and compare differences between 1956 and 2000. We often find ourselves wondering how we managed to perform as athletes, comparing our situation with the support received by today's athletes, most of whom train full-time and receive substantial funding. We, on the contrary, had to hold down normal jobs, and fit training in around our careers. (Not that we believe we suffered any particular disadvantage because of this—in fact we were probably better off, having a career path established when our competing days were done.) And our training programs back then would barely constitute a warm-up session today. We ran on grass tracks which were sometimes hard as nails, and at other times a quagmire after rain. In Melbourne we ran on a cinder track, as opposed to today's synthetic tracks of rubber and polyurethane. (The Olympic track was later pulled up and relaid at Melbourne University.) Most times we trained by car headlights, because we were not allowed to turn on the oval's lights except on designated club nights. We also had limitations on the kind of uniform we wore: nothing like the skimpy outfits worn today. When we travelled we were allowed two shillings and sixpence per

*of course, huge changes have taken place in the Olympics over the 44 years since Melbourne. In the 1956 Games, 67 nations had participated and 3184 athletes had competed. In Sydney ... 200 nations will compete, embracing 10 200 athletes*



Sydney 2000 Olympic mascots Syd Platypus, Millie Echidna and Olly Kookaburra getting chummy during the 1997 Olympic Journey Celebrations, Canberra—part of the extended lead-up to the Games

NLA Photographics; photograph by Loui Seselja  
From the Pictorial Collection

day to cover laundry. There was no such thing as sponsorship. We had to buy our own spikes, and raise our own money to attend international games—either by collections at football matches or running raffles at hotels and clubs after training. And we had no money to travel overseas for pre-Olympic competition.

There was also no sports science backup. Even at the Melbourne Games we only had a masseur, and our coaches were barred from the ground because they were regarded as 'professionals'. And of course, we didn't have today's Medal Reward Scheme if we were fortunate enough to win an Olympic medal.

(The current scheme is an Australian Olympic Committee initiative whereby all athletes who win a medal—gold, silver or bronze—receive grants of up to \$35 000 for each medal won.)

However, despite the fact that we appeared to make a number of sacrifices to realise our Olympic dream—and although competing in front of a home crowd in Sydney's Stadium Australia would be an overwhelming experience—I for one would not want to change places with today's athletes. Forty-four years ago we were able to win a medal on natural ability. One of the saddest things in sport today is of course the use of performance-enhancing drugs; even though huge amounts of dollars are being spent on detection procedures, many athletes are still able to cheat the system. (The only medical prerequisite we had, was to produce a doctor's certificate to say whether we were male or female.) Performances during the 1980s sadly reflect the use of these drugs. Flo Jo's records in 1988, while allegedly drug free, will stand for many years.

I believe that Marion Jones from the USA is the only woman sprinter with the ability to get within coo-ee of Flo Jo's 10.49 seconds for the 100 metres, and 21.34 seconds for 200 metres—currently the World and Olympic records. Looking at the Australian women sprinters, my feeling is that Melinda Gainsford, Lauren Hewitt, Tania Van Heer and Cathy Freeman—while quite

possibly being finalists—are also not likely to make any impression on these sprint times. (In a longer event, Cathy Freeman, providing she remains focused and injury free, could medal in the 400 metres.)

As I write this, with the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Games drawing rapidly upon us, I look forward to the event immensely and with a range of emotions. To share the excitement, the passion, the joys and the disappointments of an Olympic Games is an experience of a lifetime. I guess I am one of the lucky ones who has had the opportunity to experience this, in a number of ways, more than once.

[Marlene Mathews was awarded an Order of Australia in 1999, for services to sport and the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association]



Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay  
(Reproduced courtesy of Olympic Co-ordination Authority; Bob Peters)

# Rod and reel



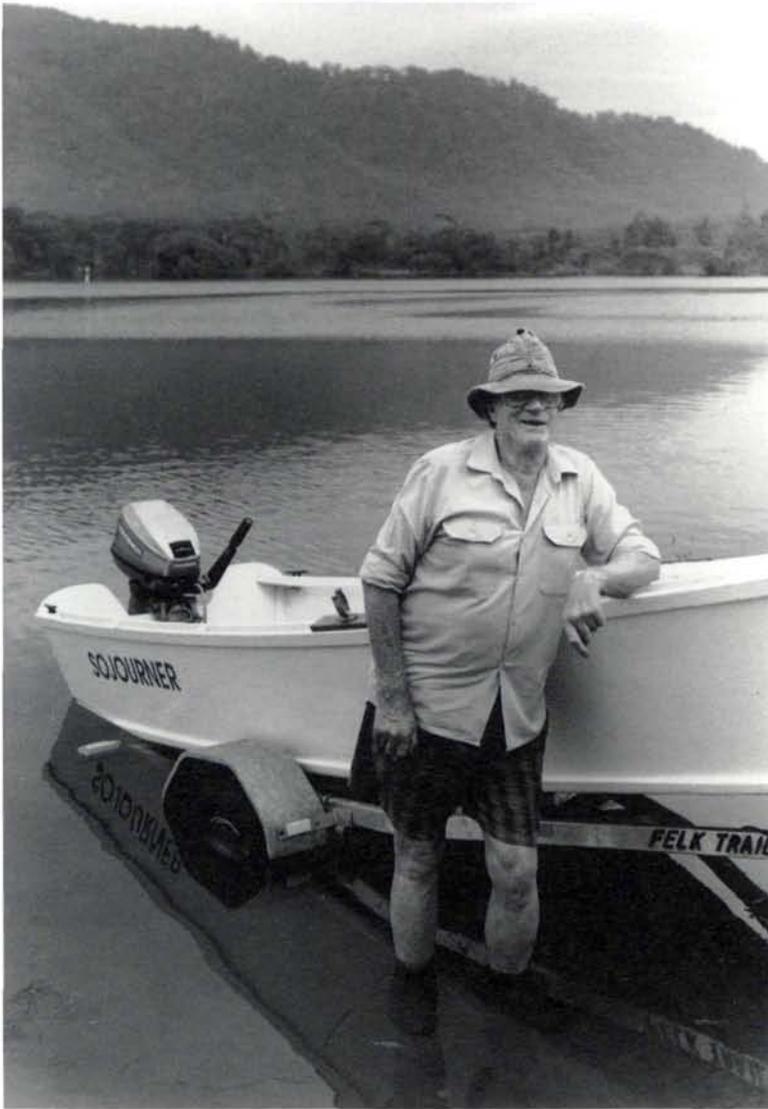
## ON BARWON AND GOGLEY

Eric Rolls

LATE SUMMER AFTERNOONS were picnic time on the banks of the Namoi River in northern New South Wales. Two or three carloads of friends would meet to swim and fish. There were sandy banks and gravelly islands and clear-running water over shallows. We cut a springy green stick, tied a hook and line to it, attached a big blacksoil worm to the hook, and dabbled it in the water. When a fish bit we swung it over our shoulders to the top of the bank. Fishing later became more sophisticated. Until European carp ruined the fishing, we used light lines and special bait for special fish.

It was often a four-hour wait for a good Murray cod out on the Barwon. As it approached, the agitation of the live carp being used as bait told me what was coming. The cod picked up the fish, I gave free line. The cod might move slowly

*(above)* The contemplative sport of rock fishing  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection



Eric Rolls with 'Sojourner' at Camden Haven, NSW  
 Photograph by Peter Solness; courtesy of Eric Rolls

*there is a pleasant legend  
 that each cod wears a map  
 of its place in the river*

upstream, it might move down—five metres, 15, 20. Then it might suspect a hook, and put the carp down. But often enough it swallowed the fish and turned at speed for its home log. I then threw the bail, the rod bent, and I reeled the cod in firmly, taking special care to keep the line taut. If given half a chance, a cod lunges forward, turns, breaks the line with its tail and goes. As the head broke the surface, I swung the cruel gaff and out came four kilograms of beautiful spotted fish. Little brown marks pattern each side. (There is a pleasant legend that each cod wears a map of its place in the river.)

THESE DAYS WE DRIFT in 'Sojourner', a beautiful wooden boat that my children gave me, fishing for flathead in Queen's Lake, on the mid north coast of New South Wales. There are stories of flathead with heads as big as crocodiles in nearby Gogley's Lagoon. Occasionally a not-quite-so-big monster swims in with the bait to the side of the boat. As you reach for the net, the flathead contemptuously spits the bait and swims quietly away. It seems to enjoy playing with those who fish. If by chance an eight-kilogrammer or bigger is caught, most locals return them to the water. (They are all females and superior breeders.)

Poddy mullet are the best bait for flathead. On still, sunny days they feed in the shallows in great numbers, running the blades of seagrass through their mouths to collect algae, grouping nose-to-nose in a dense circle about something in the sand. They trap readily when they are there, but it is no use depending on them. I do not decide to catch poddy mullet to go fishing—if I catch poddy mullet I go fishing.

There are two big sand flats in Queen's Lake, with a channel between them. I like to get there at low tide, pump a few big yabbies on the flats to give the flathead a choice, then drift down the channel in Sojourner as the tide runs in. When there is 60 centimetres of water on the sand bank, I drift over it. The wily flathead have buried themselves in the sand, waiting for food to swim over them. Sometimes when I have no live bait I can fool a three-kilogrammer by rigging a frozen whitebait on linked hooks, then threading another whitebait through the eyes on the bottom hook. A bump on a flathead's nose with what looks like a sick fish can cause an unwary snap.

As a bonus, there are bream and whiting and an occasional flounder—and perhaps schools of good-sized Long Toms with long jaws filled with fearsome teeth and a green backbone that makes many locals regard the delicious flesh as

poisonous. They are fun to bring in, swerving and running at all angles, including straight at the boat, then tail walking in final defiance.

When the blackfish are on, which is most of the year in this fortunate area, locals and visitors line up on the training walls (how the sea must resent that term!) 15 to 20 at a time with their long rods and old, narrow, wooden reels and dangle weed (*Enteromorpha*, a threadlike algae) on a small hook below a long red float. When the float bobs, then disappears, they know exactly how low it must sink before they strike to bring in a fish that glows purple until the sunlight fades it. Anyone who seriously fishes gathers their own weed from shallow tidal swamps. The most prized weeds are the long, clean green threads growing on underwater ropes where boats are tied up. For night fishing, those looking for big jewfish cast a live tailor into mid-channel on a rising tide. The bait-fish swims about two metres under a heavy float fitted with a green light. It is invigorating to see that float go under and stay under during a furious run.

Those who go outside the local rivers and lakes, to the offshore reefs, do not make the great catches of Queenslanders, because the reefs favoured by snapper are trapped by professionals who are banned from such fishing in Queensland. But they often come back excited because the dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi) are on—so fast, so beautiful, so good to catch, and so very good to eat. Anything floating attracts them, even the white buoy of a professional's trap can have a four-kilogram dolphin fish under it. And only a few days ago a happy friend of mine came in with a 15-kilogram narrow-barred mackerel that he had taken by trolling a strip of tailor very early one morning. Sliced in oblique cutlets, grilled or steamed, it is special.



Imported silk lines for river and stream fishing, from a *Hartleys Sports Stores Anglers Guide and Catalogue, 1934-35*. The latest Bakelite reels featured in the same publication  
From the Ephemera Collection



Eight mulloway, weighing between 13 and 27 kg, caught on lines from the shore and landed by gaffs, at Madorah beach near Perth in 1974  
From the Pictorial Collection

# On track and field



## HURDLES, THROWS AND JUMPS

FUTURE HURDLES STAR Shirley Strickland de la Hunty (who would have been about six years old when the above photograph of women hurdlers was taken in 1931) would win bronze in the 80-m event at London in 1948, a record-breaking 10.9 seconds gold at Helsinki (1952), and gold again at Melbourne in 1956. Maintaining the Australian women's hurdling tradition, 32 years later Debbie Flintoff-King would win gold in the 400-m event at Seoul in 1988, dipping to the line in an Olympic record time of 53.17 seconds. Hurdles have also featured in another golden performance of Australian women's athletics: Glynis Nunn's win in the seven-event heptathlon at the Los Angeles Games of 1984. The earlier five-event pentathlon (comprised of the 100-m hurdles, high jump, shot-put, broad jump and 800-m run) had been enlarged by the addition of a javelin throw and a 200-m run to create the heptathlon in 1982. Following a 20-minute wait for the judges to complete the complex arithmetic of scoring, Nunn was declared the winner with a total of 6390 points.

*(above)* At full stride in the 90 yard hurdles,  
Sydney Sports Ground, 1931  
From the Pictorial Collection



(left) Nell Gould of St George, Sydney, lets fly at a track and field meeting c.1930. (below) Australia's only Olympic gold medallist for high jump thus far is John Winter, who took the event at the 1948 London Games. Although Winter had won the national championship in both 1947 and 1948, he was regarded as an outsider for the Olympic event. Unlike most of the other jumpers, he practised the 'eastern cut-off' style, with a frontal approach. At the time of the final jumps, a cold and raining Wembley Stadium was in an uproar of cheering for Emil Zatopek in the 10 000 m event. Conquering the surrounding turmoil, Winter managed to focus and make the winning jump of 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m)

From the Pictorial Collection





Anthony William (Nick) Winter performs a standing high jump at an exhibition at Camden, NSW, in 1925. Winter had won gold for the hop, step and jump (now the triple jump) at the Paris Olympic Games the year before, and was given to performing such jumps as entertainments. A cigarette like that he's seen smoking here would get him into trouble with an administrator when he indulged between jumps at the Irish Games in 1928

From the Pictorial Collection



Reginald Keith trains for the 1936 track season, at Toowong Sports Ground, Brisbane  
From the Pictorial Collection

## LOOKING BRISK

Sprint star Marjorie Jackson (the 'Lithgow Flash'), shown right, retired just prior to Betty Cuthbert and Marlene Mathews' ascendancy in the mid-1950s. Jackson's running spikes, with other memorabilia, toured Australia as part of a pre-Sydney Olympics exhibition. In the 1956 Melbourne Games, Cuthbert duplicated Jackson's 1952 Helsinki Games gold medal feat of taking out both the 100- and 200-m events.

Among more recent women sprinters is triple Olympian Raelene Boyle, who took three sprint silver medals (at Mexico City and Munich) as well as seven gold medals from four Commonwealth Games. Cathy Freeman became the first Aboriginal track and field athlete to represent Australia when she participated in the 1992 Barcelona Games. She won a memorable double gold in the 200- and 400-m events at the Commonwealth Games, breaking the Australian 200-m record, and took a silver medal in the 400-m event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



Marjorie Jackson  
From the Pictorial Collection

# Pentathlon man

## A TALE OF FIVE OLYMPICS



Pentathlon scoreboard at 1964 Tokyo Olympics.  
Peter Macken's score is seen top centre,  
Torok's at top left  
Reproduced from Frigyes Hegedus's *Modern Pentathlon* (Budapest: Coruina Press, 1968)

*I thought, 'This is it, I've had maximum points here, I'm well on the way'*

[MOST] MODERN PENTATHLON competitors usually stay in the sport for quite a few years, as it is not a sport you can take lightly. It takes many years to learn the skills of shooting, fencing and riding, and many years to get your standard in running and swimming ... the same people came back to represent their country ... We were like one big happy family, there were no secrets as far as training methods, it was just that the best man physically and mentally, who could train and attune himself to the competition of pentathlon, won on the day. It was an unusual bond between sportsmen, I think, in that the pentathlon competitor competes in five events over five days ... It is not like other sports in which perhaps you are in a heat and eliminated ... In pentathlon everyone makes the final ...

THE OLYMPICS OF TOKYO, 1964, in which I finished fourth overall ... was the closest I've ever got to the gold medal. Recalling that particular competition, with the riding on the first day, I knew I'd done the work ... I drew a very good horse, a good strong jumper, who went around the course and jumped cleanly—and with one jump to go, I thought, 'This is it, I've had maximum points here, I'm well on the way.' That momentary loss of concentration cost me to drop the horse on the last jump and he clipped the knock-down jump with his rear legs, incurring me a penalty of 30 points, which was 30 points I could ill afford ...

The next event was the fencing, and I knew that if I could stay close enough to Torok, who [was] recognised as the world champion ... I could follow through in the other events and get close to one of the medals. However ... [I] was too tense in my first half-dozen bouts, losing seven out of nine fencing hits ... I [then] relaxed more, and got more into fencing the individual rather than thinking about the points I was losing. However, by the end of the day I was nearly 400 points behind Torok the Hungarian ... I really knew I'd blown it by this stage, but still had some hope of salvaging some of the lost points.

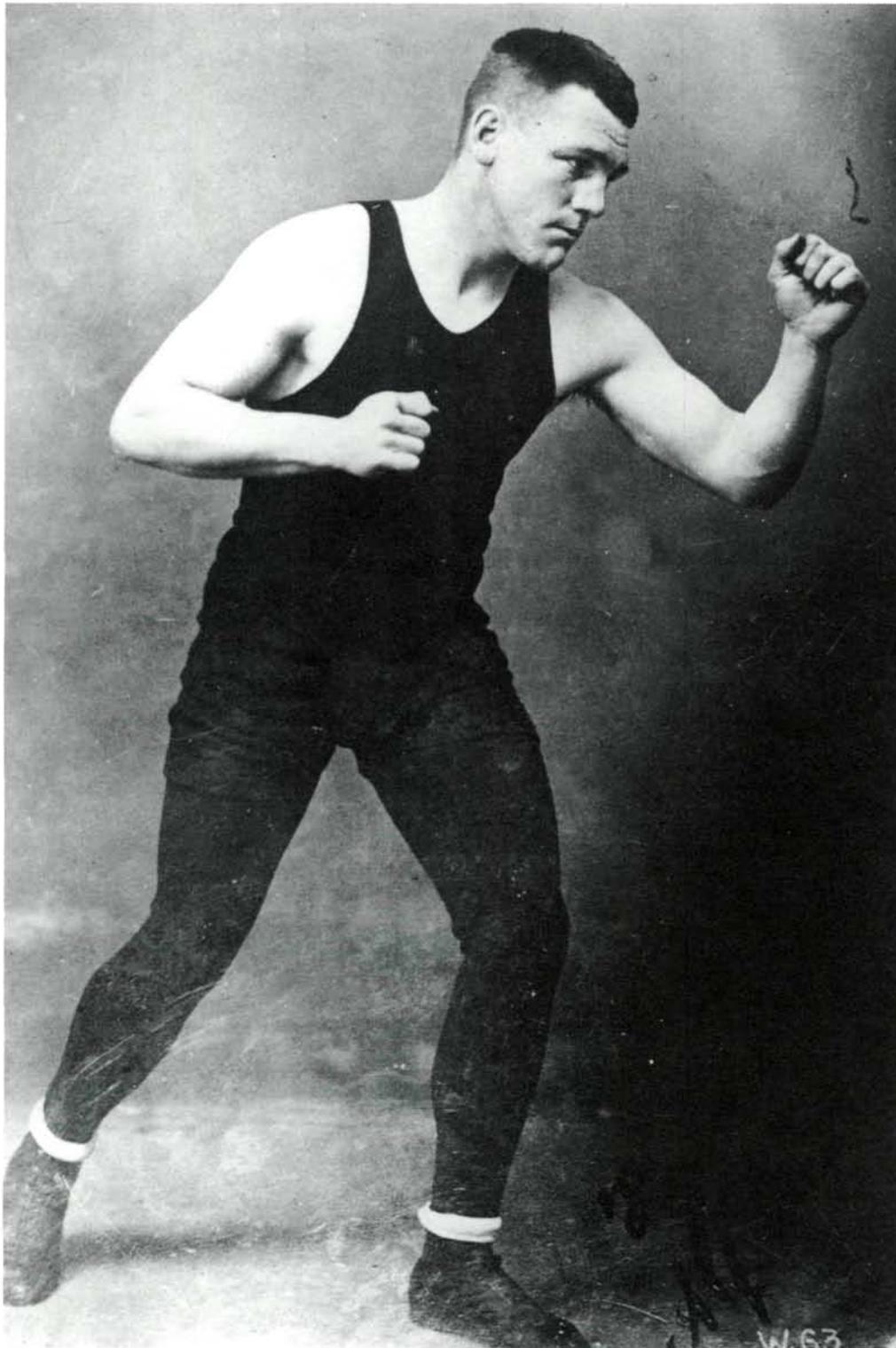
Coming into the shooting, I said, 'Well this is it, I've got to pull something out of the fire here,' and through sheer concentration ... I ended up with a shoot of 196 out of 200 ... lifting my score closer to Torok, and coming into tenth place overall.

With the swimming and running to go, I knew I had to make up more points. I gave it all in my swimming and finished eighth overall ... With the running to go, I was still within 100-odd points of Torok, and knew that with a superhuman effort it could be done. However, this was not to be ... The course wasn't ... geared for a [person] that was training ... on golf courses and running tracks, like I had been. Parts of the course crossed over creeks, and at one stage [you] had to climb a cliff by the use of a rope. This ... made it very difficult ... I wasn't able to make up the points I had hoped ...

Overall I finished fourth, and it was the closest, I think, I'll ever get to an Olympic medal.

PETER MACKEN

# Jab, lunge, feint and toss



Alf Stewart, middleweight champion from the 1920s  
From the Pictorial Collection

BOXING HAS HAD a colourful history in Australia, ranging from the early bare-knuckle bouts (in one memorable 1814 encounter, Australian-born John Berringer knocked out Englishman Charles Lifton in a two-hour, 56-round contest) through the celebrated 1908 Johnson versus Burns grudge match at Rushcutters Bay in Sydney, and on to the glory days of the corrugated-iron 'Stoush House'—the Sydney Stadium (finally pulled down in 1970). In less formal arrangements there has been the tradition of touring carnival bouts, such as those of Jimmy Sharman's Boxing Troupe.

More recent Australian world champions have been Lionel Rose, and triple world championship holder, 'Marrickville Mauler' Jeff Fenech (of whom the National Library holds a memorable caricature by John Spooner).

## STARTING OUT: Ern McQuillan

HOW I CAME TO BE IN THE FIGHT GAME, I fought as a preliminary—I was with Yank Purley who was one of the leading trainers in Australia in those days, and ... he put me into a professional fight over at Leichhardt Stadium; it was the night that Bunkus Maine and Digger Evans fought—Digger had just come back from the War—and then I knocked the fellow out in two rounds. As a matter of fact he knocked me down—that was the only fellow that ever knocked me down—and he ... knocked me gold tooth out, and when I was down I felt the gold tooth gone and I swore, and I said, 'I'll kill this fellow', and I got up, and next thing I knocked him out.

Then I fought a couple of other fights and then they put me in ... at the Sydney Stadium, [with] a fellow named Digger Crozer, who was a very good fighter and he beat me on points. Then I had another couple of fights ... and they put me in with a fellow named George 'K.O.' Campbell, who was a big middleweight, and I was only a featherweight at the time ... and he had a toe off, and I used to see him shuffle to get set, and I'd let one go. Anyhow, he was too big for me and he beat me on points, and I can remember going home that night, and I said to me mother, I laid on the bottom of the bed and I said, 'Mum, I'll never fight again', and I never did.

I turned it up, and I got married. And then I used to be a cabinet-maker and I used to make furniture at home, and one of the neighbours brought a sailor down—they used to call me Makker—he said, 'Listen Makker, this bloke thinks he can fight, will you try him out?' ... and I was very sweet with Pat McKill and I rung Pat up and I told him, I said, 'I've got a kid here Pat, he's a little tough fellow' ... Anyhow, they put him in and he knocked the bloke out in two rounds and Pat came to me and he said ... 'Why don't you start a gymnasium?' ... and that's how I started ... Anyhow they advertised a place at Newtown ... the old Railway and Tramway Institute, and it was 25 bob a week, and that was a lot of money in them days. Anyhow I took it, and on a Wednesday night, to get the rent and that, I'd put a Boxing Board dance on, and we used to pack the place, and ... I'd get the rent for me home and the rent for the gymnasium, and I never looked back.

I was only training for about six or eight months there and I got hold of a boy from Broken Hill ... I trained him hard and he won the Bantamweight Championship of Australia—that was Pat Craig—that was the first champion I had, and since then I have had 56 champions, won 56 titles.



Ernie McQuillan  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

*'Listen Makker, this bloke thinks he can fight, will you try him out?'*

## VIC PATRICK: 'As good as Darcy'

I HAD RON RICHARDS training one day [and] no one to spar with him. He said, 'Put the kids in', you know, and I had Vic Patrick, Eddie Miller, and a lot of other



Vic Patrick in his heyday—'As good as Darcy'  
From the Pictorial Collection

kids, and I put 'em all in to box with him. And when he was boxing with Patrick he hit Patrick a bit hard, and I sung out, 'Turn it up Ronnie,' and Patrick said, 'Never mind that, let him go,' he said, 'I'll be all right.' Anyhow, Richards got out of the ring and he said, 'Ernie, Ernie, who's this kid? He's a bloody champ, bloody champ!' he said, 'Nearly knocked me out.' I said, 'Wish he could.'

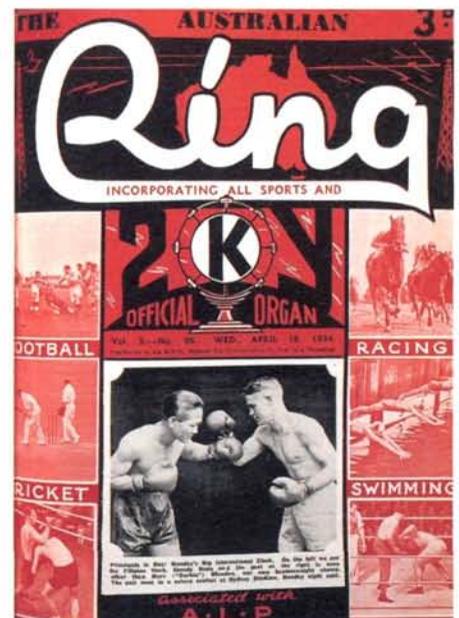
Anyhow, I woke then he could fight, Patrick—and I put him in a fight at Carlton, and he knocked the fellow out in one punch. Then I had a fellow named Art Mitchell fighting a main support ... he rung me up at about six o'clock [one]

night, he said, 'If I take the time off from work [to box] they're going to put me off'—things were pretty tough in them days. And I said, 'Well, don't do that.' Anyhow, I looked out in the gym and there was Patrick punching hell out of a bag, and I said, 'Hey, come here ... do you want to fight tonight?' He said, 'Yes.' Anyhow I took him down and Miller didn't want to put him on. I said, 'Look he's all right, this kid.' Anyhow, he fought a very good fighter from Newcastle named Buxton Oliver .... he knocked Oliver out in one round ...

Vic Patrick, as you know, he started in 1940 and he finished in 1948, but in that time he won the lightweight title of Australia, he won that from Todd Morgan, and then he fought Ron McLachlan in 1942 and won the welterweight title ... Patrick was a freak, he could knock heavyweights out. In the gymnasium I've seen him knock fellows down with 16-ounce gloves on, you know, and he was only a lightweight, he was about nine-six, nine-seven, and these big fellows, they'd come and have a go at him and he'd just fight 'em back and knock 'em down anytime ...

He was that good, you know ... [and] a very good worker in the gym. You never had to drive him ... he would always get in and work hard, he'd do some loosening up, shadow boxing, and then I'd box him, and then he'd punch the

*I woke then he could fight,  
Patrick*



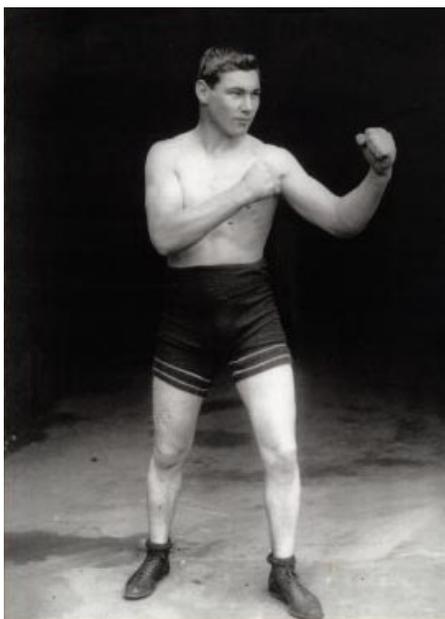
'Filipino Flash' Speedo Dado and Australian bantamweight champion Merv ('Darkie') Blandon shape up for their international clash at Sydney Stadium, as featured on the cover of the weekly *Australian Ring* magazine, 18 April 1934

*Patrick was a freak. Patrick would hit 'em and they'd drop—he wouldn't hit 'em twice ... old Joe Wallis said to me, he said, 'Ernie ... that fellow is as good as Darcy' ... I said ... 'He is a great fighter, one of the best'*

bag and skip—he was a fantastic worker, never had a worry about him, and ... always ... ready and fit for a fight ...

I don't reckon any of them lightweights was as good as Patrick, because Patrick was a freak. Patrick would hit 'em and they'd drop—he wouldn't hit 'em twice. I remember one night he fought a fellow named Markus and by the time I got down from the ring down the steps to sit down [and watch], Markus was counted out, 10 seconds—that was Vic Patrick, see ...

After the fight with Ockie Burnell, [Patrick] fought Les Sloan at the Sydney Stadium, and he stopped him in three rounds ... Then he fought .... an American soldier, named Carl Dell, who was a very good fighter, and that was a terrific fight, but Vic finished up knocking him out in eight rounds. Then they brought a fellow over from New Zealand named Vic Colto, and he knocked him out in eight rounds. Then an American bloke named Al Stock, he ... knocked him out in five rounds. And Jimmy Brunt, he was an Englishman ... out here with the Army, and he finished up knocking him out in six rounds. Then he fought Tommy Burns at



The great Les Darcy, Australian and World Middleweight and Heavyweight Champion  
From the Pictorial Collection

the Sydney Stadium, for the Australian Welterweight Title, which was a packed house and fantastic: people stopped up all night to get tickets. And of course, Patrick, he was an outsider on that fight, and there was a lot of money bet on that fight ... Then ... after Tommy Burns ... we went over to New Zealand and fought Colto again, knocked him out in four rounds. Then, they put a fellow named Boss Murphy in. He was supposed to be a welterweight, [but] he was like a big middleweight to me ... and he just come in under the weight ... I reckon they had the scales pummied up over there, for that fight. Patrick won it and won it easy, and they still give it to Boss Murphy, that fight.

Then [Patrick] come back, and he fought Eddie Miller in Melbourne ...

Then he fought Eddie Markus—that was the fight I was telling about, [by] the time I got out of the ring and down the stairs, the fight was all over ... Then he fought Eddie Atson, he beat him, and then he fought Clinty Dawson, and Dawson beat him in the twelfth round. Then he retired—and he come back later and he fought Mickie Tullis in Melbourne for the Australian Lightweight Title and ... he won it easy—but they give it a draw. Then he fought Roy Treasure, knocked him out, and then he fought Tommy Stenhouse. And then he retired.

But Vic Patrick was a great fighter and I can remember old Joe Wallis said to me, he said, 'Ernie', he said, 'that fellow is as good as Darcy.' He said that to me. I said, 'He's a great fighter.' He said, 'He is a great fighter, one of the best.'

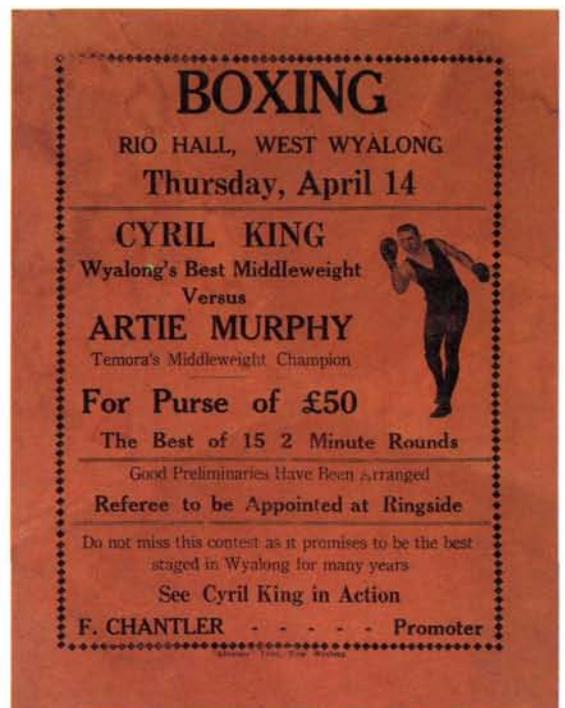
ERN McQUILLAN



Challenge Cup for boxing, 1885  
silver trophy; 37 cm tall  
Hubert Murray papers; from the Manuscript Collection

(left) Among its extensive collection of realia, which includes sports objects as diverse as a set of hand-carved cricket stumps and Fanny Durack's 1912 Olympic gold medal, the National Library holds this Challenge Cup for heavyweight boxing. The cup was presented by the Marquis of Queensberry to the Amateur Athletics Club, being last awarded in 1885 to Sir Hubert Murray (1861–1940), later lieutenant-governor of Papua.

The Library's Manuscript Collection also holds the papers of Merv Williams (1902–1980), journalist and former Queensland champion (middleweight and lightweight titles, 1922). Forty-eight cutting books cover the period 1883–1979, comprising lists of matches and results, fight reports, boxers' biographies, and Williams' own writing for the *Sporting Globe*. There is also some wrestling material. In addition to Ernie McQuillan's recollection of Vic Patrick (excerpted on these pages), the Library holds an interview with Patrick himself, recalling his lightweight and welterweight careers and his later refereeing at Sydney Stadium, and an interview with another Australian welterweight champion, Tommy Burns (Geoffrey Murphy). The Library's Oral History holdings also contain boxing recollections of folksinger John 'Paddy' O'Brien (brother of champion Roy O'Brien) and Jimmy Matcham, a former showman and trainer whose troupe once rivalled Jimmy Sharman's. Additionally, many Australian men fell into boxing as an earner during the hard years of the Depression, and their tales form elements of more broadly ranging interviews.



Boxing broadside promoting a bout by local West Wyalong gloveman Cyril King, c.1920s  
From the Ephemera Collection

## TONY MUNDINE: K.O. King

[TONY MUNDINE] FOUGHT Bunny Stirling at White City, fought a draw, and then fought him again ... at Milton Tennis Court in Brisbane, and Tony knocked him out in the last round, in 15 rounds ...

[Then] I took him over to Noumea and we fought a fellow there, [and] the fellow that used to have Sugar Ray Robinson, he said to me, 'Ernie, this fellow I've got is a terrific fighter ... he's nearly as good as Sugar Ray.'

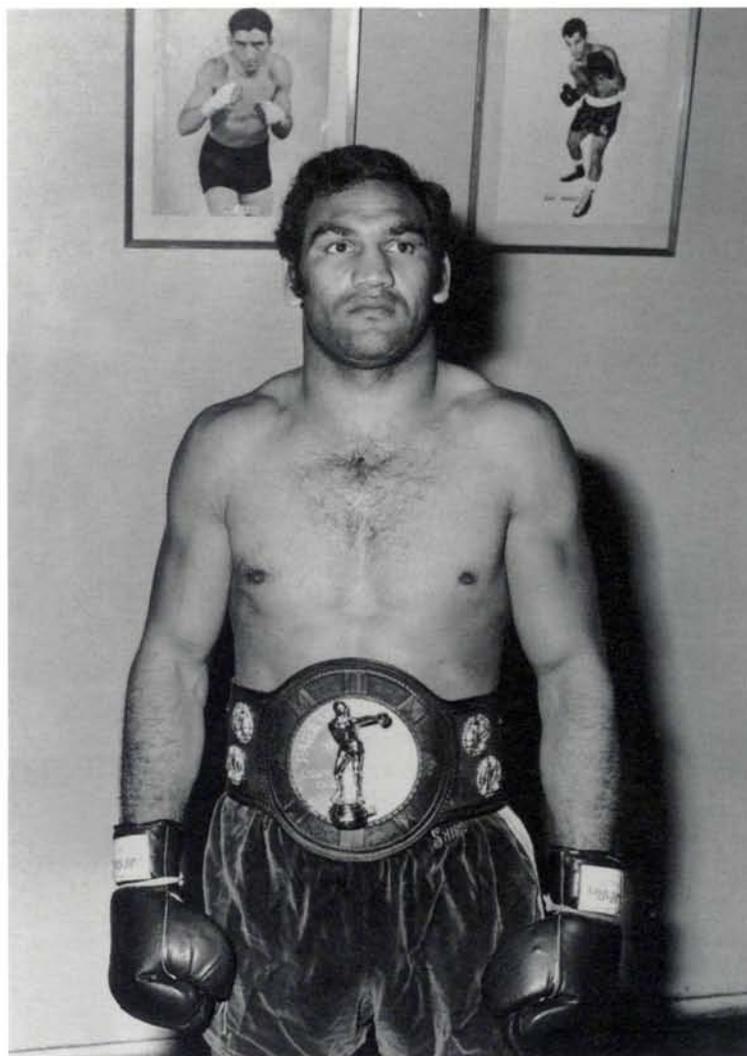
I said, 'Jesus, he'd be bad for my bloke if he's as good as Sugar Ray.'

Anyhow, Mundine went out the first round, and when he come back I said, 'How is he?' He said, 'He's all right'—because he was only trying him out. Went out the next round and knocked him out—knocked the bloke out.

Well, Gainsford, the bloke that had Sugar Ray, he said, 'Jesus', he said, 'he's a great fighter, that fellow.' I said, 'He will be'—because he was just coming on, you know. And we got \$15 000 for that—two rounds.

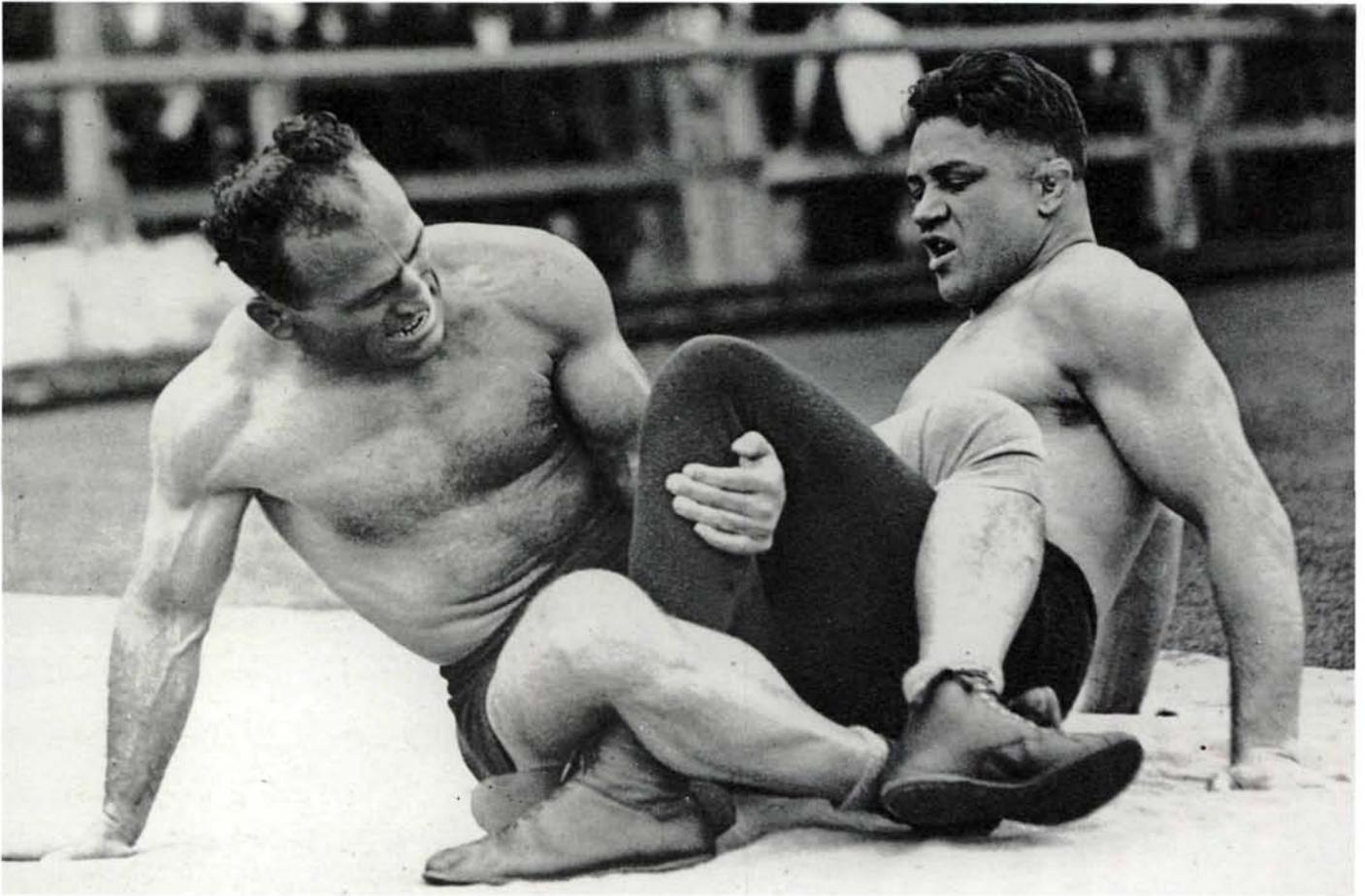
ERN McQUILLAN

*'Jesus', he said, 'he's a great fighter, that fellow' ... I said, 'He will be'*



(right) Tony Mundine is one among a number of prominent Aboriginal boxers in Australia's history—including Lionel Rose (World Bantamweight Champion in 1968), the lightweight fighter Hector Thompson and, further back, Dave Sands and Ron Richards. As described by a 1976 Australian Information Service news release, Mundine was one of 10 children of invalid pensioner parents. His work on cattle stations and as a tree-cutter contributed to the physique and reflexes which made him a champion. Mundine was drawn to Sydney by the prospect of playing first grade rugby league, but when doing fitness training in Ernie McQuillan's gym was persuaded to switch his attention to boxing. Mundine, who had a tremendous knock-out record, worked between fights as a carpenter on an Aboriginal housing development in Sydney's Redfern, rising every day for a 5–7 mile (8–11 km) run before work.

Middleweight champion Tony Mundine, in November 1972  
From the Pictorial Collection

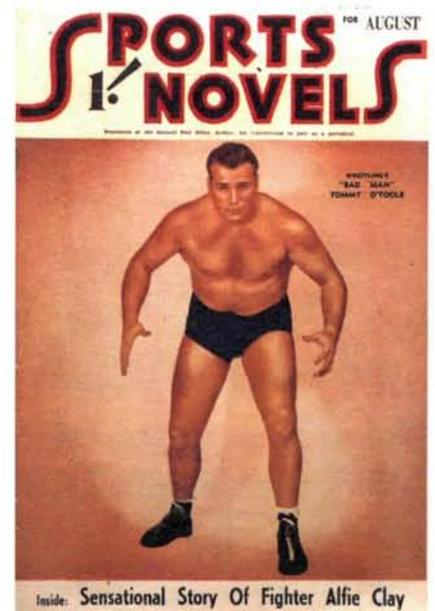


A contemplative moment between Kotsonaros and Lurich  
From the Pictorial Collection

## WRESTLING

WRESTLING HAS HAD A FOLLOWING in Australia since the earliest bouts between convicts and settlers, and later ones between miners on the goldfields, with professional matches occurring from the 1880s. Much more recently, the sport was given a shot in the arm in Australia with the broadcasting of the *World Championship Wrestling* television program, running from the mid-1960s, where somewhat theatrical bouts with a definite emphasis on fun and gimmickry featured such illustrious contenders as Mario Milano (with whom the Library holds an oral history interview from 1997), 'Killer' Kowalski, 'Skull' Murphy and Spiros Arion—personalities who became known to a whole generation. In its less theatrical Olympic manifestation, Eddie Scarf won Australia's first Olympic wrestling medal (bronze) at the 1932 Los Angeles Games, and Dick Garrard (who competed in the 1936, 1948, 1952 and 1956 Olympics) took a silver medal at the London Games, along with gold medals in three Commonwealth Games between 1934 and 1950.

Among an array of wrestling material in the Library holdings are the papers of (and an oral history interview conducted with) pioneering sports broadcaster Norm McCance. There are also recordings with wrestlers Simon Spiteri, Bruce Milne and Allan Pinfold.



Wrestling's 'Bad Man', Tommy O'Toole, 1949  
(*Sports Novels* magazine)

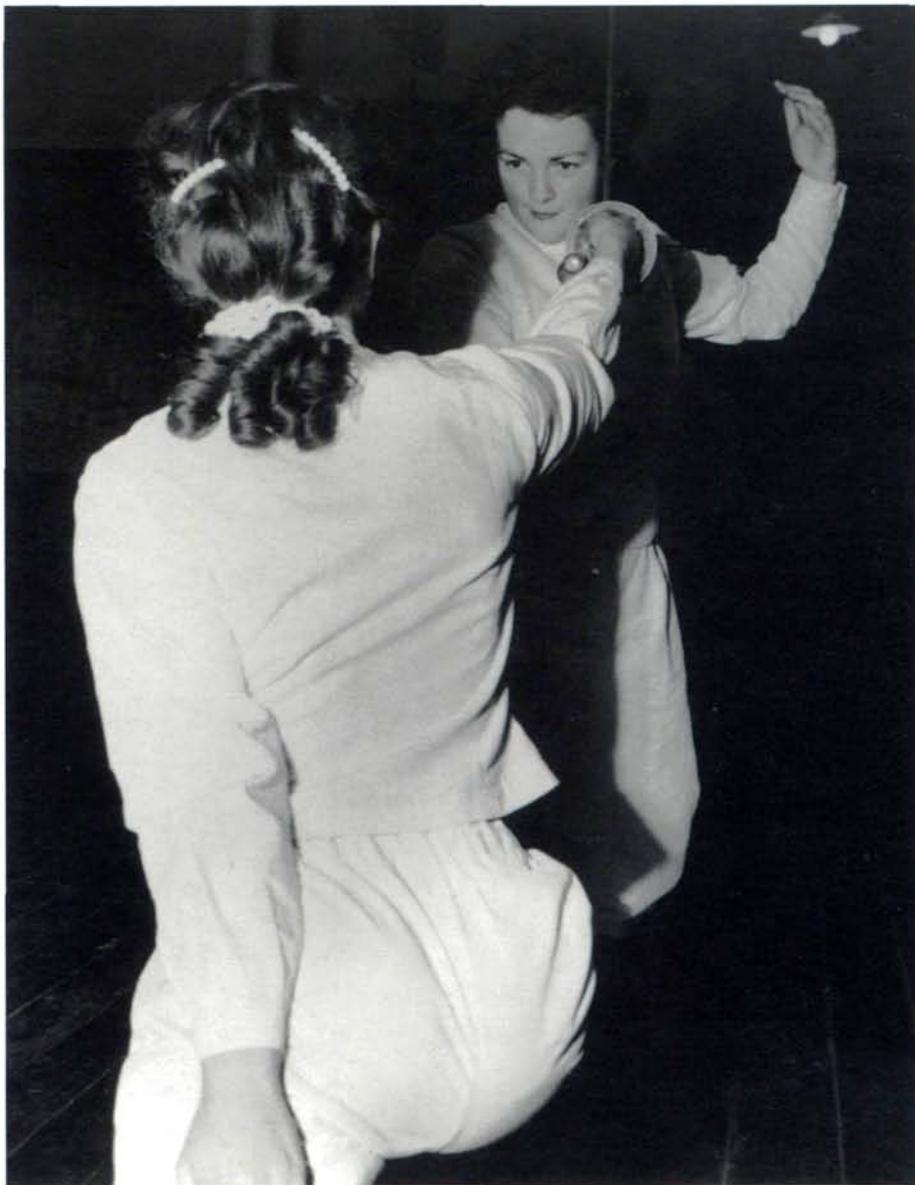
## MARTIAL ARTS AND FENCING



The then relatively new Australian sport of karate, as demonstrated in the 1972 Australian National Championships in Melbourne. The accompanying Australian Information Service news story recorded that the winner, Sydney butcher Ross Turner (right), is evading an attack from Melbourne private detective Steve Colangelo in the finals AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

MARTIAL ARTS such as karate, judo and kung-fu (originating in China, Korea and Japan) boomed in Australia following their popularisation via films starring and directed by Bruce Lee in the 1970s, and with increased Asian immigration in recent decades. Their much gentler and more meditative cousin, tai chi, has also prove immensely popular with all ages, with its focus on achieving bodily balance and the smooth transition of one physical movement to another.

FENCING was a foundation sport of the first modern Olympics in Athens (1896), and is one of many sports—including basketball, volleyball and water polo—to receive a boost in Australia as a result of European migration following the Second World War.



Fencing, 1954  
From the Pictorial Collection

# Willow and leather



*Melbourne Cricket Ground, 1 January 1864*  
hand-coloured lithograph; 31.6 x 38.6 cm  
Rex Nan Kivell Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



*All England Eleven, c.1862*  
image printed on silk scarf; 58 x 75 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

## ENGLAND VERSUS AUSTRALIA: A GLORIOUS TRADITION

THE AUSTRALIA–ENGLAND TEST CRICKET TRADITION began conceptually in 1861, with an English team's visit under captaincy of H.H. Stephenson to play a Victorian side. (The Australians were roundly defeated before a crowd reported as being 40 000.) The first Anglo–Australian Test proper was the 1876–77 tour, where the first Australian national team defeated England by 45 runs at Melbourne Cricket Ground. The next year, the first Australian representative team (as opposed to the unofficial all-Aboriginal side of 1868) toured England, defeating the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's. In 1882 Australia defeated England again, prompting the ironic 'in memoriam' notice in the *Sporting Times*, and the following year the celebrated 'Ashes' (a cremated bail in a small urn) came into being to symbolise the ritual meetings of the two Test sides.



### 1902 Tour

SOUVENIR BOOKLET of the Australian cricket team's 1902 English tour, with the score card for a match played against a South-of-England team at Bournemouth in September of that year (and accompanying entrance and luncheon tickets). Due to someone's care, nearly a century later the gold ink on the booklet's cover remains fresh and the tickets look like they were printed yesterday.

The touring team featured the redoubtable 24-year-old Victor Trumper as opening batsman. Trumper memorabilia is eagerly sought by collectors today although, as indicated by the note pencilled on the score card (below), on this occasion the great batsman attained a modest six runs in his second innings. From the Ephemera Collection



GRAND CRICKET MATCH, BOURNEMOUTH  
SOUTH OF ENGLAND  
v. AUSTRALIANS.  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 12, & 13, 1902.

1st Innings.		AUSTRALIANS.		2nd Innings.	
1 Mr. V. Trumper	c & b Arnold	10	6	10	6
2 Mr. R. Duff	lbw b Arnold	7	11	7	11
3 Mr. J. Darling (capt.)	b Tate	12	15	12	15
4 Mr. M. A. Noble	c Hayes b Arnold	80	0	80	0
5 Mr. S. E. Gregory	lbw b Arnold	12	0	12	0
6 Mr. W. W. Armstrong	c Bessell b Arnold	13	0	13	0
7 Mr. A. J. Hopkins	lbw b Arnold	0	0	0	0
8 Mr. H. Trumble	not out	17	8	17	8
9 *Mr. J. J. Kelly	b Arnold	6	9	6	9
10 Mr. W. P. Howell	c Woods b Arnold	2	4	2	4
11 Mr. J. V. Saunders	c Hayes b Tate	9	4	9	4
Extras .. b 4 .. lb 1 .. w .. nb		5	6	5	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>91</b>		
1-13	3-28	5-53	4-10	5-20	6-37
1-	2-16	3-29	4-	5-42	6-49
				7-65	8-82
				9-87	0-78

1st Innings.		SOUTH OF ENGLAND.		2nd Innings.	
1 Mr. S. M. J. Walls (capt.)	b Trumble	6	1	6	1
2 Mr. C. B. Fay	lbw b Saunders	18	26	18	26
3 .. Hayes	b Trumble	1	11	1	11
4 Mr. E. M. Spott	lbw b Trumble	16	8	16	8
5 .. Vine	lbw b Trumble	6	0	6	0
6 Mr. C. J. B. Wood	lbw b Trumble	19	1	19	1
7 .. Arnold	b Trumble	7	0	7	0
8 .. Breckwell	b Trumble	2	0	2	0
9 .. Gill	b Trumble	14	0	14	0
10 .. *Board	b Trumble	0	1	0	1
11 .. Tate	b Trumble	0	0	0	0
Extras .. b 1 .. lb 2 .. w .. nb		2	6	2	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>52</b>		
1-12	2-16	3-42	4-48	5-50	6-60
1-	2-27	3-29	4-42	5-46	6-56
				7-50	8-50
				9-50	0-50

\* Wicket-keeper  
Umpires—Messrs. Richards & A. Shaw.  
REFRESHMENTS—LUNCHEONS 2s. TEAS 8d.—served in the MARQUEE (AND OLD PAVILION) W. G. ABBOTT Caterer.

BOURNEMOUTH PIER, FROM EAST CLIFF.

**VICTOR TRUMPER**  
(Australian).

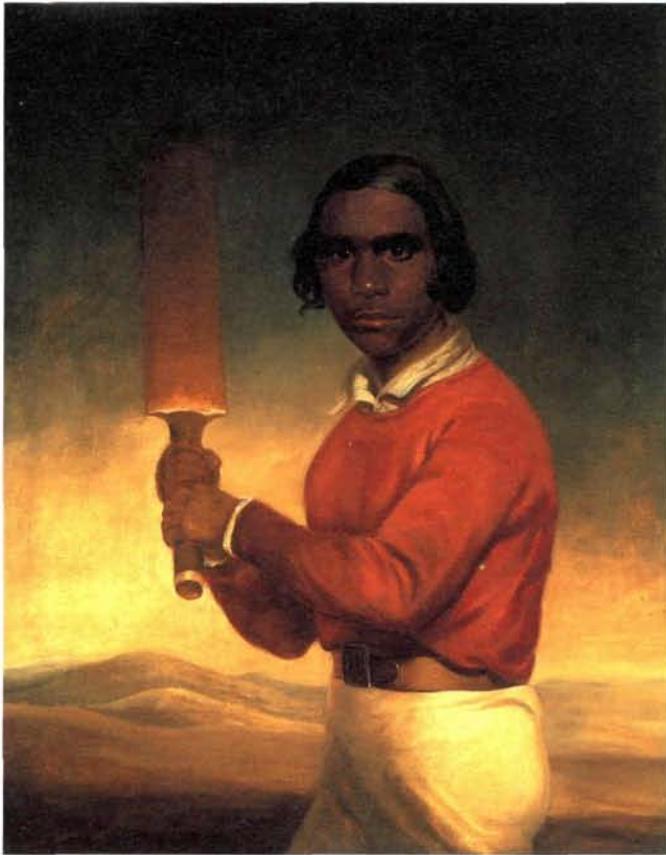
WHEN he came over here with the Australian cricketers, in 1899 Victor Trumper was the "baby" of the team. As it was he was only included as an emergency man, and partly to act as an assistant to Major Wardill, the manager. In the result he showed himself to be one of quite the best all-round players on the side. Among several good innings his best were 300 not out against Sussex and his 135 not out against England at Lord's. He was then only 21, having been born at Sydney on November 2nd, 1877. On the form of the last three or four seasons, he ranks beyond a doubt as one of the three best all-round cricketers in Australia. With a very taking style he has plenty of strokes, making him effective as well as attractive. He is also a useful slow round arm bowler and a brilliant field. He has scored ten centuries up to Sept. 3rd this season—beat Darling's previous record for Australia in England of scoring 1941 runs—and is the only Australian to have made 2000 runs in a season here.

(20) Photo by Hawkins & Co., Brighton.

## The Aboriginal cricketers, 1868

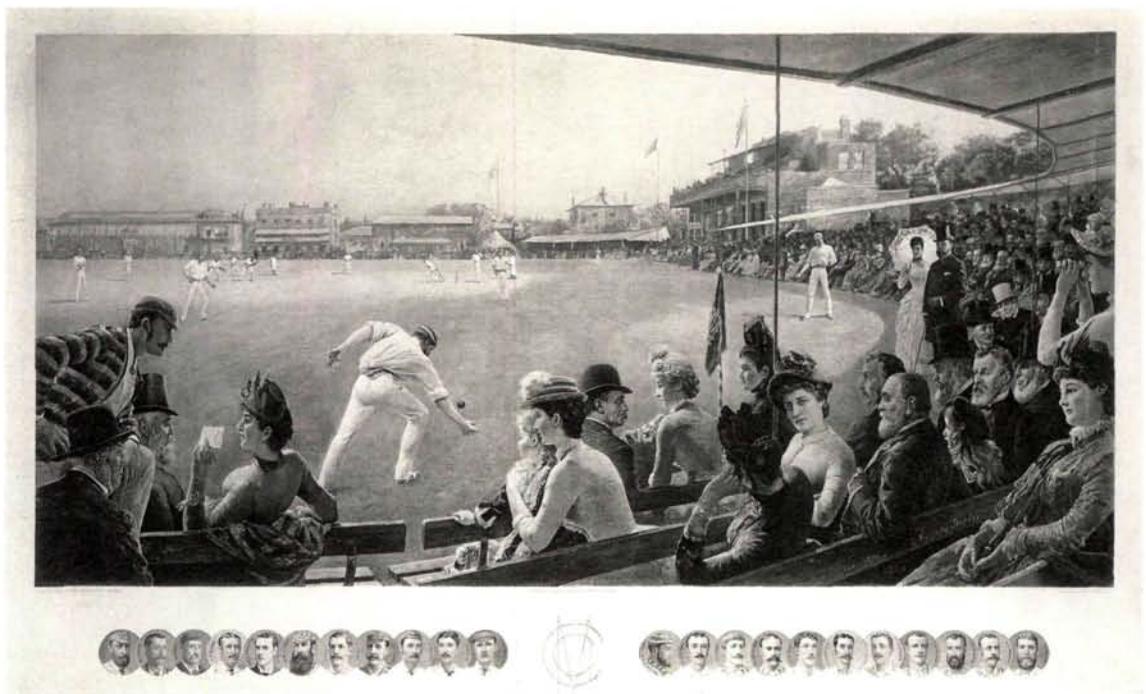
THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM to tour overseas was an Aboriginal one, in 1868. The informal side was gathered from players in western Victoria and its pronounced athleticism (as demonstrated by high jumps, the throwing of cricket balls, spears and boomerangs as accompaniments to the actual matches) delighted English crowds. Wearing individual colours for identification, and bearing such sobriquets as Dick-a-Dick, Sundown and Twopenny, they took on English sides incorporating the likes of the Earl of Coventry and Viscount Downe. The team played 47 matches over four months, winning 14 games, losing the same number, and drawing 19. Some contemporary critics saw the tour as a clear case of financial exploitation, condemning it for an overdemanding schedule which subjected the players to illness.

Among a number of more recent notable Aboriginal cricketers have been fast bowler Eddie Gilbert (1908–78) who once celebratedly took Donald Bradman for a duck, and Michael Maynard and Ian King, Sheffield Shield fast bowlers for Queensland.



(left) J.M. Crossland (1800–1858)  
*Portrait of Nannultera, a Young Poonindie Cricketer* [1854]  
 oil on canvas; 99 x 78.8 cm  
 Rex Nan Kivell Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

(right) This lovely representation of an 1880s match at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, bears individual portraits of members of the Australian and English teams



*Australia versus England*  
 G.H. Barrable & R. Ponsonby Staples (artists) Goupil & Cie (printers) (London: Hildesheimer & Co Ltd, 1887)  
 photogravure; 64 x 103.3 cm  
 Rex Nan Kivell Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

1. A. Jackson (N.S.W.)
2. C. Walker (S.A.)
3. E. L. a'Beckett (Vic.)
4. P. M. Hornibrook (Q.)
5. W. A. Oldfield (N.S.W.)
6. D. G. Bradman (N.S.W.)
7. A. Hurwood (Q.)
8. W. H. Ponsford (Vic.)
9. A. F. Kippax (N.S.W.)

10. A. Fairfax (N.S.W.)
11. T. Wall (S.A.)
12. V. Y. Richardson (S.A.)
13. S. J. McCabe (N.S.W.)
14. C. V. Grimmett (S.A.)
15. W. M. Woodfull (Vic.)
16. W. L. Kelly (Vic.) Manager
17. T. H. Howard (N.S.W.) Treasurer



Syd. Miller's Impressions of Australian Cricketers

The "Referee" Special Supplement, 18-6-30. Published by Smith's Newspapers Limited, Sydney, New South Wales

Syd Miller's 'Impressions of Australian Cricketers'  
 The Referee special supplement, 18 June 1930  
 (Sydney: Smith's Newspapers)  
 From the Ephemera Collection

### 'BODYLINE' SERIES, 1932-33

*you had to have the Lord on  
 your side, five or six times  
 an over ...*

THERE USED TO BE ... six fieldsmen close to the batsman on the leg side. There'd be another one at deep square leg for the hook shot, and another one at deep fine leg for the fine hook shot, and if you could get through that lot safely, you had to have the Lord on your side, five or six times an over ...

When Jardine would decide to change to Bodyline bowling ... there'd be a general exodus from the off-side, all over to the leg-side, and the batsman then was faced with the job of, 'What'll I do?' Well [there was] only one safe thing to do: get out of the way of the ball. And the only way to do that was to keep on ducking, bending your knees and going down low, getting your head out of the road. And most people had been brought up to believe that there is a thing called the 'Law of Averages' ... and that you only had to be unsuccessful once to cop one in the jaw, and you'd be playing no more cricket for quite a while ...

(above) Many of the players featured in Syd Miller's 1930 caricature were to play in the 'Bodyline' series two years later. Along with Bill O'Reilly's pick of the period's three great Australian batsmen (Archie Jackson, Don Bradman and Stan McCabe), the featured players are: C. Walker, E.L. a'Beckett, P.M. Hornibrook, W.A. ('Bert') Oldfield, A. Hurwood, W.H. Ponsford, A.F. Kippax, A. Fairfax, T. Wall, V.Y. Richardson, C.V. Grimmett, and W.M. ('Billy') Woodfull.

We all came up against it in the First Test ... that was the first time it was bowled in Test cricket ... it was directed mainly for Bradman's benefit because he'd made such a fool of them in England in 1930, when he'd collected 912 runs or something like that, for the Test match aggregate ... And he was only a kid. So they ... evolved a scheme ... so the story went, ... and they got ... an old ... *crème-de-la-crème*, long-nosed, snotty Englishman named Douglas Jardine ...



Larwood caught for 98, Sydney Cricket Ground, 1932–33 Test series  
From the Pictorial Collection

a Great Public School boy. He'd been to Oxford, he had a reputation for being tough and hard and taciturn, and they picked him as captain ... And evidently he ... had had a good look at Bradman and he evolved a scheme of bowling short at him ... And then the picking of the English side ... made everyone who could think, think hard ... everybody knew then that there was going to be some funny business. So—the funny business was on, and I ran into it ... at the First Test, played here in Sydney ...

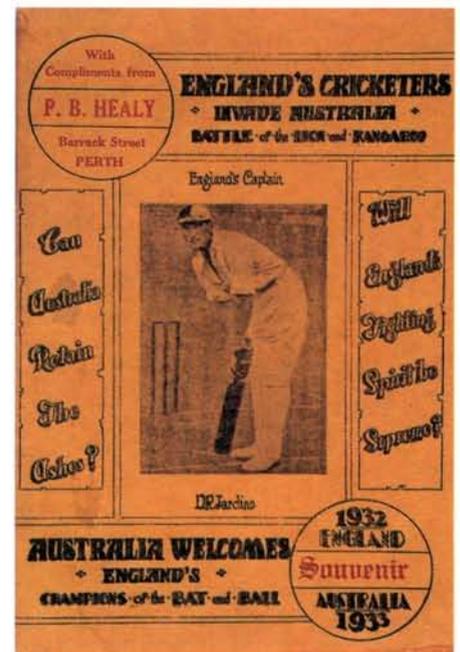
[JARDINE] COMMANDED the troops just like Napoleon Bonaparte would have done at the Battle of Marengo ... He was a tall, skinny bloke, with a very red face ... You remember Longfellow's poem? ... if he had a feather or two, he could have been a stand-in for Hiawatha. And he was a very distant bloke ... The only time ever that I had any words with him was ... at Brisbane, after [he'd] batted 90 minutes to break his duck, when we were down to two bowlers ... Ironmonger and myself ... And it was a very hot day, 102° [Fahrenheit] in Brisbane, and Douglas knew that all he had to do was just get the two of us worn out and then dictate the terms.

He batted 90 minutes as an opening batsman before he got his first single, and ... when we were finished for the day ... I said to him, 'Well batted, Douglas.' He turned, and looked down his long red nose at me, and he said, 'Really, Bill? ... Don't you think I was like an old maid defending her virginity?' And I said, 'My bloody oath!' ...

But I found [on a much later visit, in 1956] that Douglas was a bloke whom I could talk to ... I went to a dinner which he threw at the Trinity College at

*[Jardine] commanded the troops just like Napoleon Bonaparte*

(left) Spearhead of the 'Bodyline' bowling assault, here Harold Larwood salutes the crowd with his bat on being dismissed for an impressive 98 runs. Despite Larwood's cracking Bert Oldfield in the face with one infamous delivery, it was Jardine who the Australian public demonised for the Bodyline strategy. Larwood himself later settled in Australia, and today a Larwood Collection forms part of the Bradman Museum's holdings at Bowral, NSW. (The museum itself has recently been assisted in its preservation activities by the National Library's Community Heritage Grant program.)



Souvenir booklet for the 'Bodyline' Test series, featuring England's new captain, Douglas Jardine, on the cover. In what would prove to be an ironic overture, the booklet's opening page warmly welcomes the English visitors, trusting they will prove to be 'one of the many happy teams that has tried conclusions with Australia's best'

From the Ephemera Collection

*as a bloke got up to go in to take his turn, you'd say 'good luck' to him ... [as if] he was going into hospital ... with an incurable complaint ...*

*You mightn't see him again—if he copped one fair in the jaw, well it was curtains*

BILL O'REILLY



Richard Ovenden (1897–1972)  
*Billy Woodfull* [1920s]  
 pen, ink and wash; 23.3 x 14.3 cm  
 From the Pictorial Collection

Oxford University, and I found him ... quite good to talk to, and not anything like the ... walking skeleton who'd come out here [in 1932] without any feeling whatsoever in regard to the game of cricket.

And ... as far as I'm concerned, he lived it down in that 1956 tour. He only lived two more years—I think he died in 1958.

### First Test, Sydney, 1932

McCABE WENT IN TO BAT ... after lunch, and he finished ... the first day with 127 not out, and got them in all the usual ways that McCabe played ... Now on the Saturday morning ... he was coming down in amongst the riff-raff like myself and Lisle Nagle ... When I went in to bat, he'd already been getting stuck into Larwood—every time he bounced one at him he whacked it, regardless of the field—hit them mainly over mid-wicket, and was hitting fours galore.

And he had the record crowd of 58 000 ... absolutely detonated ... people were hanging on to the sides of the balustrades and cheering and standing and rip-roaring ... absolutely gone berserk. They'd seen the way that the Bodyline tactics had succeeded early on, with men like Woodfull, Ponsford, Kippax, and so on, Vic Richardson, all succumbing to it. And then ... this young feller, this kid ... came in and just took it ... by the throat, and rammed it right down their neck ...

I always thought, as it was happening, and I'll swear the crowd did too, that had Bradman been at the other end, and had he attacked it the same way as McCabe had done, that that would have been the end of the [Bodyline] theory ... it would have gone to Kingdom Come straight away.

### Bill Woodfull

BILLY WOODFULL ... was loved and respected by everybody in the side ... He did things out in the middle with a bat in his hand that ... can [only] be put down as conspicuous gallantry ... In that Adelaide Test ... he not only took those two tremendous knocks ... that turned the ground inside out, but he opened the dig in our second innings, and he batted completely right through the innings—for 77 or something like that—while all his men went down round about him ... He took his knocks, and went back and took 'em again ... He won absolute undying respect from the players who were with him ... I've never seen a braver deed on a cricket field ...

The words which became world-famous, he uttered from the table where he was ... getting his wounds attended to, big bruises across his chest. His remarks to old Plum Warner ... He just said ... 'Look Plum ... there are two teams out there on the ground ... one of them is playing cricket, the other isn't' ...

He summed the story up in a very gentleman-like way. And those words became famous. And will remain famous as long as international cricket is played.

BILL O'REILLY

## MASTER BATSMEN

### Meeting Don Bradman

WHEN I WAS AT TEACHERS COLLEGE ... going home [to Wingello, NSW] for Christmas holidays ... I left early one Saturday morning ... [and] when my train reached Bowral, which was 28 miles north of Wingello ... I heard my name



Don Bradman, aged 17: around the time Bill O'Reilly first encountered him in a Bowral match  
Don Bradman Scrapbooks, Manuscript Collection  
From the Pictorial Collection

being called out along the platform as the train stopped. I put my head out the window and here was the station master ... He said, 'Right, hop out, get your bag, we're going to play cricket ... we've been over to see your mother, and we've got all your togs ... out you get!' So I got out—and this was my first meeting with Bradman.

That afternoon, after having had him dropped twice in my first few overs, he got 234 and not out ... he really ruined the holiday ... [For] this little boy—he looked no more than a little schoolboy—to belt hell out of me ... the first Saturday afternoon of the holidays ... I thought, 'Good God!'...

His pads were so big, coming up to his navel, that it made him a bit awkward in running ... [But] first ball at him, I knew: here was a problem that a lot of people were going to worry about ...

But we had to finish the match the following Saturday, and ... I bowled first ball of the day to Bradman, and rolled him head-over-turkey ... I can still see it hitting the off stump as it came through from the leg side.

And then, as I say, the whole world changed: the sky got bluer, the grass got greener, the birds sang cheerily ... And I reckon that I learned a lesson then, for ever more: ... never chuck the alley in, no matter what happens.

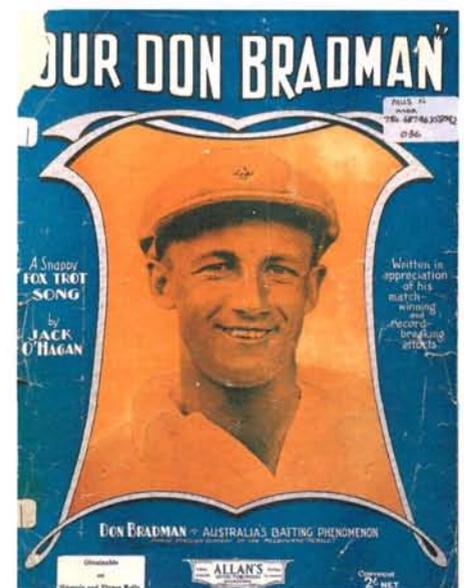
BILL O'REILLY

WE ... OFTEN PLAYED in front of a 30 000 crowd in Sheffield Shield cricket in Sydney ... especially if you had Bradman playing ... You'd see a crowd there of a Friday morning, Bradman going to bat, and ... if he got out early you'd find 5000 would get up and walk out straight away. Go back to the office and say that the job was over ...

Bradman ... was the most gifted player that God ever put breath in ... When you're talking of men like that, there's no adjectives ...

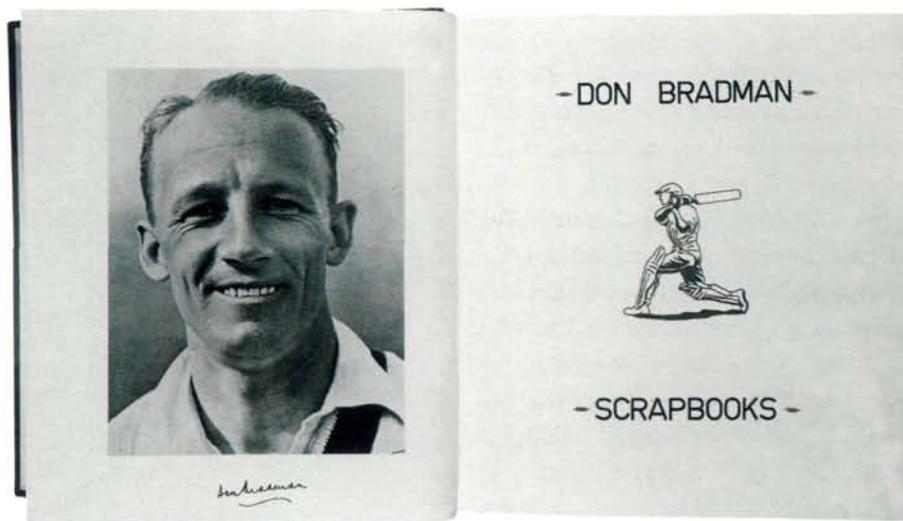
He always got himself into position where he could play an offensive stroke ... [Only once] I saw him ... play a dig where he batted all day and looked like

*first ball at him, I knew:  
here was a problem that a lot  
of people were going to  
worry about*



'Our Don Bradman' song sheet. Jack O'Hagan's celebratory 'snappy fox-trot' from the 1930s  
(Sydney: Allans, c.1930)  
From the Music Collection

*when you're talking of men  
like that, there's no adjectives*



As MS 7035, the National Library holds the Don Bradman Scrapbooks, duplicate copies of 52 specially bound and inscribed albums made up of news clippings, memos, invitations, photographs, telegrams and letters relating to Sir Donald's career from 1925 to 1950

Don Bradman Scrapbooks, Manuscript Collection  
From the Pictorial Collection

an old woman sitting on the toilet seat ... at Leeds ... in 1948. And Bradman didn't bat like Bradman at all ...

I think probably it was ... to show the cricket world that he could do [that] if he wanted to. That's the only time ever that I wasn't glad to see him play.

BILL O'REILLY

SIR DONALD BRADMAN ... was talking to his son John, and he said, 'Ray, would you tell John what's the first thing you do when you're batting?' And I said, 'Watch the ball.'

He said, 'There you are John, I told you so' ...

Evidently Bradman couldn't teach him, because ... like all kids, they wouldn't listen to their father ... That was the reason he asked me ... to let John know that he was right.

BRADMAN DIDN'T FORCE his opinion on you ... He'd ask you a question without you knowing. He'd say ... 'Do you notice ...', let's say, 'Edrich ... puts his foot across his body instead of straight down the wicket.'

And I say, 'Yes'—and really, I haven't noticed.

And he said, 'Well, that makes it hard for him to play a ball when you pitch it short of length—he can't score off it.'

And I said, 'Yes'. But I hadn't noticed it, but ... I knew that he was trying to tell me to bowl outside the off stump, across his body, because he put his foot down wrong and he wouldn't be able to play a shot ...

And ... the first match at Lord's I played ... I used to put a chap at square leg ... about five yards behind the umpire. And he said to me '... don't you think you should put [a fielder] about five yards in front of the umpire, the other side?'

And I said, 'No, leave him where he is.'

And sure enough the ball went right where Bradman said it would. And he mis-hit it ... And I said to Bradman next over, 'Well, you can put that fellow around in front of square leg now if you like.'

And he said, 'You can forget it now, he won't hit it there again ...'

He was such a famous man, and we were only juveniles compared to him ... And he was a legend in his own lifetime.

RAY LINDWALL

## Stan McCabe and Archie Jackson

IF YOU PUT THREE BOTTLES of very good wine on the table here ... I wouldn't have the ability to tell you which one was best ... I could tell you which one I *preferred*—and that mightn't mean anything either ... But the whole thing, as far as those men were concerned, comes down to temperament ...

Had Archie Jackson lived his life uninterrupted by bad health, [he] could have become anything. He could have been a better player than Bradman, as he was before his illness hit him. Stan McCabe was a man of different mettle altogether ... He played the game ... according to what he thought it demanded of him at the time. I've seen him go in and get a blob and be completely and utterly undisturbed by it ... [But] if his team was in trouble, you could bet your bottom dollar that Stan McCabe would be gnashing his teeth—that's literally-speaking ...

Ken Farnes, England's very able first new-ball bowler ... came on ... and [about] second delivery with the new ball, McCabe just quietly pivoted on his feet and the ball finished up clean over the square leg boundary for six ...

Farnes ... came back towards the wicket, towards me, and he said, 'Bill, what can you do with a man like that?' I said, 'Well, if it were me Ken, I'd go down and get his autograph.'

So that's where we left it! It was a stroke ... only a genius could have played ... He was one of those fellers whom God had touched ...

I met him first ... about 1926 ... a very, very windy day on the old flats there at Grenfell [NSW], almost on the spot where old Henry Lawson was born in a tent ... And Stan batted then, and I realised as soon as he got to work that he was a kid that was completely out of the ordinary. They're as easy to pick, you know, as North Head ... it stands out like the driver on a butcher's cart ...

If I were to come back ... God forbid, as a batsman—I would ... come back as another Stan McCabe ... [as] entertainer, as a man who was prepared to show his personality in his play, he was ... a living god, as far as I was concerned ...

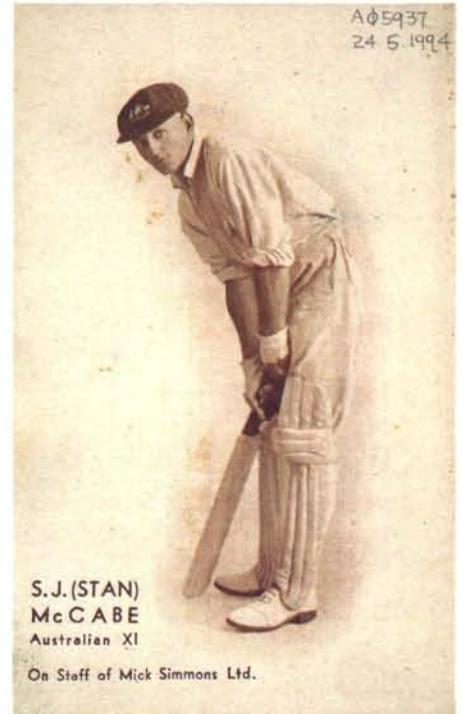
ARCHIE JACKSON ... got a Test century in his first match at Adelaide. He got 160-odd, as a kid of 18, and he was popularly regarded as the coming champion of Australia. Away they went to England, but nobody knew that Jackson already had the beginnings of ... tuberculosis ... which finally killed him off. And he died during the Fifth Test that we played against Jardine's side—the Bodyline series—he died there in Brisbane ...

I remember him telling me [earlier] ... he had high hopes he'd be with us during the Tests. Well ... the only way he was with us during the Tests, was in the Fifth Test he came back in the same train—but he was in the coffin at the back.

And we took him from ... [Sydney's] Central Station straight out to the service that was held for him, and I was one of the pall-bearers at the Field of Mars.

And poor old Archie ... was over and done with. 1932. He then would have been 23, I think.

BILL O'REILLY



Stan McCabe, as featured on a Mick Simmons Sports Store cricketing card from the 1930s  
From the Ephemera Collection



Archie Jackson (left) with Don Bradman, walking onto the field during the third day's play of the Fifth Test, 1930  
Don Bradman Scrapbooks, Manuscript Collection  
From the Pictorial Collection

## THEN AND NOW Street cricket at Hurstville

WE STARTED TO PLAY cricket and football on the streets. People say: ‘How did you play in the streets with all the traffic?’ But there was no traffic ... there were

not many cars about, and most of the traffic ... [was] horse-and-carts. And we could put a kerosene tin in the middle of the ... bitumen road ... and it was very good to play cricket on. And when you heard the tin hit, you had to get out and go and bowl ... [We’d play] every day before we went to school, in the cricket season. We’d get up about 6 o’clock in the morning ... my brother and I and a neighbour used to go out and play ... ‘til about 8 o’clock, and pack up and go to school. We must have had breakfast in between sometime, but most of it was cricket, and off to school ...



Ray Lindwall in 1950, midway through his Test career as bowler and all-rounder  
From the Pictorial Collection

And whilst we were at school we’d play cricket at play times and lunch time, and after school we’d come home and play cricket again in the

street ... There was nothing much to do in those days ... just after ... or during the Depression ... no one had much money ... And the only thing we could do was really play in the streets or the paddocks nearby ... It was a lovely way to live, really.

[Bill O’Reilly] used to come home [down our street] about 5, 5.30, every night. He was a school teacher ... He used to have to turn a corner to come into our view, so we always had a chap about that time on the corner, waiting to see if Bill O’Reilly was coming. And when [he] sang out he was coming, my brother took the bat to show how good a batsman he was ... and I took the ball to show how good a bowler I was. And O’Reilly used to walk past whistling, and we didn’t know whether he looked at us or not ... and just didn’t say a word ...

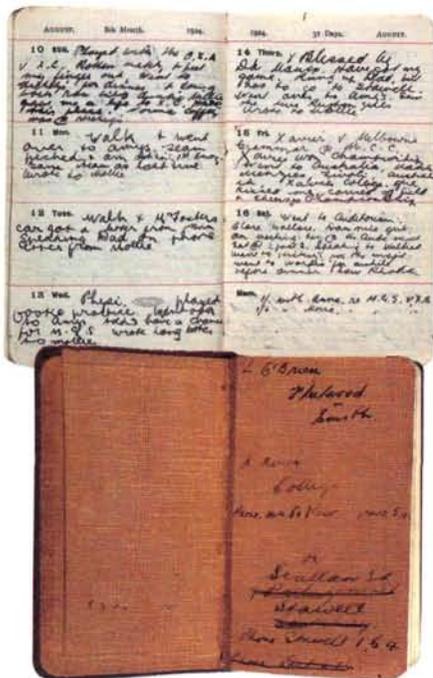
And when I got into [St George First Grade cricket team] a couple of years later, when he was the captain, he said he remembered me playing as ... I forget what he called me, a scallywag kid or something, with the arms going everywhere and bowling ... trying to bowl too fast ...

I still don’t know whether it’s true or not: whether someone told him about it—whether I was the same kid ...

### One-day cricket

WE HAD SOME GOOD FIELDSMEN, like the Harveys and the Millers and the Davidsons ... but as a rule we had some lazy chaps that didn’t train ... And some of them lost their place in the team through their fielding ... what really brought

*we could put a kerosene tin in the middle of the ... bitumen road ... And when you heard the tin hit, you had to get out and go and bowl ... [Bill] O’Reilly used to walk past whistling ... we didn’t know whether he looked at us or not*



Schoolboy pocket diary of Test spin bowler Leslie (‘Chuck’) Fleetwood-Smith, detailing cricket and football practice and fixtures, and social engagements, for the year 1924, when he was at Xavier College, Victoria. Fleetwood-Smith (1908–71) began his first-class career in 1932, making tours up until 1938  
MS 8920. From the Manuscript Collection

... fielding up to date was the Packer [one-day] teams ... They were on TV—everyone’s watching them—and they all started to field better ... Now you’ve got everyone who can throw, and they get the run-outs ... all the teams are much ... fitter, and better fieldsmen than we were.

One-day cricket ... is really keeping a side’s runs down ... the team that keeps the runs down, fields better, will normally win the game ... I think chaps like Keith Miller and Alan Davidson would [have been] natural, great one-day cricketers. And I think I would have been alright ... I think one-day cricket would have been okay for me. I think I would have been quite happy with it ... with the way they play now—and [getting] paid for doing it!

**Cricket gear**

WE WERE AMATEURS ... In my career I’ve never had a pair of batting gloves, because I couldn’t afford ’em. Well, I didn’t have to afford ’em, because the team always had a couple of spare pairs. But naturally, being the team’s, they weren’t the best batting gloves in the world ... They had pads, they had two or three pairs of pads ... You normally had to borrow a [decent] pair [of gloves] from, say Keith Miller.

RAY LINDWALL

**On sledging, kissing and coaches**

THIS MODERN IDEA of ... ‘sledging’ ... saying nasty things to other people ... the word was unknown ... I never heard any abuse of any kind thrown at me, nor did I use it ... it’s a hideous feature of the modern-day cricket ... [And] I can’t ever remember anyone ... giving me a kiss in the lug [either]—if that had happened there’d have been some fun, I’m telling you. There was no way in the world that we ran in from the boundary to congratulate a bloke because he got a wicket. That all happened ... since the time of Richie Benaud’s captaincy ...

And there’s more appeal going on now, especially in this funny cricket they call one-day cricket. There’s appealing going on now as if it’s the job ... you get them appealing from everywhere. It’s just absolute rank stupidity ... detrimental to the lesson that cricket is supposed to teach young men.

I THINK COACHES do more damage than sudden hail storms ... to have a coach ... telling international cricketers what to do, is absolutely the height of hilarity ... If anyone had come to me when I was playing for Australia, to suggest that I should change or do something, I reckon I’d have brought my knee up so hard he would have taken a long time to get over it ...

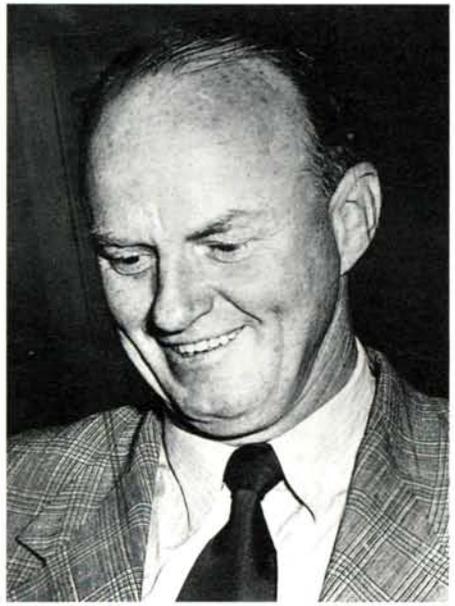
My plan of attack was the same all through my life: there’s a batsman there, get stuck into him ... kick wherever you see a head, no quarter given or asked ... This business of ‘don’t bowl your wrong’un—only bowl it once every third over,’ that’s all Bovril—any man who falls for that is not right in the head. You bowl ... whatever you think is appropriate—let it go!

BILL O’REILLY



Cricket sundries: bats, leg guards and protectors, as advertised in the 1911 Mick Simmons Catalogue From the Ephemera Collection

*there’s appealing going on now as if it’s the job ... It’s just absolute rank stupidity*

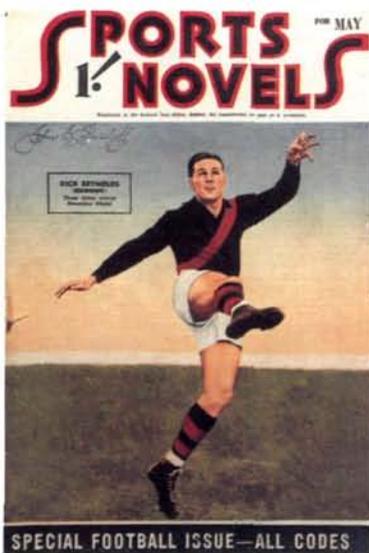


W.J. ('Bill') O'Reilly—cricketer, commentator and raconteur From the Pictorial Collection

# Boot and leather



Newsboys Football Team, Adelaide, 1932  
From the Pictorial Collection



*Sports Novels* magazine, May 1949  
(Sydney: Thorn Publications)

## AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

ALLEGED TO HAVE EVOLVED from Gaelic football under the influence of Victoria's large Irish population, the first loosely-ruled Australian football match was played between Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College at old Richmond Park in 1858. Like many sports, it has more recently sought to extend its scope beyond its original stronghold, making a now very successful onslaught across the border northwards with the founding of the Sydney Swans.

(above) The Depression years inform this photograph of a nonetheless buoyant Adelaide Newsboys football team. (left) Dick Reynolds of Essendon, three-time winner of the Brownlow Medal, on a 1949 issue of *Sports Novels* magazine. The story inside noted the all-rounder's uncanny anticipation, and blistering speed over the vital few yards; he was also a brilliant high marker. Reynolds was one in a succession of stars, including perhaps the first—Roy Cazaly (1893–1963), inspiration for the later song and unofficial Aussie rules anthem 'Up There Cazaly', and on through to the recent all-time goalkicking record-breaker, 'Plugger' Tony Lockett.

## WILL TO WIN: Carlton's 1979 grand final

I CAN GO through all the grand finals—I found them very draining, even after the four grand final wins I was in. First thing I wanted, was to just go home ... [Though] I felt happy for the boys, too, 'cause I knew how much hard work they'd put in through the year ...

The rain certainly brought us back [into that game]. I thought we were a much more skilled side. And it just showed the sort of character Carlton had then, to be able to play in those [wet] conditions, because ... it was just a slog, the one who got in and got the ball and belted it down ...

I knew that we had the character there ... I didn't for one moment think we'd lose ... We'd been behind so many times through the year. [Being] five or six goals down is nothing. [They] can be picked up in five minutes ... it's just a matter of really applying yourself and getting in there and getting the ball rolling ... I told the players never to be bothered about being five or six goals down. Sometimes in a game things happen, and the opposition are just that little bit better for five or six minutes, and they're five or six goals in front. And then it's our turn to get those five or six goals back.

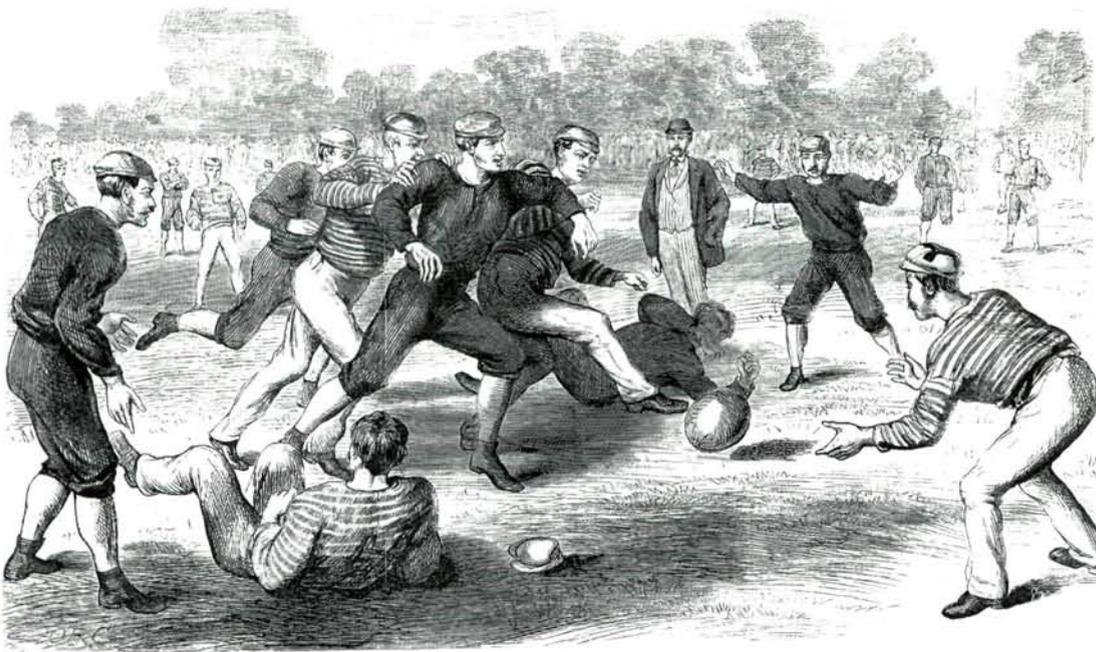
[Carlton] had no negative thoughts, because they'd done it before ... and that's the way they've been trained and taught. They always believed they could get up and win. You still get in there and chase ... that's bred into you. That's the way.

That [spirit] of course is not only the coach and the players—the whole *club* has got that sort of attitude—its supporters ... Carlton has never had a lying-down spirit. Even when they are being beaten—in those years we didn't [do well]—you'd walk out and your supporters would *hate* to lose, everyone around you [is] just thumping you, thumping you: 'You've got to win!'

That was it.

ALEX JESAULENKO

*[Carlton] ... always believed they could get up and win. You still get in there and chase ... that's bred into you*



(left) This very early confrontation in Yarra Park probably represents a match between Melbourne and Carlton—the latter for whom, following in a string of other illustrious players, Alex Jesaulenko was to play a century later  
From the Pictorial Collection

## Football Image Gallery



- entry
- reports
- original rules
- game guides
- cigarette cards
- how to kick
- exhibitions

### Cigarette and Football Cards

Sport and sporting heroes have always been of interest to the general public and using football stars to market products has long been a part of the history of football. The packaging and product may change but the basic concept remains the same: images of sporting heroes sell products. Whether from packets of cigarettes or bubble gum, football cards have been collected and swapped by children and adults for over a hundred years.

### From the collection of the State Library Samples of Cigarette cards



Cigarette football cards, from an online exhibition maintained by the State Library of Victoria  
(Reproduced courtesy State Library of Victoria)

7) *Jeps & Bows*  
*Boys' street is a bustle,*  
*For that street, - made by Russel*  
*Is crowded with people*  
*All anxious to see the great match,*  
*Jeps & Bows*

10) *Treat boys, and small boys,*  
*And men in gals;*  
*Not to mention the ladies,*  
*And girls to be sure.*  
*All to see the great match,*  
*Jeps & Bows*

10) *The match is now started,*  
*And the men have soon darked*  
*away with the ball to the park,*  
*From which place it is pushed by*  
*elf South.*  
*And this in the match,*  
*Jeps & Bows.*

*The game is soon hot,*  
*and how to get out puzzles the*  
*For the score is as follows:-*  
*Bows 6 goals, Jeps 6 goals behind.*  
*But it all comes in a match like,*  
*Jeps & Bows.*

*... game is now finished,*  
*the crowd is diminished,*  
*Now, the scores we'll commit to*  
*mind.*  
*Jeps 9 goals to Bows 6 goals behind.*  
*Round for the match,*  
*Jeps & Bows*

*R. Menzies*  
*Australian poet.*  
*Born 1894. Still living*  
*at 112 years old.*  
*The footballer*

*He battered and torn*  
*Is the football footballer.*

(above and left) 'Jeps & Bows,' Sir Robert Menzies' spirited, schoolboy evocation of a local match from around 1904, has a read-aloud style, perhaps pre-empting the orator within. The poem (part of a letter signed off 'R. Menzies. Australian Poet, born 1894, still living, age 10 years 6 months 9 days') is one item within over 80 metres (578 boxes) of Menzies papers in the Library's Manuscript Collection  
 From the Manuscript Collection



Jerseys in a Macmar catalogue, early 1930s  
 From the Ephemera Collection



THE AUSTRALIANS' WAR SONG

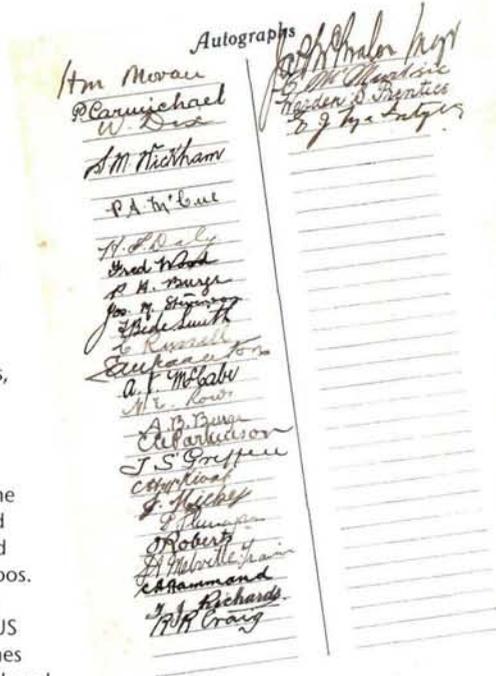
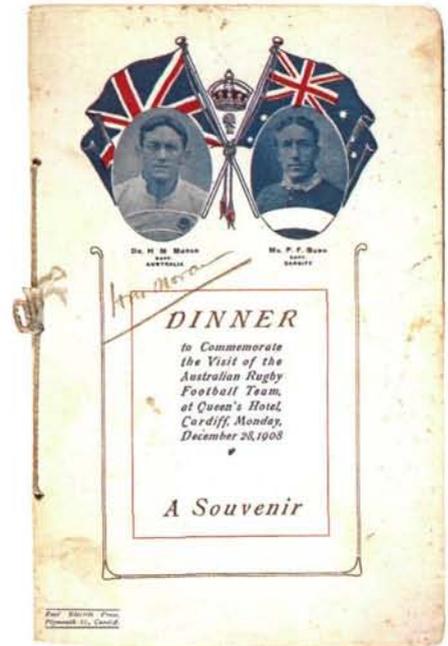
## RUGBY UNION

### The first touring Wallabies, 1908

Menu of a welcoming dinner thrown by the Cardiff Football Club for the Australian Rugby (Union) Football Team, in December 1908. The back cover is autographed by the Australians, captained by Dr H.M. Moran, and the inside front and back covers feature the Australians' 'War Song' and a photograph of the team performing it on field.

The 1908 Wallabies (so named by English journalists on this tour) were the first Australian touring union team. During their visit they allocated one day to play Cornwall in the single Olympic rugby match. (Wales, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and France were, for various reasons, unable to play. The Cornish side represented England because it had been the previous year's county champion.) The Wallabies were accused by the Cornishmen of wearing running spikes during the game, but an inspection cleared the Antipodeans, who trounced Cornwall 32-3 to take Olympic gold.

Prominent among the 1908 team were Chris McKivat, commonly regarded as one of the all-time great rugby half-backs and Robert Craig—both of whom later turned professional and toured with the Kangaroos. Another player, Dan Carroll, later lived in America, becoming player-coach of the US team which won the 1920 Antwerp Games gold medal for rugby. (Rugby was only played at the 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924 Olympics.)



### THE AUSTRALIANS'



WAR SONG

Gau Gau—Cardiff—Gau Gau—Cardiff—  
Whit-er  
Win nang-a-lang (Thu)  
Mu-e-an-yil-ling  
Bu rang-a-lang (Yang)  
Yai yai. Cun-yil-lang-yang-yah

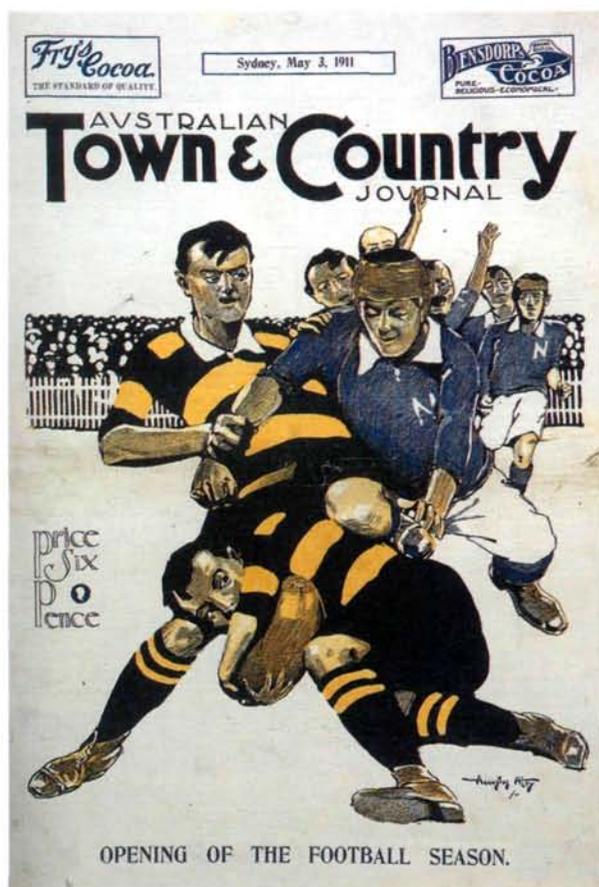
Dinner menu welcoming the Australian Rugby (Union) Football Team to Cardiff, 1908  
From the Ephemera Collection

(right) Syd (Sydney James) Malcolm (1903–87) played for Manly, NSW, and was in the Waratah team that toured Britain, France and North America 1927–28. He also led the Australian tour to New Zealand in 1931. Tom Perrin (1911–75) played for Norths, NSW, and also made the New Zealand tour. The ‘large man, small man’ format here evokes John O’Grady’s celebrated 1963 Rugby League Grand Final photograph of clutching, mud-mired rival captains Arthur Summons and Norm Provan, subsequently used for modelling the Winfield Cup.



Sid Malcolm and Tom Perrin, c.1931  
gelatin silver photograph; 32 x 19 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

## RUGBY LEAGUE



Australian Town & Country Journal, 1911  
From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

RUGBY LEAGUE HAD ITS ORIGINS in 1907, when a Sydney rugby union forward, Alec Burdon, had been refused compensation for a game injury. Celebrated cricketer and sports store owner Victor Trumper, with Jim Giltinan, was inspired to create a professional rugby league, co-opting rugby star Dally Messenger into a rebel Australian team to play a currently touring English rugby side. The long-running defection to the better-paying code had begun.

(left) This cover of the *Australian Town & Country Journal* celebrates the opening of the 1911 football season, just four years after the League’s formation. The issue records that the increasingly popular fledgling Sydney League already comprised teams for Newtown, Balmain, Annandale, Eastern Suburbs, North Sydney, South Sydney, Glebe and the Western Suburbs. (The Union sides were Eastern Suburbs, Glebe, Newtown, St George, Manly, North Sydney, South Sydney, Balmain, Western Suburbs and University.)

WHEN GATE ATTENDANCES to league matches fell away in the early 1970s, officials made changes to scoring, and introduced the six-tackle rule to raise the entertainment level of the game. Following on this, league was vigorously marketed in the mid-1980s, utilising such figures as pop star Tina Turner, along with restructuring of teams and competitions. In Australia today, both league and union, like a host of other sports worldwide, are administered more like large-scale businesses than the traditional social activities they once were.

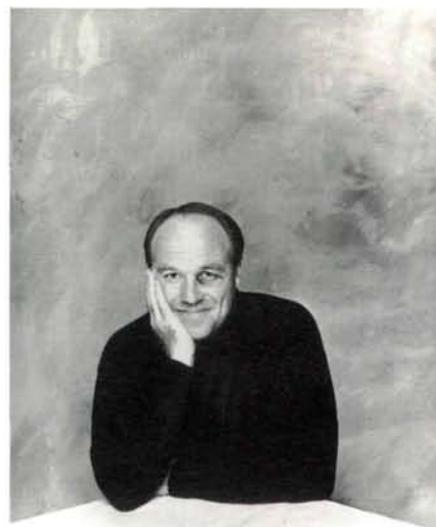
*(right)* With somewhat tenuous clutch of the ball, a young league player attempts a break in 1975. *(below)* Bigger boys tussle in the 1990s. Here, Raiders player David Furner is embroiled with the Hunter Mariners at Canberra's Bruce Stadium. *(bottom right)* A perhaps deceptively benign-looking Walter James ('King Wally') Lewis, captain of the Brisbane Broncos. An Australian Test captain in the 1980s, Lewis was subjected to often intense vilification by Sydney crowds, a less decorous aspect of the fierce tribal loyalty often shown in Australian sport.



A hopeful break, in 1975  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection



Canberra Raiders versus Hunter Mariners, 1997  
Photograph by Dean McNicoll; courtesy the Canberra Times  
From the Pictorial Collection

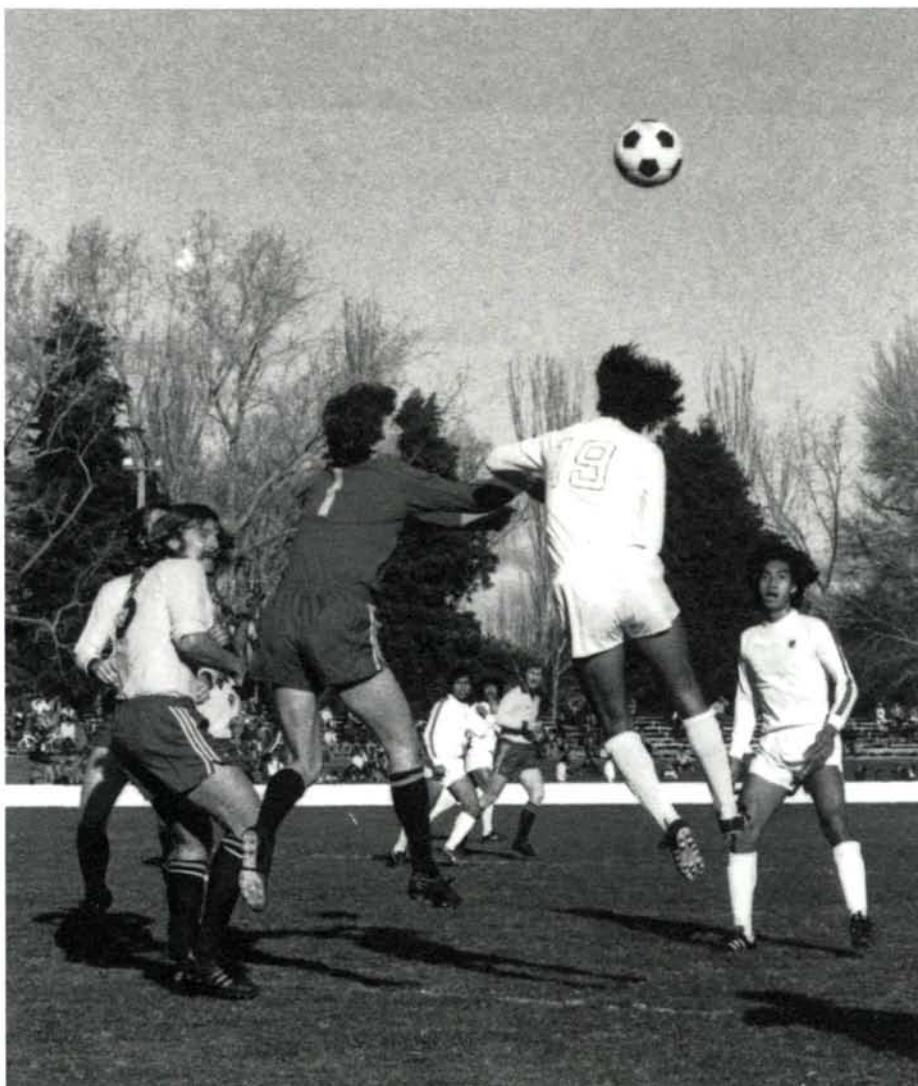


Greg Barrett (b.1943)  
Portrait of Wally Lewis, 1994  
Peter Weiss Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

## SOCCER

A CENTURY AFTER the founding of Australia's first soccer club, the Wanderers, in Sydney in 1880, Australian soccer is achieving a higher international profile, with the national team reaching the World Cup finals in 1974 and more recent excitement (and disappointment) in the Socceroos' lost World Cup qualifying match against Iran in 1997. Australian players are also being recruited overseas, as instanced by Craig Johnston, who contributed a goal to Liverpool's 1986 F.A. Cup Final victory.

(right) Echoing a recurring complaint, the Australian Information Service news story accompanying this photograph of the new national soccer team for 1977 bemoaned Australia's disadvantage in international sports caused by its geographical isolation. The 1977 team included full-back Harry Williams—'a graceful, fluid, attacking defender ... undoubtedly one of Australia's most exciting players'—who in 1970 had become the first Aboriginal to win an Australian cap.



Australia's new national soccer team, 1977  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection



Souvenir program, Palestine versus Victoria soccer match, 1939  
From the Ephemera Collection

(left) Souvenir program for a Palestine versus Victoria soccer match played on 24 June 1939. The program commented that, 'while building up Palestine economically and culturally', the Palestinians had also 'developed an athletic movement which reaches its height in this great soccer team'. The side, whose Australian tour took place just three months prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, was optimistically seen to 'symbolise the new life of the Jewish people'.

Among other National Library soccer materials are 10 folio albums of photographs, press clippings, correspondence and souvenir programs for the period 1948–78, belonging to Johnny Warren, manager-coach of the Canberra City soccer club.

# Stick and ball



Bathurst versus Glen Innes, c.1930  
From the Pictorial Collection

## HOCKEY

[AT SYDNEY TEACHERS COLLEGE, c.1918] I went to have a look at the match. I was sitting on a seat, and the girl came over ... And they said they were short, and what position did I play ... And I went on. And I was told I could be on the team, because I scored two goals ...

We were all fairly good, because you see we were quick on our feet, and in a cold place [like my home town, Goulburn] I think people do move about a good deal.

SALLY MURRAY

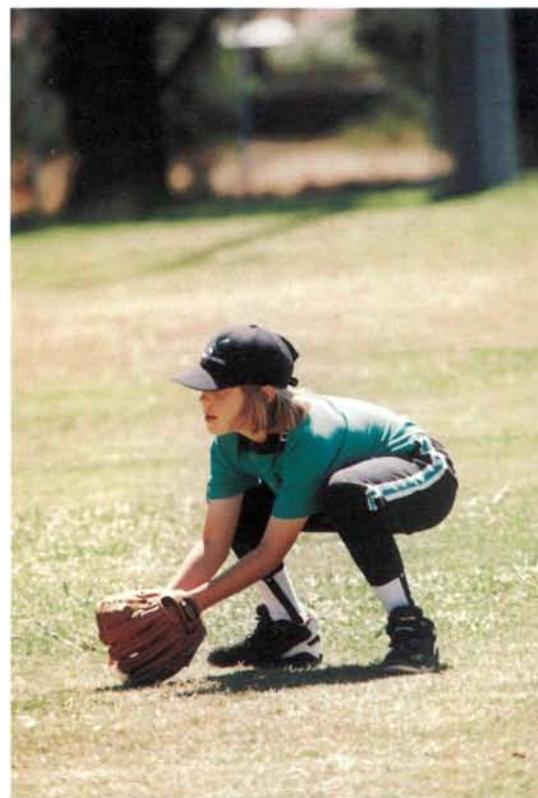
*(above)* Making a break in a game between Bathurst and Glen Innes at the University of Sydney, early 1930s. In the intervening years Australian women's hockey, and men's, has seen dramatic success in international competition, with the national women's team taking Olympic gold at Seoul and Atlanta.



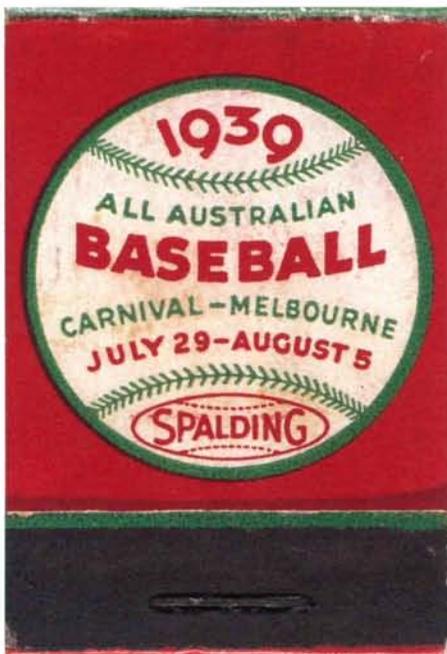
(above) Chicago White Sox play the New South Wales side, 1914  
From the Pictorial Collection

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

BASEBALL WAS INTRODUCED into Australia by Americans during the 1850s gold rushes, and an Australian team toured America, unsuccessfully, in 1897. The Australian Baseball Council was formed in 1933, conducting interstate carnivals, with teams competing for the Claxton Shield. Softball (also originating in America) did not arrive here until the 1940s, when American nurses demonstrated the game—and women still dominate the sport in Australia. The Australian Softball Federation was formed in 1949, and the game received a boost when the Australians defeated the US in the finals of the World Series in 1965. The Australian women's team is currently ranked number two in the world.



Tee-ball player in the field, Canberra, 1999



Baseball book matches, 1939  
From the Ephemera Collection

(above) The Chicago White Sox play the New South Wales team, around July 1914. The Chicago team and the celebrated New York Giants played a number of exhibition matches aimed to advance the sport in Australia. (left) Brightly coloured book matches promoted the All-Australian Baseball Carnival held in Melbourne, July–August 1939. (right) Today both baseball and softball are in keen young hands, with increasing numbers of children progressing from the junior variations of tee-ball (seen here) and modball up through to the adult games.



Walter Lindrum in his home billiard room, Melbourne, 1957  
ANIB; photograph by Don Edwards  
From the Pictorial Collection

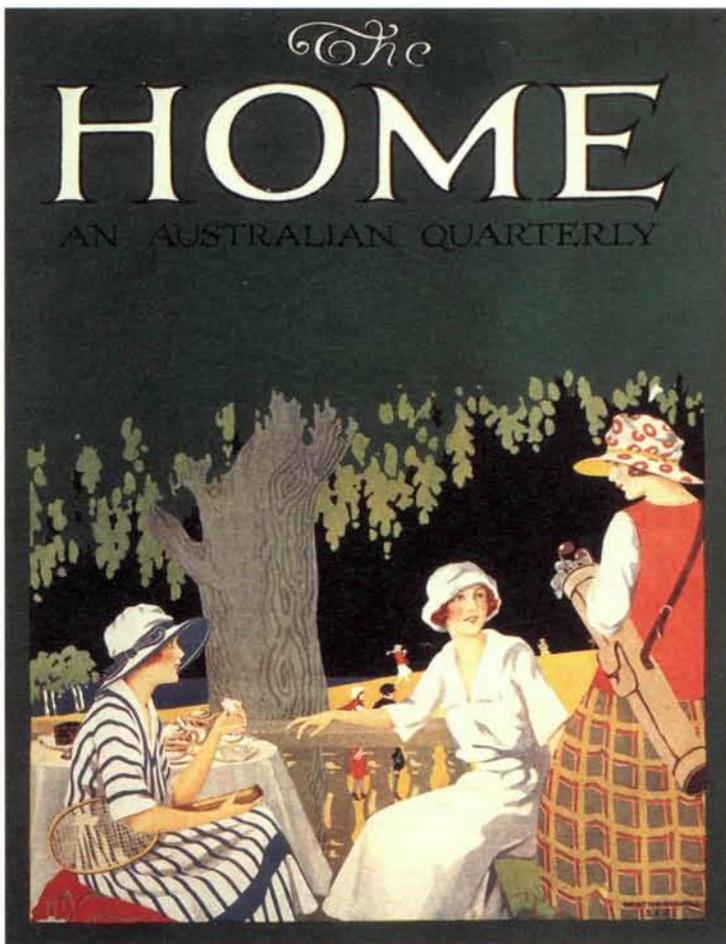
## BILLIARDS

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BILLIARD SALOON was opened in Sydney, by Thomas Spencer in 1851, and arguably the game's greatest ever exponent has been Australian Walter Lindrum (1898–1960). A more recent baize master is world open snooker champion Eddie Charlton.

The 1957 Australian News and Information Bureau caption to this photograph (*left*) advised that 'world famous Australian billiards genius' and well-known benefactor, Walter Lindrum, was about to commence a private goodwill tour of seven countries in South-east Asia, with hopes that exhibition proceeds would help more Asians study in Australia. Lindrum was World Champion billiards player from 1932 to 1950. He had soon outplayed all competition, to the extent that he forced a change in the game's international rules, outlawing the 'nursery cannon' technique by which he had set 57 world records. He commenced his reign by setting a billiards record in June 1931 with two breaks of 1030 each in a match with Tom Newman, and making a world record break of 4137 the following year. Appropriately, Lindrum's exotic Melbourne grave represents a billiard table replete with balls and cue. (*below*) A pencilled note on this 1891 issue of *Bohemia* magazine indicates the early player is John Roberts.



From the Newspaper and Microform Collection



(above) Eminently upper middle class women golfers feature on the cover of *The Home* magazine from 1 March 1922  
From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

WITH GOLF, ARCHERY AND TENNIS, croquet was long considered one of the more 'acceptable' early sporting pursuits for women. The game was introduced into Australia in the 1860s and was revived after the Second World War, with the Australian Croquet Council being set up in 1950. More people have been drawn to the game as its 'meeker' image of yore has been replaced with the aura of a game of strategy and precision.

(right) Male croquet champion, Mark Kobelt, 1997  
Photograph by Gary Schafer; courtesy of the *Canberra Times*  
From the Pictorial Collection



## GOLF AND CROQUET

GOLF AND CROQUET—two sports traditionally associated with 'higher society'—are now played across a fuller social spectrum. Melbourne Golf Club was formed in 1891, with Sydney and Adelaide clubs following in 1893. The first open championship was won by Michael Scott in 1904, at Botany, NSW. Among a string of international Australian men's successes are Peter Thomson's win of the British Open on five occasions, David Graham's US Open in 1981, and Greg Norman's wins in both the British and European Opens in 1986. Women, too, have played since the early days, with Sydney-born champion Jan Stephenson (Women's World Championship, 1981 and US Women's Open, 1983) being Australia's most notable female exponent.



## 'GOLF', WE SAID—'GOLF'

### Teaching teachers to teach sport

Marion Halligan

WHEN I FINISHED MY DEGREE at Newcastle University I had to go to Teachers College and do a Dip Ed, because received wisdom was that though a graduate could teach anything, you couldn't teach at all unless you had studied the methods of the subjects you were teaching. This seemed something of a contradiction, but we became used to surreal remarks. Like the Principal telling assembly that a lot of the girls had got pregnant, and he held himself personally responsible for every one of them.

Teachers College resembled a primitive school itself, with draconian rules—like no wearing trousers, or slacks as they were called. Not for girls. And this was already the 60s, if only just. Our predecessors had practised passive and sometimes active disobedience, but somehow all 24 of us (I'll tell you later how I remember we were 24) decided that life might be more fun if we cooperated, behaved well. This struck a certain fear into our lecturers' hearts to begin with, since they couldn't believe in this angelic behaviour. But gradually they became a bit more trusting.

The sports master, for instance; in return for our good behaviour he told us we could learn to play any sport we wanted. Golf, we said, as a single voice. He blanched a bit, but promised. How we got this single voice I don't know, but

*golf I never got  
the hang of ... anyone for  
tennis?*

*(above)* Mass golf instruction in the 1960s  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection



Detail from 1963 Mick Simmons Catalogue  
From the Ephemera Collection

*we did get to golf. Dead of winter, some storm-scoured links somewhere. Some pro showed us one-by-one how to hold some club or other. Twice we went*

there did seem to be quite a *zeitgeist* at work. So we beavered away at tunnel ball, with those great heavy objects called medicine (why?) balls, and at all the other ball games where you passed the things over your heads and round your backs, whose names escape me for the moment because I wasn't the least bit interested.

I had been a person who tried to avoid school sporting activities and gym classes wherever possible. I was not without house spirit, since it was by this means that we were spurred on to great competitive heights, getting points for our houses, but I did my bit by being a star debater, so the fact that I couldn't run or swim or catch a ball was overlooked in the grander scheme. At school gym lessons I tried always to get on the end of lines for things like forward rolls and backflips over the vaulting horse (they still seem to me to be hellishly dangerous activities) though modesty prevented my going so far as some girls and claiming a pretty well permanent state of menstruation, hastily muttered at the teacher and equally hastily excused. So being faced with the idea of actually teaching the stuff (this was the graduate-can-teach-anything mode) was not pleasant. Week after week we turned up and were drilled in these things. Golf, we said, you promised golf. Yes, said the teacher, next week.

Sport continued: rounders, basketball. Hockey was important, some people already played, and football; rugby I suppose.

We each had to have our own sport, that we knew a lot about. Golf, we said. Next week, said the teacher. In the meantime, choose something else to learn all about. I thought tennis would be a good idea. Swotted it up and did some difficult exam for which the facts probably stayed in my head five minutes longer than the exam lasted. As a result I have a tennis umpire's certificate which I reckon is valid to this day. I am waiting for some umpire-less emergency to occur, when I shall step into the breach. The World Open, or something.

We did get to golf. Dead of winter, some storm-scoured links somewhere. Some pro showed us one-by-one how to hold some club or other. Twice we went. Our dreams of long leisurely strides around well-kept greens after elusive balls, learning a game that would stand us in good stead in the glamorous lives we were about to begin leading, never materialised. It was enough to destroy your faith in good behaviour. Though we all, or most of us, passed our exams very well and got lots of praise and prizes.

When we came to have our section photograph taken and were all arranged, in tiers, as is the way of such occasions, with the three boys symmetrically distributed, one larky lad called Seppy suddenly broke ranks, ran out of frame and returned with a stray medicine ball. He resumed his place in the middle of the front row and held it proudly in his lap, beaming. I still like to think of some puzzled researcher in later years coming upon this photograph and wondering: what on earth is the game played by a team of 24, largely girls, with a medicine ball?

Golf I never got the hang of. Tennis, now ... anyone for tennis?

[This piece is excerpted from a larger essay on Marion Halligan's Teachers College experience]

# Jack high

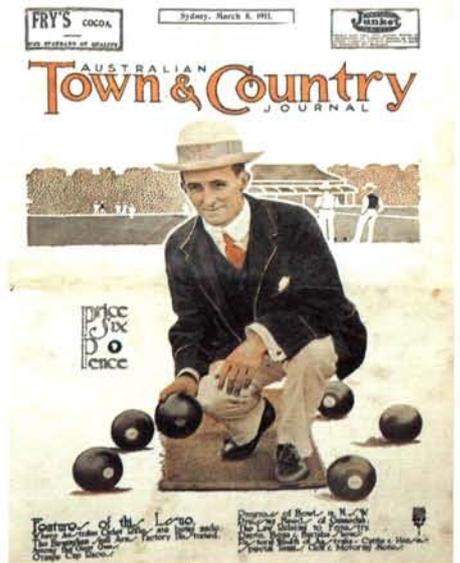


'The game of bowling'  
*Australian Sketcher*, 5 May 1886  
 From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

## LAWN BOWLS

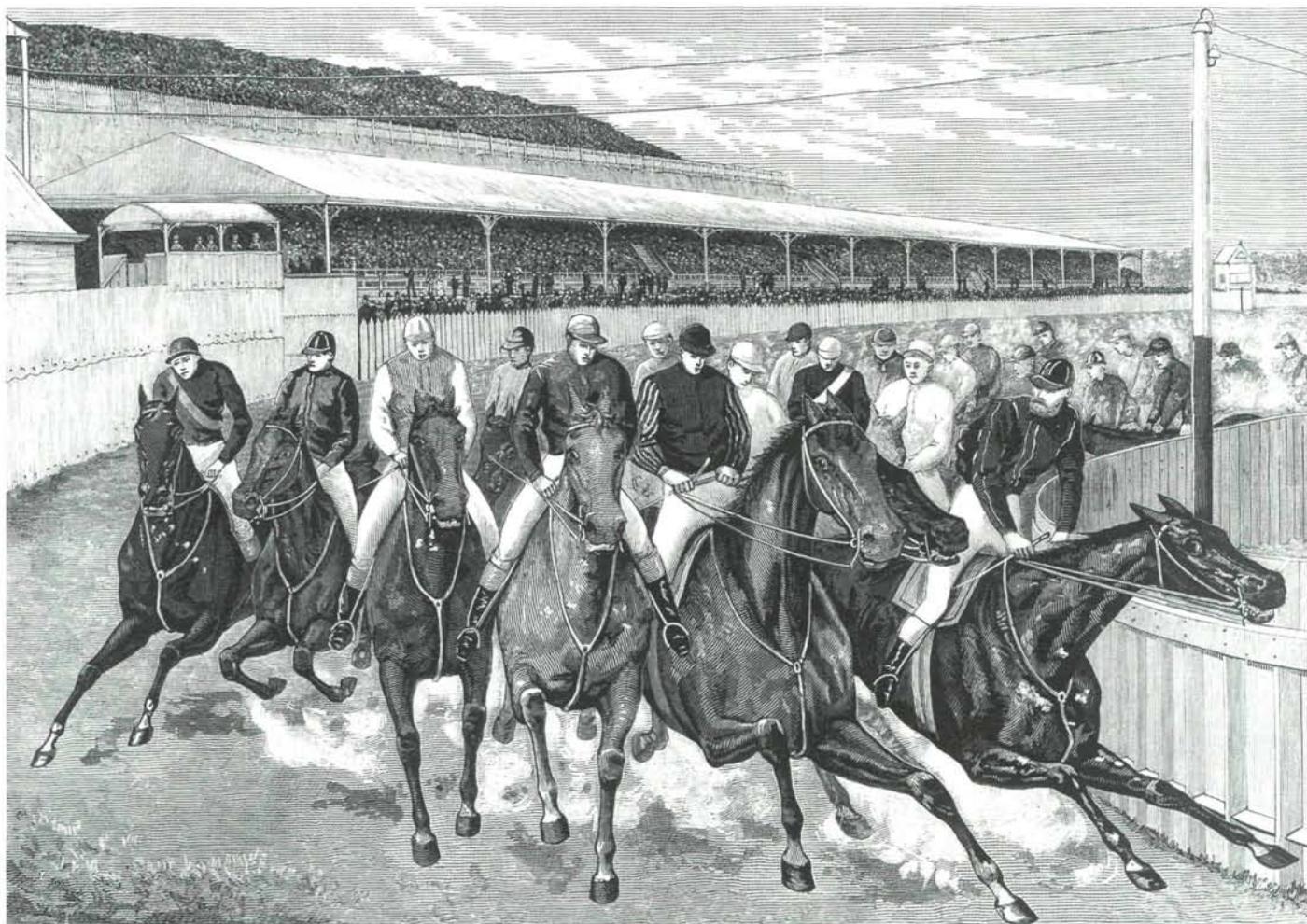
POSSIBLY DUE TO ITS CLIMATE, allowing year-round play, Australia is said to possess half of the world's lawn bowlers. One of the earliest greens was established at Sandy Bay, Van Diemen's Land in 1844, with Melbourne Bowling Club being formed in 1864.

Despite the wry eye turned on the sport (left) in a late 1880s issue of the *Australian Sketcher*, by 1911 the *Australian Town & Country Journal's* cover story (below), was reporting that New South Wales had 'between 35 and 40 clubs in prosperous existence', with bowlers numbering 3-4 thousand. By the 1950s and 1960s the clustering of white-clad figures, both men and women (often in their later years) on suburban greens had become part of the great Australian iconography, alongside the Hills Hoist and lamington. By the 1990s, rolling on from the surprise success of the early 1980s ABC television competition series, *Jack High*, and perhaps spurred too by Alf Sandercock and Peter Rheuben's winning of the pairs gold medal in the 1980 World Championships, lawn bowling associations were claiming 480 000 participants in 4500 clubs across the nation, with increasing numbers of younger players.



*Australian Town & Country Journal*, March 1911  
 From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

# Saddling up



'The Race for the Melbourne Cup—rounding the turn by the river.' A wide bunch in the 1883 race (the winner was Martini Henri)  
*The Illustrated Australian News*, 10 November 1883  
From the Pictorial Collection

## THE MELBOURNE CUP (1930, 1941, 1945)

THE FIRST MELBOURNE CUP was run, somewhat chaotically, in 1861, before a crowd of 4000. (Two of the horses fell and had to be destroyed.) The first Cup captured on motion film was that of 1896, courtesy of an employee of the inventors of motion picture projection, the Lumière brothers. His film was taken back to France, a copy finally being returned to Australia for placement in the National Library in 1969. The three-minute-long, silent, black-and-white film, which shows horses being exercised, the crowds at various stages during the day, and a glimpse of the running of the Cup itself, is the earliest surviving motion picture shot in Australia.

NOW WE'LL TALK ABOUT the Melbourne Cups ... [First,] we'll go into Phar Lap's [1930] Melbourne Cup ... I think I should have won that race ... I rode a horse called Beaumont ... and of course if you tell people that you would have beat Phar Lap, well they look at you with amazement.

What really happened in the race, a mile from home I was back in the middle of the field, along the fence, and I was travelling very well ... And we'd only gone about another half-a-furlong and I got struck in the face, which I didn't know what it was, but it nearly knocked me out, blinded me—and I just had to sit quiet on the horse, which I didn't know whether I was going out onto Flemington Road, or over onto the Steeple. But I just had to sit quiet on the horse until I got my sight back, and hoping that the horse will just stay where he is.

I eventually got three-quarters of my sight back ... we never had the race-glasses [back then], and with the mud and dirt hitting you in the face, well my eyes are full of dirt and I'd got this nasty whack in the face, which I didn't know what it was ... And so when I actually got my sight back, clear ... I was nearly eight or 10 lengths behind the last horse. [I'd gone] from the middle of the field to about eight, 10 lengths stone last. [But] coming to the home turn I was in the last three and I got a good run, right along the fence, till about a furlong from home ... [but] a New Zealand horse ... blocked my run and put me on the fence, and I just got cut out of third place.

And pulling up I was very worried. I thought to myself, 'How am I going to explain to the owners, when I was in the middle of the field—and all of a sudden I've gone back six or seven, last on my own'—and that was my thoughts pulling up ... And when I got into the enclosure I saw the trainer and the owner coming down, ready to put me against the wall and shoot me, you know. And before I could say a word, [they] said 'What's happened to your face?' And ... I put my hand up ... and I felt, I could feel blisters. Anyway it was the shoe of a horse just came back and it hit me straight in the face, between the eyes, and it left the imprint. If it had come back at a [different angle] it would have knocked my eye out, or anything—but it came back flat and it hit me like that—flat ... And I had a good excuse why I got beat. But I would have never known what to say to them if I hadn't ... had the evidence ... in the shape of a horse shoe, right between my forehead and my eyes. So I always think I was very unlucky in that Cup ...

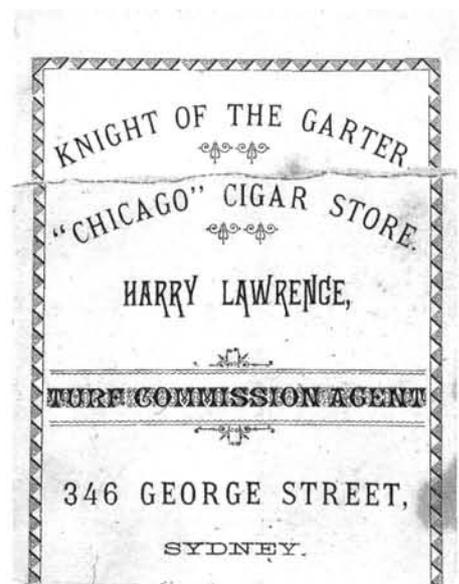
THEN WE GO ON TO SKIPTON, in 1941 ... As the race progressed, I think I was about third-last going out the straight—it's a two-miles race—and you know you've got plenty of time. And when I got around—I always maintained from the mile to the home turn at Flemington, that's where you win or lose the Melbourne Cup ... that's where you get the beaten horses falling back on you, and the other horses with a bit of run in them going forward. So you've got to dodge the beaten ones and go forward with the one that's going ...

Anyway, they start moving up and I had to come two- or three-wide, coming to the home turn, to get a clear run. There was horses falling back, and after I reached about a furlong-and-a-half from home I passed Norm Crichton ... [who'd ridden Skipton] in the Derby ... and I heard him yell, 'Go for your life!' You know what I mean? So he was giving me a push from behind—he was on a beaten horse. (El Galea, I think was the horse. I think that was the horse they shot when Phar Lap was—they shot him instead of Phar Lap.)

Anyway, about 50 or 60 yards from the winning post I was in front [and] it had just struck me then, I'd won the Cup ... which is every jockey's ambition, to win a Melbourne Cup ...

Any rate, I won the Cup and [in those days] we had the celebrations, with dinner, going to Wirth's Circus, and they presented you with the whip, and they name one of their newborn foals ... [after] whatever won the Melbourne Cup ... Wirth's Circus, and all those trimmings, makes the excitement. The next day you go back to the races ... [and] it just becomes ... another day's racing ...

THEN WE MOVE ON TO RAIN BIRD ... I had three offers of rides in the [1945] Cup. And I rang the wife on Friday night, I hadn't made any definite



Melbourne Cup Acceptances.

Carbine	10 0	Chaldean	7 13	Carrington	7 8
Melos	8 12	Benzon	7 10	Dunkeld	7 0
Cardigan	8 10	Chetwynd	7 3	Savanack	7 0
Bravo	8 7	Rudolph	7 8	Menotti	6 13
Lonsdale	8 5	Singapore	7 6	Tindlander	6 12
Oakleigh	8 2	Richelieu	7 6	Prince Consort	6 11
Pakeha	8 1	K'gt of the Gr'tr	7 8	Bluenose	6 10
Chicago	8 1	Anteus	7 3		

Weights for MELBOURNE CUP, 1889.

Carbine	10 0	Ernani	7 8	Dalley	6 13
Abercorn	9 10	Chetwynd	7 8	Menotti	6 13
Manton	9 1	Richelieu	7 6	Royalist	6 13
Cuirassier	8 13	Chetwynd	7 8	Bluenose	6 10
Melos	8 10	K'gt of the Gr'tr	7 6	Gasburner	6 12
Cardigan	8 10	Tonbillion	7 3	Lord Headingt	6 12
Tradition	8 8	Marvel	7 5	Singapore	6 12
Bravo	8 7	Sinecure	7 5	Prince Consort	6 10
Chain Shot	8 5	Don Giovan	7 5	Loyal Stone	6 12
Lonsdale	8 5	Jack Demon	7 4	Tindlander	6 12
Somiel	8 3	Merric England	7 3	Silvermere	6 11
Sedition	8 3	Anteus	7 3	Prince Consort	6 10
Keith	8 4	Churchill	7 3	Pioneer	6 10
Wycombe	8 3	Marie	7 3	Bluenose	6 10
Ben Bolt	8 3	Carrington	7 3	Little Bob	6 10
Oakleigh	8 2	Montalto	7 2	Copenhagen	6 7
Pakeha	8 1	Stamper	7 2	Stamper	6 7
Chicago	8 1	Sequel	7 2	Sequel	6 7
Chaldean	7 13	Tantalion	7 2	Nor' Easter	6 7
Whakawai	7 12	Moorbank	7 2	Loyalist	6 7
Benzon	7 10	Spokesman	7 2	Little Bismarck	6 7
Leichhardt	7 9	Dunkeld	7 0	Lord Bandoora	6 7
Silverton	7 8	Mechan	7 0	Aura	6 7
		Savanack	7 0	Portland	6 7
		Simon	7 0	Epseylte	6 7
		Aichemist	7 0	Epseylte	6 7
		Redbranch	6 12	Churchill	7 3

A Sydney turf commission agent's draw card for the 1889 Melbourne Cup, with the punter's annotations of prospects and scratchings. (The winning horse proved to be Bravo, ridden by J. Anwin, at 8/1) From the Ephemera Collection

PHAR LAP'S DEATH—LATEST POISON THEORIES.— Page 2



**The Sun**  
 NEWS-PICTORIAL  
 WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE MORNING POST**

No. 2982 MELBOURNE · THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1932

DEATH OF PHAR LAP ::



PHAR LAP, AUSTRALIA'S RACING IDOL, died suddenly of some ailment at Moulton Park, 30 miles north of San Francisco, on Tuesday. This picture shows the great gelding as Melbourne remounts him, with W. Elliott up and T. Woodcock, who trained him in America, leading him, after one of his many turf victories.

Phar Lap's death, as reported in a popular paper from 1932. 'Australia's racing idol' is shown with Billy Elliott in the saddle and Tommy Woodcock, trainer, leading. Phar Lap (Siamese for lightning and thunderclap), also known as the 'Red Terror', won 37 out of his 51 starts, and in the 1930 Melbourne Cup became the first odds-on favourite to win in the event's history. Adding intrigue to the 70-year-long mystery of the champion's death, in 1989 former jockey Wally Biles claimed the late Tommy Woodcock had told him he'd accidentally killed Phar Lap with an overdose of arsenic  
*Sun News Pictorial*, 7 April 1932  
 From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

engagement ... and I rung the wife ... and first thing she said, 'What are you riding in the Melbourne Cup?' And I told her, I said, 'I've got three rides; which one would you ride in?' 'Oh,' she said, 'ride Rain Bird' ... Well, that's a woman—she fancied the name, Rain Bird, you know—so I said, 'All right, I'll ride Rain Bird' ...

Scobie Breasley rode the favourite, and I thought if I could trail him he would give me a very good run to the home turn. And Scobie was known as a rails rider, and I said, 'Well, he can make the race for me,' so after we'd gone about a furlong I was looking for him, so I could get on his heels—and I lost him for a while, but ... I picked him up on the rails and I manoeuvred my horse over and trailed him ... And, coming to the home turn, he was in a dead end, and I said to myself, 'Well, I'll move out now and get the start on him.' Which luckily I was able to move out where he couldn't ... and I got two or three lengths break on him. And it was nearly a replica [of the 1941 Skipton race] ... I hit the front nearly in the same spot ... And of course I got just as big a thrill on winning on Rain Bird as I did on Skipton.

BILLY COOK

**'HE WAS A GREAT HORSE': Remembering Phar Lap**

WE'LL TALK ABOUT the 1929–1930 era ... [there] was some great jockeys and great race horses—a particular one, Phar Lap ...

My boss had a habit, when we were young, of saying ... 'I've got a ride for you today, at the races, and you'd better get along, bring your port.' [And] we'd go to the races and sit in the jockeys' room all day, and no one ever asked us for a ride. So we'd come home, and not have a ride. But he was probably making us keen: but at that time it wasn't funny to us ... thinking we had a ride, and we never.

But why I'm telling you this is, it refers to Caulfield—the year Phar Lap run third in the Melbourne Cup. Mr Donohue said to me, 'Mr Telford wants you to ride Phar Lap [on a work-out] this morning ... he will be here a bit late' ... So I waited back [until] everyone was gone from the race track, and I said, 'Oh, it's ... another one of his stars [who will get] to ride Phar Lap,' and so I just went home.

And Phar Lap arrived at the course, and there was no jockey there. And Mr Telford ... he went and got a jockey called Billy Elliott, who lived close by the track, and ... so I missed a ride on Phar Lap ... and Billy Elliott rode him in all the lightweight rides, and he went to America with him ...

I think I would be the only jockey who has run more seconds to Phar Lap—I beat him once ... in the Chelmsford Stakes, on ... Mollison, but I knocked up running seconds to him at that period, and he was a great horse.

Some days he would beat me a couple of lengths and flat out ... and then other days he would ... beat me three-quarters of a furlong. So it's like human beings: they have their days on and days off—but he still won, he was a great horse ... Five furlongs, six, seven furlong races, a mile, nine furlong—he won a record in every distance.

BILLY COOK



Straight, with Weighing Yard and Stands

Australian Jockey Club (A.J.C.)—Views of Randwick Racecourse, Sydney, NSW, 1914  
 Photograph by Hall & Co.  
 From the Pictorial Collection

(above) One of a series of panoramas of Sydney's Randwick racetrack, this view of the straight with weighing yard and stands was taken in autumn 1914. Today, Randwick (or Royal Randwick) is the Australian Jockey Club's main racecourse. With a circumference of 2213 m, it is described as a spacious course with sweeping bends, giving good gallopers opportunity to stretch out, and fast horses a chance in the 410 m straight.

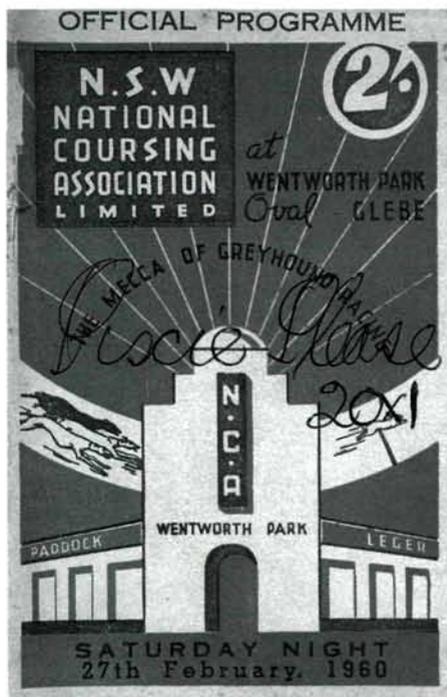


## ON THE TROT

(right) Carlo Marchini works out a trotter at Sydney's Harold Park Paceway in 1975. According to the accompanying AIS news story, Marchini, former Middleweight and Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion of Australia, was now a promising trainer-driver. He had just won his fourth country race, qualifying for a licence to drive on metropolitan tracks.

AIS; photograph by Bill Payne  
 From the Pictorial Collection

*plenty of times I went out on a horse that's been drunk ... it's amazing how the horses loved the whisky*



Saturday night program for Sydney's Wentworth Park greyhound race meeting, 27 February 1960. (The punter apparently fancied 'Pixie Please' at 20 to 1.) On one 1989 night now passed into dogs lore, a woman punter, having lost \$87 000 on the first three races, bet \$202 000 on race four to win \$101 000 and thus clear \$14 000 for the night. For a time in the 1930s, Sydney's Mascot track had featured greyhounds ridden by monkeys

From the Ephemera Collection

## ON DOPING

[IN] THE OLD PONY DAYS they used to give them, to calm them down ... a small Schweppes bottle of whisky. And I suppose plenty of times I went out on a horse that's been drunk, but I didn't feel them ... that was a cure, only to just settle 'em down—not a dope. And it's amazing how the horses loved the whisky. They'd drink it down like ... soft drink ...

I used to ride a horse in the country once, and they used to say the trainer used to give it arsenic ... which seemed to be the fashion in those days, feed 'em on arsenic ... Then another trainer that I rode for, he got a horse from the country, and it started to lose its hair ... and I said, 'Gee, he's a motley sort of horse—he's patchy,' and he said, 'That's [the] arsenic I've got to get out of him before I start training him.' Well, that seemed to be an old method ... you never hear of it these days ... They are the only [substances] that I can recall, you know—the little bottle of whisky, and the little bit of arsenic.

[And also] a friend of mine ... used to buy the nerve tonic ... for three-and-six, at a chemist ... and he used to put that nerve tonic in the horse's feed, because he was a highly strung horse—and he used to mix up that with no harm's thinking. But he won a race, one day ... and he swabbed, and he was proved positive. And it was through this damned three-and-sixpenny bottle of nerve tonic ... and [the trainer] got 12 months [suspension] ... He knew no bad thoughts about it—he thought, 'Well, if it's good for humans, no doubt the horse could be given the nerve tonic.'

## 'LAST RIDE COOKIE'

[AT ONE POINT I'D WON] ABOUT 12 [of the day's last races] straight ... it just happened that way ... Some days I'd have five or six rides in a day, and my best ride of the day would fall in the last race. Then I went to England, and [the pattern] continued ... and they put in the paper, 'Last Race Cookie' ... And the poor people ... the poor punter, the housewife I'm talking about—they'd [put] their two-and-sixpences on, and it would get them out of trouble ... They would do their housekeeping money and they would be in desperation, so they'd say, 'Stick to Cookie—"Last Race Cookie"', and I was fortunate enough to keep getting them up and getting their house-money back.

[But] what broke the sequence of those 12 winners straight, was we had a trainer called Papworth ... and he asked me to ride Black Douglas in the last race at Randwick, and in the meantime another trainer rung me, and asked me to ride another horse ... which I thought could win ... So I rode the other horse, and coming to the post—I'd got the race shot to pieces—and all of a sudden a thing loomed up on the outside and got up and beat me [by] a whisker. And I looked over, and there ... was Black Douglas, at 25 to 1 ...

That broke the sequence ... [which had] done me a lot of harm ... [because] trainers and owners were a bit wary of putting me on their last race. Because they said, 'Oh, we're going to take four or five points lower than what the horse should be' ... and then I found myself not getting many good rides in the last race.

So, in a sense I was glad the sequence was broke.

BILLY COOK



Beryl Perry, Newcastle Show, 1947  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

## SHOW JUMPING

ANOTHER GREAT SPORT WAS JUMPING. When young I watched one champion, Tiny Tim, at show after show, jumping more than 1.8 metres. He seemed to love it and I never saw any of his opposition hurt themselves. At the height of the immense jump his rider was right out of the saddle, seemingly lifting him over. I could never work out exactly when the rider left the saddle, or how he left it without throwing confusing extra weight on Tiny Tim at a crucial part of the jump.

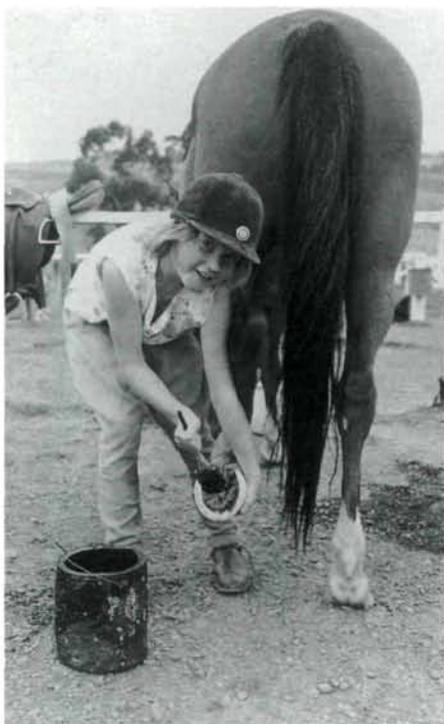
My wife, who grew up with horses in Queensland, says it was folklore proven by published results that horses jumped higher at Cairns. The bars of the jump were positioned with a flat-topped hill behind them and the horses saw the hill as the top bar as they took off.

ERIC ROLLS

AUSTRALIA HAS A FINE EQUESTRIAN tradition, prominent among more recent riders being Bill Roycroft, patriarch of a family of riding champions. Roycroft competed at five Olympic games, being a member of the gold-winning three-day events team at Rome in 1960 and (with son William junior and Brien Cobcroft) the bronze-winning team at Mexico City in 1968. These Australian successes were followed up by Matthew Ryan's gold-winning performances at Barcelona in 1992.

(above) Beryl Perry takes a jump at Newcastle Show in 1947. Her 23-year-old mount, 'Plain Bill', was one of the nation's best jumpers. At the time, Perry had jumped horses over higher fences than any other woman in the world, her best being 7.5 feet (2.3 m).

*I thought the selectors and the team manager would go out of their brains ... Sir Alec Creswick said to me, 'Cobby, congratulations—only for your roughriding spirit, you'd never have ridden that bastard'*



A young rider at the Lower Plenty Pony Club, near Melbourne, Victoria. The 1970s ANIB caption reported that since the first Australian club had been formed in 1948 the movement had expanded to the point where more than 20 000 members existed in 400 clubs  
ANIB; photograph by C. Bottomley  
From the Pictorial Collection

## OLYMPIC COMPETITION: Tokyo 1964; Mexico City 1968

STONY CROSSING ... is the horse I rode in Tokyo. He was a hell of a horse—he blew up in the dressage [with] all the selectors, the whole world ... watching him; [he'd been] in the [Olympics] opening ceremony two or three days before ... down in the dressage arena, and [when] they let off balloons and pigeons and what-have-you, he went out of his brain ... Then, when he came to do his dressage tests, he remembered all this, and started to buck ... I did the most shocking test that has ever been seen.

And when I rode out of the gate ... he just all of a sudden took off. Knocked two Japanese soldiers down and crashed into the Italian horse that was going to follow me into the ring. I thought the selectors and the team manager would go out of their brains ... Sir Alec Creswick said to me, 'Cobby, congratulations—only for your roughriding spirit, you'd never have ridden that bastard.'

But the following day in the cross-country, he gave me a ride I'll never forget ...

[IN THE STEEPLECHASE AT MEXICO CITY] I jumped over a dead Russian horse at fence no. 22 ... lying at the bottom of a big ditch ... [as] De Peche saw the horse ... I hit him with the whip, and he took a very, very good jump, landed actually on the bank in some very heavy muddy ground, and fell ... He didn't actually completely fall, but he had his head tucked under his front legs, and as he threw his head up I grabbed hold of his two ears and stuck my legs out past his nose, kept my legs off the ground until we got over the penalty area. Then dropped to the ground, and had to go and get my stirrup ... back in the ditch ...

[At the medal ceremony] the grooms led our horses up behind the dais, the English team was on number 1 pedestal, Americans were on number 2, and the Australians on the third pedestal ... [After] six years of long, hard, grinding work of schooling horses for long hours in the morning and at night-time ... just for that five minutes we stood on that dais in Mexico—I think everything was worth it.

BRIEN COBCROFT

## PONY CLUB

WITH CHILDREN CAME PONIES, and pony clubs. We could afford good ponies, but transport for three ponies was always beyond farm finances. Our three children would ride 25 kilometres to sports days in Boggabri or Baan Baa, win the flag racing and the bending, and sometimes the riding—then ride home at night. One morning as they rode through a back street in Boggabri, three nuns in full habit came out of the convent to admire them. The ponies, conditioned we thought to any eventuality, panicked and bounced all over the road. When the children couldn't calm them with their voices, they jumped off and used hands as well to reassure them.

On show days when horses and riders had to be groomed to perfection, the children rode in the day before, and we camped near the stalls. Now our grandchildren are riding expertly, and fortunately their parents can afford the transport. So they travel many kilometres to polocrosse and pony club events.

ERIC ROLLS

# Getting up some speed



## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1959, 1960 and 1966

WHEN WE STARTED of course, we didn't really expect to win the world championship. But we felt that we were going to give them some hurry up, because we had a 2.5 litre [rear] engine ... We went on winning races in '59 and finished up with a world championship, which surprised everybody, because that was really the first year that a rear-engine car had won ... The years before had always been won by Maserati or Ferrari or something like that—all big, old, front-engine motor cars.

[IN 1960] we built a new car. It was called a low-line Cooper 1960. That was probably the best Cooper that had ever been built and it was the first one that had independent suspension all the way ... Of course, it was a very successful car and we won the Dutch Grand Prix and the Belgian Grand Prix, French Grand Prix, the British Grand Prix and the Portuguese Grand Prix all in that season ...

The Dutch Grand Prix ... was a pretty testing circuit ... The rear-engine car really shone there because there was a lot of corners ... and that's where the rear-engine car was a big advantage over the front-engine cars, because it had the traction out of the corners, particularly out of the slow corners. We were able to put the power on the ground a lot better and accelerate away from the corners ...

Then of course the Belgian race I won't forget for a long time ... There was two ... drivers killed in that race, which took the shine off winning it, I can assure you. And that was ... an extremely fast circuit. We had a top speed there of something

*we felt that we were going to  
give them some hurry up,  
because we had a 2.5 litre  
[rear] engine*

*(above) Taking a turn in the Brabham Ford.  
The rear engines Brabham helped pioneer  
gave greater acceleration out of the corners  
From the Pictorial Collection*



Jack Brabham at Sydney's Mascot airport in October 1966—the year he was World Drivers Champion and won the World Manufacturers Championship in his Australian-built Repco-Brabham. The Hurstville greengrocer's son, knighted in 1979, was three times World Champion. His involvement in designing and constructing his own cars enhanced his knowledge of their performance during racing  
Photograph by W. Croser  
From the Pictorial Collection

*we really risked our necks considerably ... I'm amazed that we didn't kill more people*

like 195 miles [314 km] an hour and it was on a road circuit, where you just couldn't afford to fall off the road any way ... Today ... they've halved the length of it ...

Then we went on to the French Grand Prix ... [We had] a lot of satisfaction winning that particular race because it was a circuit where Ferraris and Maseratis had been winning for years, and all the press were saying, 'Okay, the Coopers won the Dutch Grand Prix and the Belgian Grand Prix—but the French Grand Prix, the Ferrari is going to still win.' But we up and downed them on that circuit as well, so that was really the race where it proved beyond any shadow of doubt the rear-engine car was here to stay...

Then of course ... it was quite a big thrill ... to win the British Grand Prix in England with a British car ... we'd done it two years on the trot. By the end of the 1960 season everybody was in fact redesigning their cars and building rear-engine cars, including Ferrari ...

The last race ... that I won [that season] was the Portuguese Grand Prix ... those four races won the World Championship for me without any trouble. That was the end of, really, the Cooper era in a way, because unfortunately after 1960 they changed the formula of the engine ...

IN 1966 WE HAD ANOTHER WONDERFUL RACE at the French Grand Prix at Reims ... It was probably one of the most exciting races I think I've ever done, because it was a great thrill for us: (a) beating the Ferraris, and (b) it was actually the first race that we won in the Brabham car with the Repco engine ... Then we went on of course to win the Dutch race and the Belgian Grand Prix and also the British Grand Prix ... Then we went on to the Portuguese race and that clinched the championship for me in 1966 ...

Putting it all together, it was probably ... my best year. To be able to win with the Australian car, Australian engine—and most of our mechanics were either Australian or New Zealand boys, actually ... it was really an Australian effort ... At the end of the '66 season ... we won the Constructors Championship as well. So, with the Brabham car, Brabham driver, and winning the Constructors Championship ... it was an unbelievable year for motor racing as far as Australia was concerned.

JACK BRABHAM

## THEN AND NOW: Tracks and safety

MOTOR RACING was a lot more dangerous than it is today, I can assure you ... we really risked our necks considerably, because we raced on a lot of road circuits where there was trees, rock gardens in the middle of the road, even tramlines ... There was just so many obstacles around the circuit you could hit and kill yourself with. I'm amazed that we didn't kill more people ...

Of course, in those days the top speeds of the cars weren't a long way away from what they're doing today even, because the cars were very small and very narrow, only had very narrow wheels ... Today's cars have all got wings on them, and a lot of down-force which creates a lot of drag on the car. That gives them the cornering speed. They can lap round the circuit much quicker than what we could in our day just purely because they go round corners so much quicker. But the actual speed down the straight is not a big difference to what it was ...

The rules and regulations for building a new circuit now are very, very rigid, and you certainly couldn't build a circuit like Monaco [today] ... They've moved all the obstacles out of the way, they've chopped down trees, they've pushed all the barriers way back so that there's plenty of room for run-off here and there, and the circuits have actually changed considerably, just as much as the cars have.

JACK BRABHAM

## THE REPCO ENGINE

OVER THOSE [THREE] YEARS in England ... [when] we'd raced with the Repco engine—'66, '67 and '68—our biggest drama ... was working with the engine company being 12 000 miles [19 000 km] away from where we were actually racing ... We had so many things go wrong ... I often think back now and wonder how the hell we actually won the world championship ... Twice they had engines lost between Melbourne and London, and there were just silly things going wrong ...

Sometimes the engines never made it, or got mixed up somewhere, or got on the wrong aeroplane ... [Once] somebody from British Airways rang me up and said: 'We've got an engine here. When are you going to come and pick it up? It's been here three weeks.' I went straight through the phone ... I'd been ringing them up every day, every day: 'Where's the engine? Where's the engine?!' ... And it was outside the hangar ... where it couldn't be seen, and it [had] sat in the rain for three weeks out there ... It was full of water and had to be all rebuilt ... It was unbelievable, the dramas we had in trying to work 12 000 miles apart.

JACK BRABHAM

*I'd been ringing them up every day, every day: 'Where's the engine? Where's the engine?!'*

## JACK MURRAY MEETS THE FÜHRER: Avis Racetrack, Berlin, 1930s

I WENT TO THE AVIS RACETRACK ... which was really something, shaped something like a dumb-bell—down two miles, then fly into a saucer, then come back again practically alongside of the road going down, and going into another saucer. The cars that were racing were built under subsidy of the German Government ... beautiful-looking things ... they were doing 180 miles [290 km] an hour ...

The Nazis ... Brown Shirts, they were about six foot six, big Germans ... were hunting everybody off the track. But I just held the camera up ... and they thought I was a press official. So I sat on a big bridge there and the cars were racing about 15 feet [4.5 m] away ... That was the best racing I have ever seen in my life ... You'd ... see the car come past in a flash, and you'd get the sound about four to five seconds after. They were sort of beating sound, and you'd hear this terrific roar and the car was [already] about 300 yards [275 m] away—further than that. Those were the days of Nulari, the fantastic Italian, Erwin von Stuck ... all the well-known racing drivers of Europe were competing at Avis.

Hitler came over and presented the prize. I was surprised how small he was: a little guy who was all pomp and what-have-you. I had to put my hand up in the air, too—otherwise I'd have got thrown off the course.

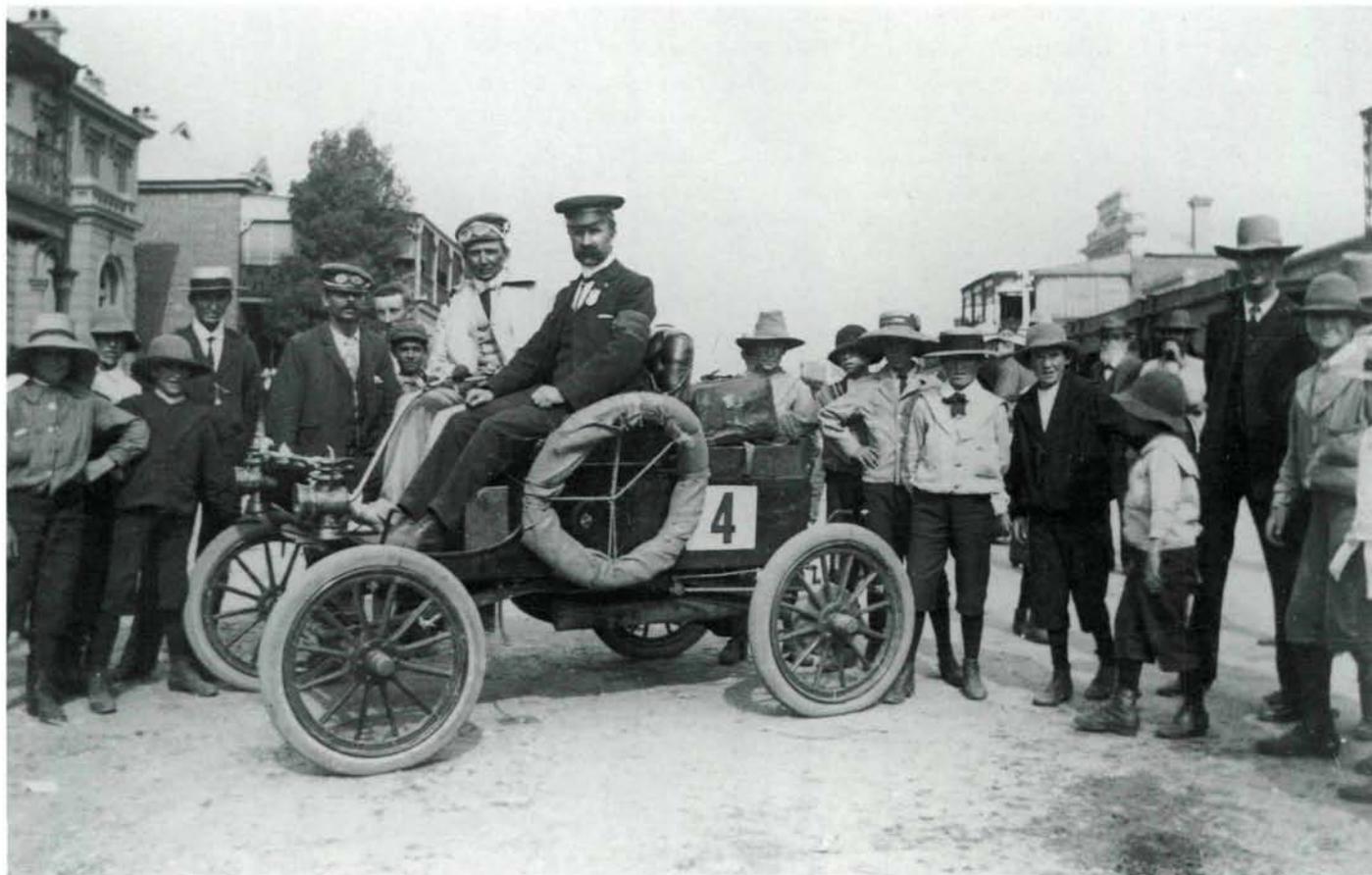
But the racing there was really something ...

'GELIGNITE' JACK MURRAY

*Hitler ... presented the prize ... a little guy ... all pomp and what-have-you*



The Führer would tangle with sports again at the infamously political 1936 Berlin Olympics.



*today if you made a road like  
that, they'd give you  
10 years in jail*

## ROAD TRIALS

### Redex Reliability Trials: 1953, 1954

THE FIRST TRIAL, it wasn't 'round Australia, it was a short one—6500 miles [10 465 km] ... The second one [16 900 km, in 1953] did go right 'round ... [That's] the trial that we went in, in a Plymouth, and tipped it over near Cloncurry. Got in an up-jump—they're ditches in the road, big deep ones and they've got no signs on them or anything. You just go down-up-down—three in a row—one after the other. Today if you made a road like that, they'd give you 10 years in jail ... In the night-time, your lights ... shone straight over the top, and you'd come along at 40 miles [65 km] an hour and the car would do a front somersault, you'd drop down at the front and your bumper bar would dig in ... and you tipped over ...

[York Motors in Sydney] gave us a Plymouth ... a good car, a beauty ... So we reinforced the springs, put in a heavier clutch-plate, went from a 9-inch to an 11-inch clutch. Special tyres we got from Dunlop ... for rough stuff and big stuff. The main thing to do with the car, we found, was clearance. If you had enough clearance, you could go anywhere ... the muffler was one of the things that you really had to watch—you had to have that right up in the chassis ... We had armourplate right under all the bottom of the motor ... over all the chassis, so if you dropped down on it you wouldn't put a hole in the sump ... You'd get industrial [fan]belts ... that would last the distance ... The water-pump, you'd

*(above)* An early motor trial in southern New South Wales  
A.C. Butcher Gundagai Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

have all that checked over. And we had a special radiator put on that car, an inch-and-a-half thicker than the standard radiator, because ... when you get near to Darwin, it gets to 115° [Fahrenheit; 42° C] that dry heat—and the oil could go like water ... You'd go into waters or creeks and you'd come up and you'd have no brakes. All you could do was keep pumping the pedal, keep drying them on-and-off ... you'd drive in second gear for mile after mile.

THE ROADS WERE MURDER ... We flipped [our car] over in an up-jump ... There was a bull standing in the middle of it. I swung to avoid the bull, and when we came out, the road turned half-left, [we] hit the bank ... and just flipped the Plymouth over on its side. The windows flew out, [my navigator] Bill flew out and the windscreen flew out and hit him on the head and gave him concussion ... and Bill was lying on the road.

I picked him up, put him against a tree—it was about half-past nine in the morning, a beautiful summer's day, and I said, 'This would be a beautiful place for a sunbake.' We moved him into the shade of the tree—it was about 120°F [49°C] ... The cars would pull up and say, 'Are you all right?' and I'd say, 'Yes,' and they'd say, 'What are you doing there?' I said, 'I'm thinking of opening up a shop' ...

[A] truck came out and got hold of the car, and drove us into Cloncurry ... That was the end of that trial.

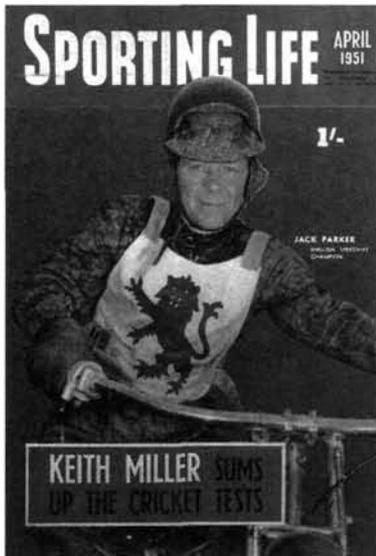
'GELIGNITE' JACK MURRAY



Jack Murray tests a trouble spot in the Flinders Ranges road in advance of the London–Sydney Marathon  
ANIB; courtesy National Archives of Australia



This cover of *The Australian Women's Weekly* for 7 July 1954 shows the *Weekly*-sponsored team for that year's Redex Reliability Trial. The crew comprised (left to right): driver, Nan Broughton; captain–navigator and journalist covering the event, Helen Frizell; and driver–mechanic, Enid Nunn. The team drove a Humber Super Snipe. 'Gelignite' Jack Murray (nicknamed for his resourceful deployment of explosives to clear road obstructions) won the 1954 event (Reproduced courtesy of *The Australian Women's Weekly*)



English speedway champion Jack Parker visits Australia in the early 1950s  
*Sporting Life*, April 1951

## MOTORCYCLES

IN THE 1920S AND 1930S motorcycle racing, and especially speedway racing (which was invented in Australia) rivaled car racing in popularity. There has been an enthusiastic following ever since.

A large array of motorcycle types, shown in various deployments, is found in MS 9213 of the National Library's Manuscript Collection. Comprising the papers of aficionado Peter Jones, the papers embrace correspondence, articles, notes, cuttings, photographs and ephemera covering all aspects of the sport—models, makes, and types of racing—along with details of clubs, and riders' biographies. Jones built the collection with the specific intention of recording motor cycle history. He wrote for magazines, and published a monograph, 'Historic Motor Cycling', in 1978. The photograph (*top right*) shows Jack Bratt of the Tasmanian Motor Cycle Club taking his SS80 Brough Superior up a grass hill climb at Bonnett Hill, south of Hobart, prior to the Second World War.

(*right*) Malaysian motorcycle road racing champion Sonny Soh on the point of overtaking Laurie Turnbull at the Calder Raceway Championships, Victoria, 1972. In 1989 the sport's Australian profile would be raised with the inaugural Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, suitably won by local rider Wayne Gardner.

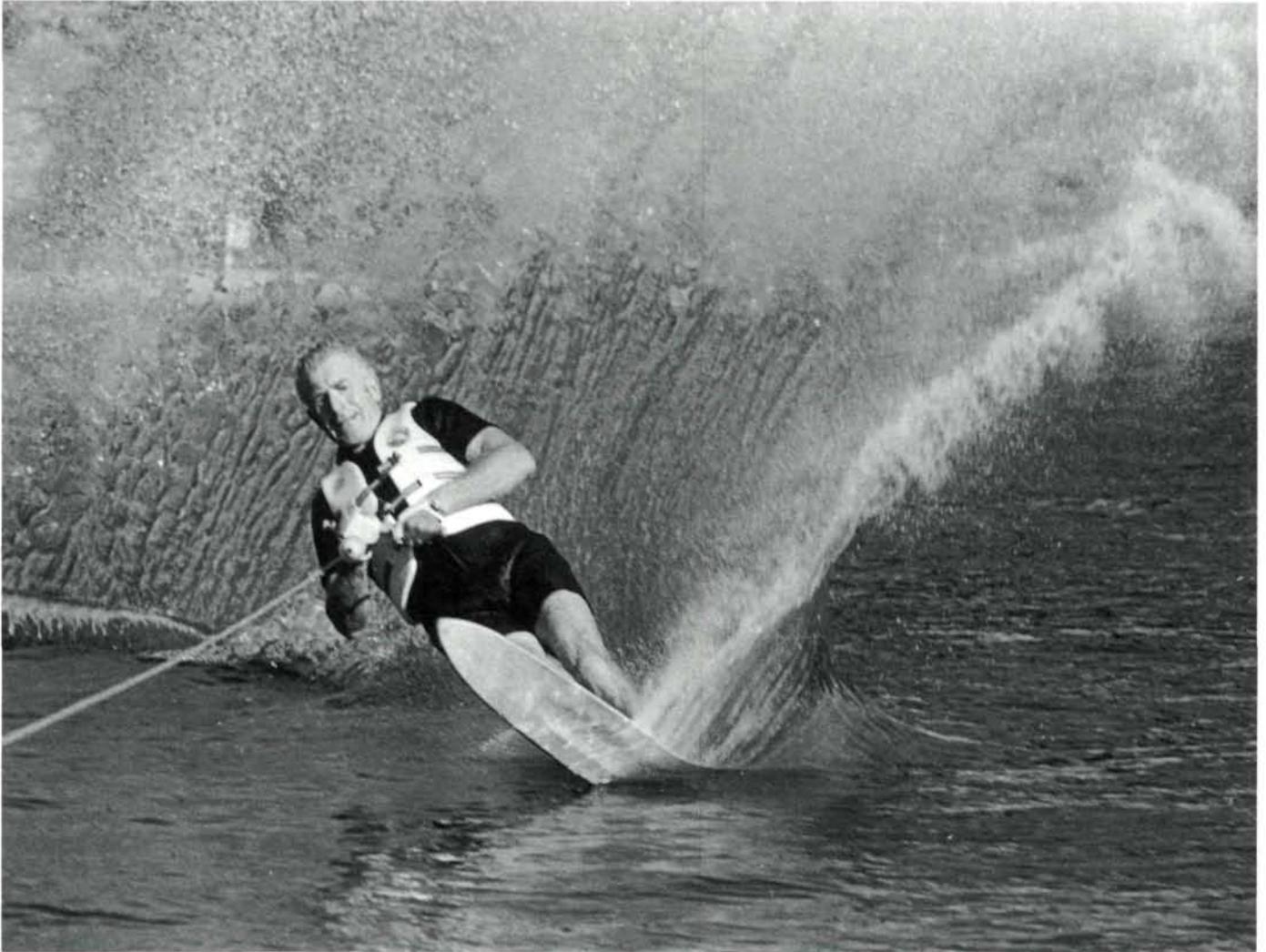


Jack Bratt aboard his Brough Superior, Bonnett Hill, Tasmania, 1930s  
Peter Jones papers; MS 9213, from the Manuscript Collection



Calder Raceway Motorcycle Championships, Victoria, 1972  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

# Making a wave



## WATERSKIING AND POWERBOATING

I BECAME INVOLVED in waterskiing. We saw it on a movie, and it looked good ... the boats and the skis and all this what-have-you. And having so much water 'round Sydney and ... long summers and all that, so we got a pair of skis out from Los Angeles—aquaglides ... and none of us could ride them ...

There were about 10 of us went down to Jervis Bay [NSW] and we all tried to get up and we couldn't, and as soon as we got up we'd fall down. We didn't wake up that you don't bend your arms, and you keep your knees bent. Anyhow, we woke up to this afterwards, and we all started to ski ...

The Hawkesbury was actually the place where waterskiing started [in Australia] ... these guys all bought boats and all started to ski about the same time ... It gradually started to get popular and there'd be 30 or 40 boats up there, skiing, so we formed an association ... And then we started to have events,

*(above)* John Wilson won the inaugural State waterskiing title in Western Australia at a speed of 105 km/h on the Swan River in 1975. Perhaps Australia's best-known exponent of the sport has been multi-winning world barefoot champion Brett Wing from the Georges River area of Sydney, who set the world's fastest time for barefoot skiing at 152.4 km/h in 1979

AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

20-mile [32 km] events: 10 mile on two skis and then ... kick one off, and ride 10 miles on one ski. Then we got big events which were sponsored by oil companies ... and Victoria started to ski then, and we had inter-club competitions.

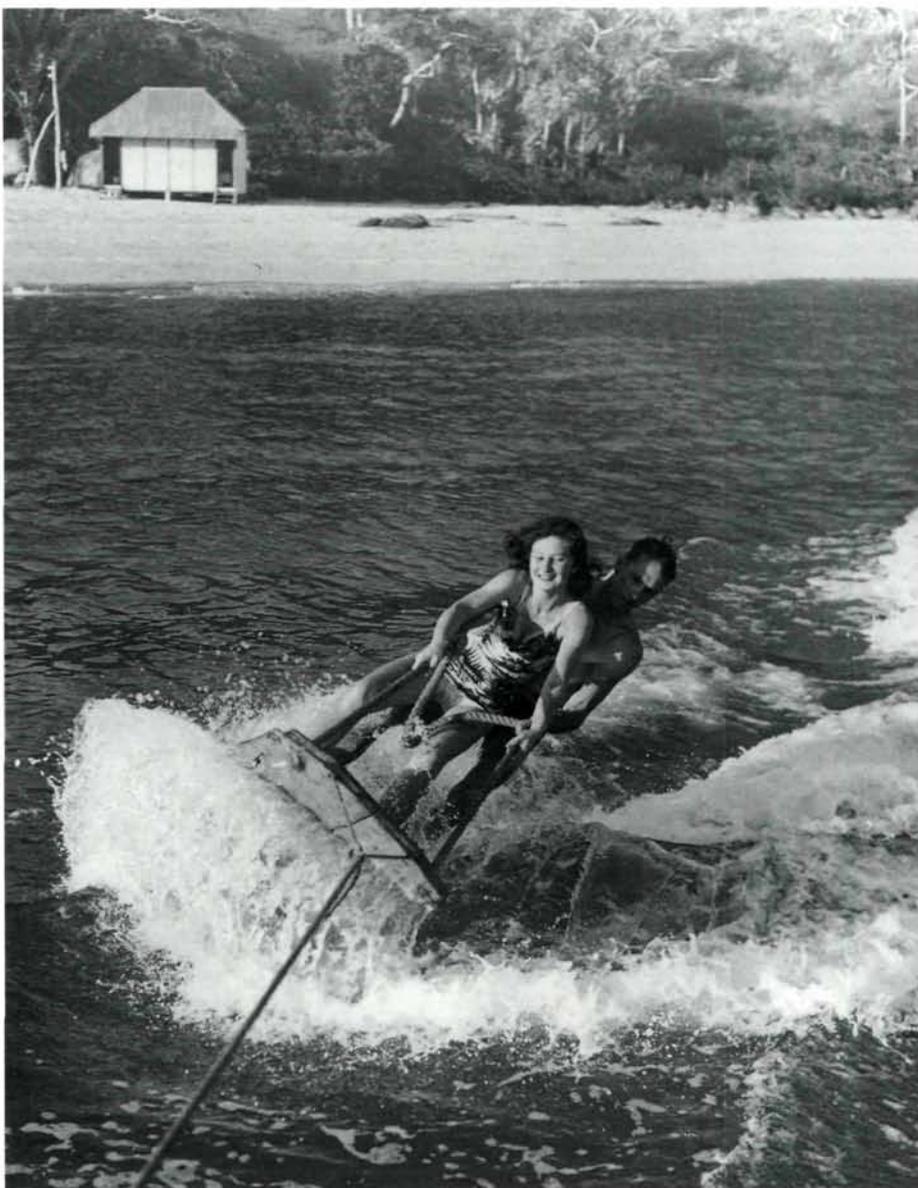
While this was going on, they would hold a bridge-to-bridge boat race ... I was sitting up there one day watching these boats go by, and I thought, 'Why don't we have a ski race—the same thing, just with skis behind the boat, same course exactly' ... So that was the first bridge-to-bridge ski race from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Hawkesbury River Bridge ... The one that was held last year was the longest and fastest ski race ever held in the world. There were 220 boats, two skiers to a boat—440 skiers—and 220 observers ... The last one was won at an average speed of 70 miles [113 km] an hour, so in places ... they were doing 100 miles [161 km] an hour on one ski.

'GELIGNITE' JACK MURRAY

*we all tried to get up and we couldn't ... We didn't wake up that you don't bend your arms, and you keep your knees bent*

*(right)* Aquaplaning in 1963. The sport began after the First World War—with boards being towed by a yacht before powerboats succeeded them. Australia has made an international impact in the sport of powerboating, dominated by the figure of Ken Warby—the Brabham of boating—holder of two world water speed records, including his breaking of the 500 km/h barrier in 'Spirit of Australia' in 1977

ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection



# On snow and ice



## KOSCIUSZKO: A case for development

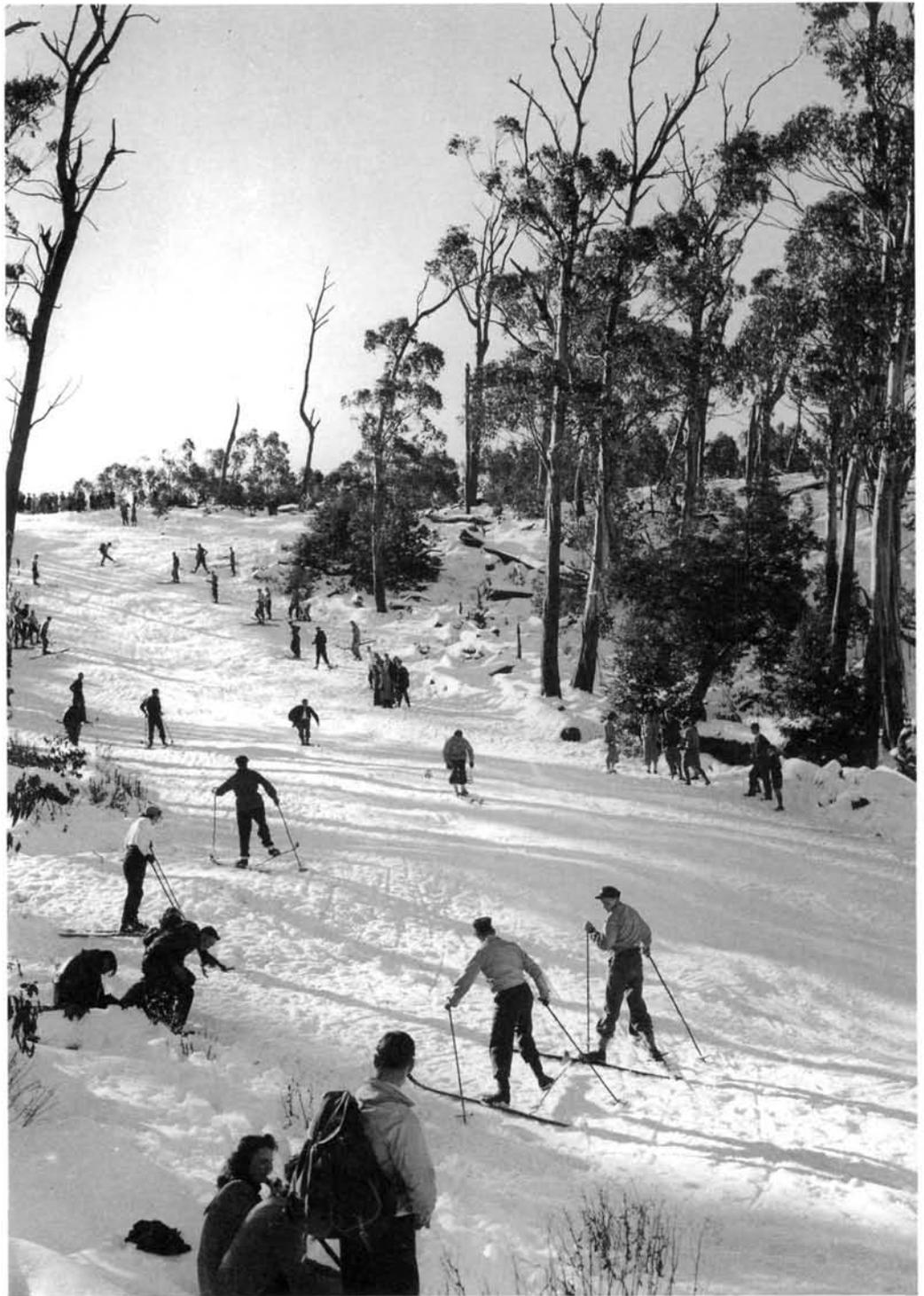
I WAS MOST IMPRESSED with Kosciuszko as a whole, and I soon found out that in fact the area of Mount Kosciuszko, stretching north-west from Kiandra, to south-east, at the place we call Dead Horse Gap, has an area of snow which is greater than the snow area of Switzerland ... In 1931, when I first visited the chalet at Kosciuszko, it was only the chalet itself and the old hotel, about 14 miles [22.5 km] further down the mountain, which was burnt down in 1950 ... The only other small ... place to live or stay overnight was some old shepherd huts, spread all over the mountains ...

I [later] decided to take a closer interest to try to develop the area generally. We approached the then Kosciuszko State Park Trust, for permission to build up in the mountains, and ... we were finally granted a site in Perisher Valley, and started building there early in 1952. At the time we were fortunate to be able to buy, in Norway ... a small tourist log cabin, which we immediately erected ... and were very greatly helped by a lot of the technical people from ... [the] Snowy Mountain Scheme ... To start with, [Telemark Lodge] was very primitive,

Women's toboggan race, Mount Kosciuszko  
E.J. Brady Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



Winter sporting fashion, as portrayed on the cover of a 1949 issue of *Home* magazine



Slope at Mount Donna Buang, east of Melbourne, 1947  
From the Pictorial Collection

it had no ablutions except for running cold water from the creek up the mountains ... Smiggins was my next step to develop, and I started there in 1956 in a small way ... We had some old Bren-gun carriers, which we converted to snow ...

Personally I was always a bit disappointed that we never got cracking on ski jumping as much as I would like to. I didn't give up myself jumping until 1952

and by that time we had quite a lot of youngsters in Australia quite keen, but somehow the Australian skier generally rather likes downhill and the slalom ...

Probably the biggest and best run for international competition is at Thredbo ... It is a magnificent slope, always very icy, because it is a sheltered area ...

The sport has recently blossomed and a lot of the Australian skiers today are in standard compar[able] with a lot of international stars ... Lately ... the cross-country running has come very strongly into the fore ... [Today] I can look back over young children whom I sometimes taught to ski up in the mountains, and all I can say is that Australians generally are very good sports.

SVERRE KAATEN



Spencers Creek, NSW  
From the Pictorial Collection



Mount Hotham, Victoria, 1940  
John Ryland papers; Manuscript Collection  
From the Pictorial Collection

UNLIKELY AS IT MIGHT SEEM, Australia has helped pioneer skiing as a world sport. Norwegian goldminers introduced fellow diggers to the activity at Kiandra, NSW, from around 1860, and Kiandra's ski club (formed as the Kiandra Snow Shoe Club in 1878) is one of the world's oldest. Chalets were built at Mount Buffalo (Victoria) and Kosciuszko (NSW) by 1910, with ski tows appearing at both resorts prior to the Second World War. In NSW, the first cross-country run was made from Kiandra to Kosciuszko in 1927. Intense development, boosted by the arrival of European migrants with snowsports backgrounds, has occurred in the post-war years.

(top) Heading cross-country at Spencers Creek, NSW, named for the family who held snow leases on the Main Range in the nineteenth century. Nearby Charlotte Pass was, like the old Hotel Kosciuszko (now Sponars Chalet), built by the State government to encourage sport and tourism in the region. (left) Down-hill skiing at Mount Hotham, Victoria, 1940—also favoured for good trout fishing.

# Boards, sand, togs and flags



*I picked up a battered long board ... took it home, repaired it ... and I started surfing*

(above) A big board at Manly, NSW, c.1950. On this same beach where local newspaper editor William Gocher had won the battle for daylight bathing half-a-century earlier, future world champion Bernard 'Midget' Farrelly first learned to ride on just such a storm-battered board in the late 1950s

Photograph by Ray Lenton  
From the Pictorial Collection

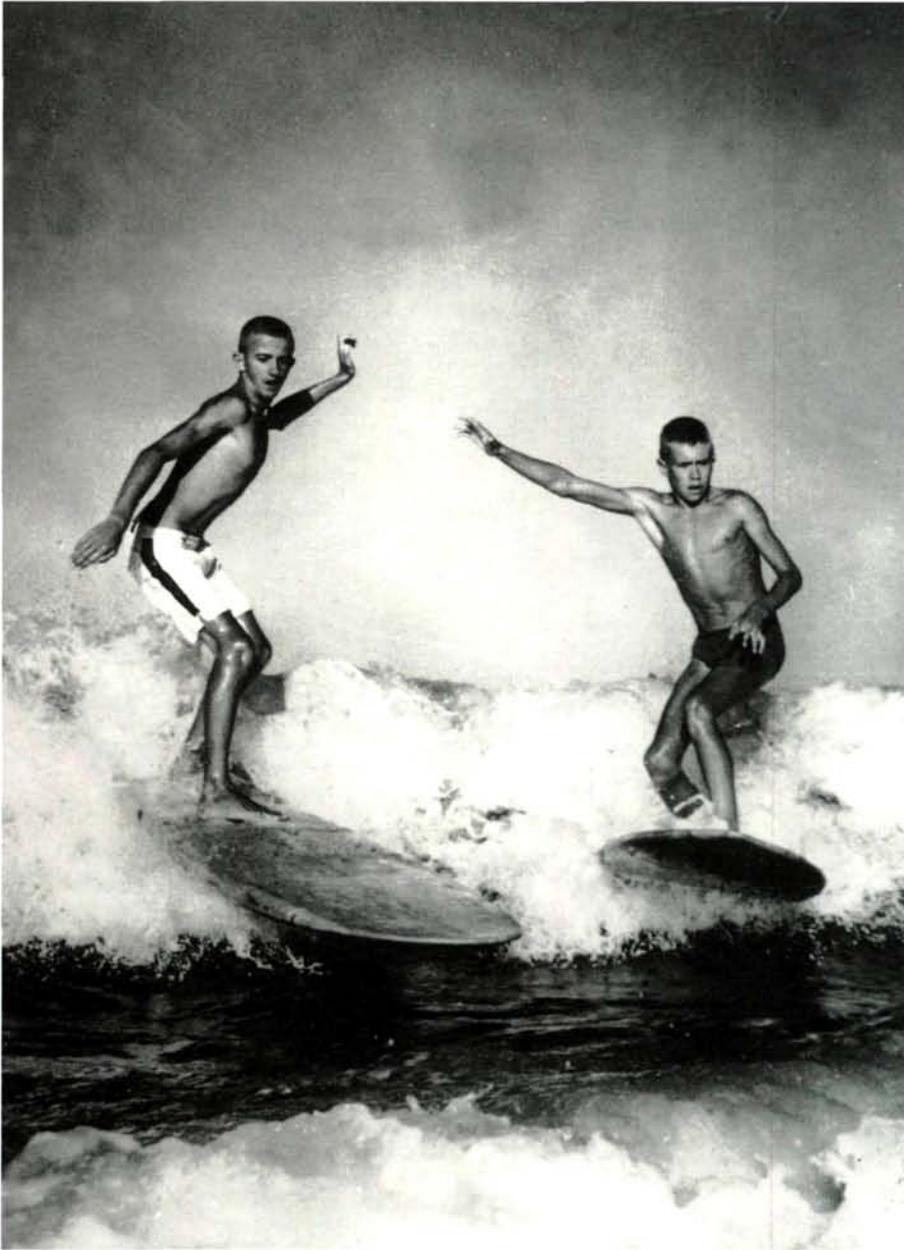
## STARTING OUT: Bernard 'Midget' Farrelly

I WAS LIVING AT MANLY, round about 1955 or 1956, less than 100 yards or so from the beach ... During one of the many storms that occurred through the winter months ... surfboards would get washed out of the area underneath the surf club where they were stacked ... I picked up a battered long board, it was about 18 feet [5.5 m] [and] discovered that it either had no owner or the owner no longer wanted it ... I took it home, repaired it, got a set of wheels for wheeling it down to the surf, and I started surfing.

I rode those sort of [hollow, plywood] boards for the next couple of years ... until I saw a visiting Hawaiian Olympic team come to Manly on short balsa boards ... 10, 11-foot [3.3 m] balsa boards covered with fibreglass ... it was the '56 Olympics ...

Surfing hadn't even begun other than in the surf clubs ... Around about '58 or '59 ... I [became] a member of the Freshwater Surf Club. At that stage balsa boards ... around about 10-feet [3 m] in length, were well and truly established ...

I BOUGHT A Balsa BOARD KIT ... and built my first board while I was living in South Curl Curl ... around about 1958 or '59 ... [Roger Kieran, at Beacon Hill, NSW, came] up with production balsa boards ... with the removable fin, and



'Grommets' (junior riders) at play on Sydney's Tamarama Beach in the 1960s  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

*there were two major influences in getting Australian surfing going ... (1) was Bud Brown's surfing movies. And (2) was the first two or three issues of the American Surfer magazine ... a collection of stills and written material giving more depth to that sport and lifestyle. It was this strengthening of the sport and the lifestyle that ultimately led surfers away from the surf club*

BERNARD 'MIDGET' FARRELLY

fin-box system ... Roger sort of fiddled with anything-and-everything that looked like it might work ... Some of the better [boardmakers] were Joe Larkin, who did cedar and ash, Bill Wallace, who did Pacific maple and ash and some other nice wood versions, Gordon Woods, Barry Bennett—and at that stage I think Greg McDonagh was probably fooling around with polystyrene, trying to do in polystyrene and epoxy what the Hawaiians had done in balsa and fibreglass ...

I started building surfboards completely on my own in 1964, up at Palm Beach, in a boatshed.

BERNARD 'MIDGET' FARRELLY



*it took a while for ... people to realise that an Australian had actually won something ... the newspapers made a small sensation out of it*

(above) 'Midget' Farrelly, World Surfboard Champion. Farrelly had won the Makaha Hawaiian Championship in 1963, prior to the first World Amateur Titles held at Manly Beach, Sydney (above), in 1964. He competed successfully until 1970. His lively, graceful style is often contrasted to fellow rider Nat Young's high-speed, more aggressive attack, which saw the latter take out the World Title at Ocean Beach in San Diego in 1966, as well as the 1970 World Pro Championship. Together, Farrelly and Young paved the way for later riders such as Mark Richards (four times World Champion, 1979–82), Tom Carroll and Pam Burridge, in a sport in which Australia would seem destined to remain a major player  
ANIB; courtesy National Archives of Australia

## WINNING MAKAHA—AND AFTER

I ENTERED THE [1962] MAKAHA CONTEST and most of the other Australians were eliminated ... And it came down to the final day, where the surf was relatively small ... The waves were around six feet [1.83 m] maximum, averaging about four feet, and I happened to come further inside ... I sort of cut the course in half, so to speak ... I just moved inside and caught more rise in a wave that came along ...

There happened to be three Californian judges on the stand at the time ... The fact that they appreciated small waves ... combined with the fact that I had an ability to ride small waves, probably made the result come out the way it did ... The uproar caused by a non-Hawaiian winning that event was completely unbelievable ... The newspapers in Honolulu at that time carried [such] headlines ... as 'Hawaiian Surfing Prestige Wiped Out.' I actually had the odd Hawaiian chasing me ...

I came back to Australia after the Makaha contest and the event had sort of caused a small ripple here, but it sort of ... grew ... Australia was a very different country then ... [which] looked down on itself, but got pride out of any winning that any individuals or teams could achieve. So it took a while for ... people to realise that an Australian had actually won something ... and the newspapers made a small sensation out of it. And ironically about that time the popularity of surfing as something other than a sport—surfing as a sub-culture or a lifestyle—took off.

The Californian experience [was] that once you had this formula of beach, waves, music, clothes, cars, language—you had an explosive sort of situation. And the same thing occurred here ... it just took off.

BERNARD 'MIDGET' FARRELLY



March-past at a carnival  
From the Pictorial Collection

## FROM SURF CLUBS TO SURFABOUT

SURF CLUBS WERE FAIRLY REGIMENTED in their beach sport. [Lifesavers] marched in a line, they carried reels in a line, they carried flags in a line, they'd pull a boat down the beach in a disciplined way—and surfers were the opposite. They were nonconformists, and they surfed when the waves were good, and they were doing it as individuals, not as teams, and the surf clubs saw themselves threatened ...

They tried banning [surfboard riding] at beaches, they tried registering boards. Surfers were branded as dangerous in and out of the water: 'louts, hooligans' ... trying to hit people with their boards ... I think the most disgusting incident I saw was local councils registering surfboards in the belief that they could control them on behalf of the surf clubs and protect the public, when in actual fact it was a revenue-raising exercise which ultimately became self-defeating ... People refused to register their surfboards ... Today, surfers still prize the old registration stickers—just, you know, to show young people what the councils and the surf clubs of the time had in mind ... and how people were actually so afraid of surfing ...

The sport at that time had sort of enjoyed a kind of a strong, relatively healthy image. We had ... gone through the 'surfer/rocker war' newspaper sensationalism period ... But it was to change fairly dramatically. Round about the time of Flower Power and LSD and the San Francisco experience, there was a ... major influence brought to bear ... by people who were attempting to establish themselves as gurus of the sport ... Anybody who doubts [this] should go and see *The Fantastic, Plastic Machine*, because everything that ever went wrong with surfing is captured in that movie ... at one stage it was said that

*surf clubs were fairly regimented in their beach sport. [Lifesavers] marched in a line ... they'd pull a boat down the beach in a disciplined way ... and surfers were the opposite. They were nonconformists*

(below) This story, from the Melbourne Herald of 10 March 1972, reflects on the changing image of the 'surfie'—whose ranks were now beginning to incorporate such eminent professionals as doctors, lawyers and accountants. A few years earlier, the counter-culture 'soul-surfers' (caricatured by the surfing pig, Captain Goodvibes, of *Tracks* magazine) had waged war on what they, in turn, had seen as the 'conservative' and 'totalitarian' beach tradition of the surf life saving clubs

From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

The Victorian surfboard riding championships are at Bells Beach this weekend. Students and professional men will be among the competitors.

# Surfies dump their shaggy image

By KEN DAVIS

Surfies aren't beach bums. They are, accountants, lawyers, doctors salesmen and university students.

Some of the competitors in the Victorian board riding championships at Bells Beach this weekend are, anyway.

Ray Thomas (left) and Alan Atkins (above) are two of the favorites for the Victorian surfboard championship.

Rod Brooks, one of the best of them, defended their image today.

ROD BROOKS

*it was said that if you weren't  
into dope you didn't know  
what you were doing in the  
waves ... that period is  
quite nonsensical*

*(below)* Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion, built 1936. The first surf club started at Bondi in 1906. Club bans against women in life saving were lifted in the 1980s, when Wollongong Council employed the nation's first woman professional lifeguard, Maryanne Spiers. Women subsequently went on to compete in their own 'iron man' style events.

if you weren't into dope you didn't know what you were doing in the waves ... Anybody young in surfing was automatically pressured to get into dope as well ... The end results were relatively catastrophic, and the history of surfing is quite perverted through that period, and much of the material written about surfing during that period is quite nonsensical.

Meanwhile, in the background, surfing was still sort of clicking away as the ... natural sport it always was and always will be—a wave, a surfboard and a human—and the world contests were still being run, and luckily the dope culture began to separate out [from it] ...

Much was made of the so-called birth of the modern style of surfing through 1966 onwards, but in reality it was a fabrication by a small group of individuals seeking to exert influence over ... the sport at the time ... All of the theories proposed ultimately fell by the wayside in competition ...

So, as surfing got into the seventies, a lot of the young guys who didn't like dope sub-culture lifestyle nonsense ... said, 'Well, this is not what we want. We want surfing as the sport we've always loved ... and we want to turn it into a ... fairly honourable thing again, and we'd like to maybe make a living doing it.' And through the efforts of people like Mark Warren ... like Graham Cassidy and the people that helped him, surfers of that period wanted to recapture the feeling of the early '60s, when surfing was a sort of vibrant, exciting sport—healthy ... a rewarding, just-to-be-in-it sort of thing.

And through the establishment of the Surfabout Contest ... surfing was sort of re-born in the public's image, and the professionalism that evolved ... has ... continued since that time.

BERNARD 'MIDGET' FARRELLY



Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club Pavilion, 1994  
Photograph by Angela Lynkushka  
silver gelatin photograph; 25.3 x 20.2 cm  
Regional Cities and Major Towns Project; from the Pictorial Collection

## DESIGNING BOARDS

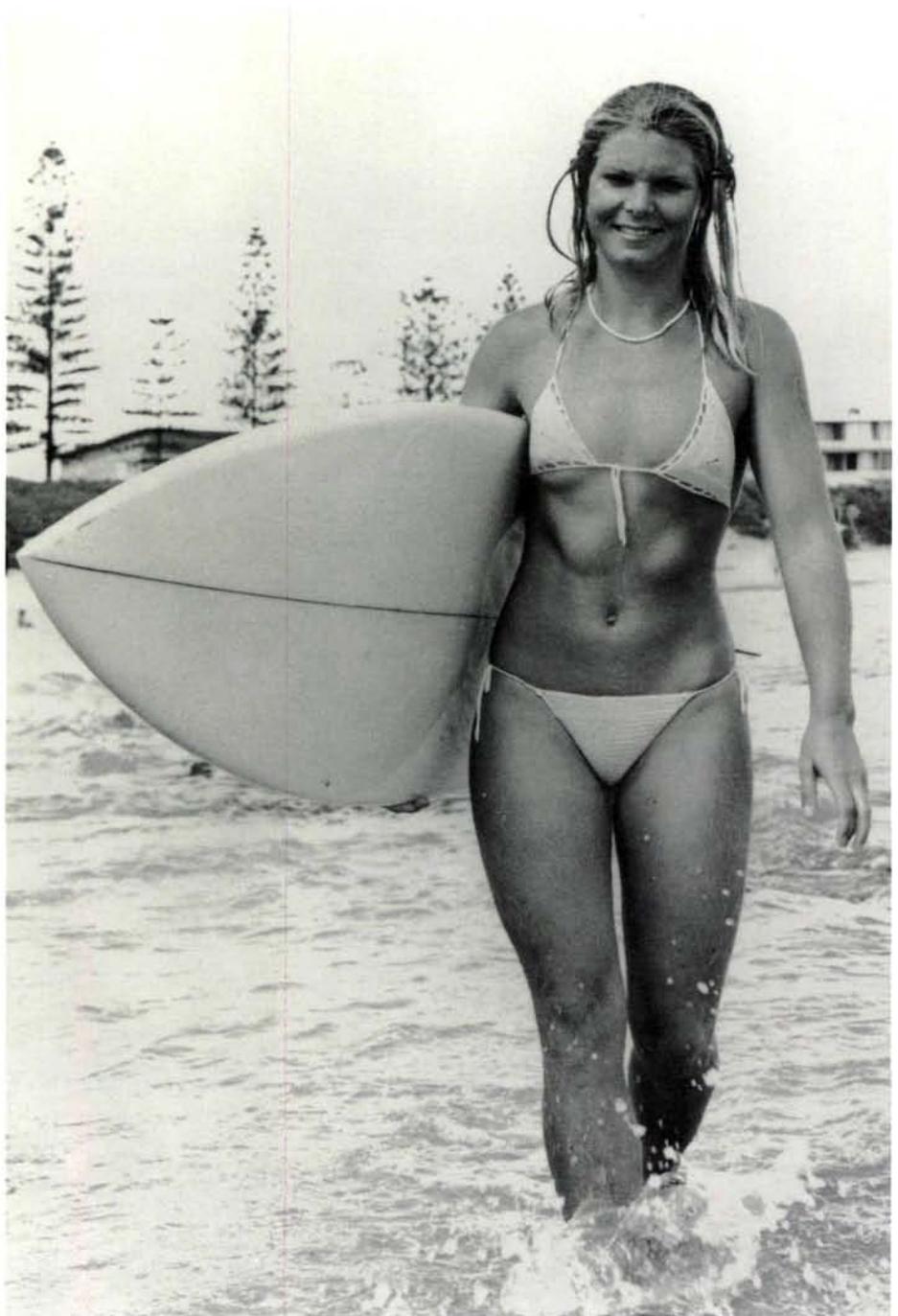
[DUKE KAHANAMOKU] used a heavy, solid wood board here all those years ago. I've ... seen that board many times; it's not a board I'd like to ride. The hollow racing-style surf club boards which could still wave ride were made very light, but basically only men were supposed to use them. They were 14, 16, 18-feet [4.27–5.5 m] long ...

Balsa boards that are around 10-feet [3 m] were the breakthrough. A girl could carry one of those—and that's when the possibilities of all people surfing really arose ... By the time the urethane foam boards came along, the weight of a surfboard had been reduced, say, from the early days from ... 100 pounds [45 kg] down to something like 15 pounds [seven kg] and less.

And many people experimented with shape and construction—and not all of the changes that occurred can be credited to any single individual. It was mostly a 'suck-and-see' approach all the way down the line ...

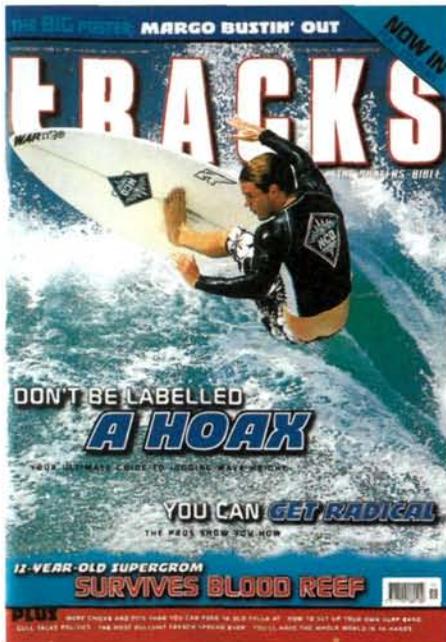
As surfboards supposedly progressed and got smaller and smaller, more fins were attached—basically ... for mobility of the wave. Like dancing, surfing changed. It appeared to be simple at first and then it became complex and then it became specialised—'til today the modern surfboard can only be ridden by a very light person or a very athletic person, and the surfboard manufacturing industry has actually painted itself into a corner which it is now desperately trying to get out of, because there aren't enough small, light, physically-aggressive people to buy them.

So we went from single fins, to twins, to tris, to quads to—I even have a five-fin that works nicely on bigger waves ... It's actually the balance of the board on the wave that counts,



The evolution of surfing stock, from Duke Kahanamoku's pioneering but backbreaking 1915 sugar pine board (still housed in honour in Sydney's Freshwater Surf Club) to the lighter, latter-day boards, opened the possibility of surfing for everyone. Here (above) Australian Women's Champion Leith Temple of Brisbane takes to the waves in 1979. Subsequent notable women surfers have included World Champion Pam Burridge, Pauline Menczer and Wendy Botha AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

*many people experimented  
with shape and construction  
... It was mostly a 'suck-and-  
see' approach all ...  
down the line*



Australia's *Tracks* magazine, founded in the early 1970s, gave a higher profile to local surfing (Courtesy EMAP/Mason Stewart Publishing) From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

(*opposite page*) The art of body surfing or shooting the breakers was introduced to Australia during the 1880s by Tommy Tanna, a New Hebridean living at Manly, NSW. He taught the technique to another local boy, Freddie Williams, and the art eventually spread nationwide.

and single-fin balance doesn't compare with the twin-fin balance ... and a penta-fin doesn't compare. It's all a balance that can be achieved by reducing the size of each fin and its position on the board, and it is the rider who sort of understands this best.

When the board is locked into a wave by one fin, it has that feeling of being locked in. When a board is held onto the wave face by a variety of small fins, it is only barely held onto the wave face, so the board is actually skating around ... a more fluid, spontaneous, creative style of surfing is achieved ... quite delightful for the eye to watch ...

The good thing about the phase that surfing is going into now is that the variety of surfing equipment is so broad and so interesting ... everybody has a son or a daughter who surfs ... We are achieving a sort of physical fitness through the sport having arrived at its present stage, from those first visits by the Duke ... it has ... fitted into everyday Australian life.

I THINK THAT ANY SURFING BREAK is ideal, provided that you can get what you want out of it. I learnt to ride in bad waves, because I sharpened my reflexes in bad waves. When I had to learn to ride big waves I had to go to Hawaii. When I had to learn to ride long, easy, soft, gentle waves I went to Queensland. But I don't have any preference—I think variety is the important thing. Likewise ... with your surfing stock—you have to keep changing to stay interested ...

If I was going to teach somebody to surf, basically all I would say to them is: 'Well, there is the wave. This is the board that suits that wave—and you, all you have to do, is get what you want out of that wave. If you only want to ride it laying down, then do that ... If you want to become a high-performance, professional-style competitor, you've got to work hard at a great variety of manoeuvres and become a total athlete.'

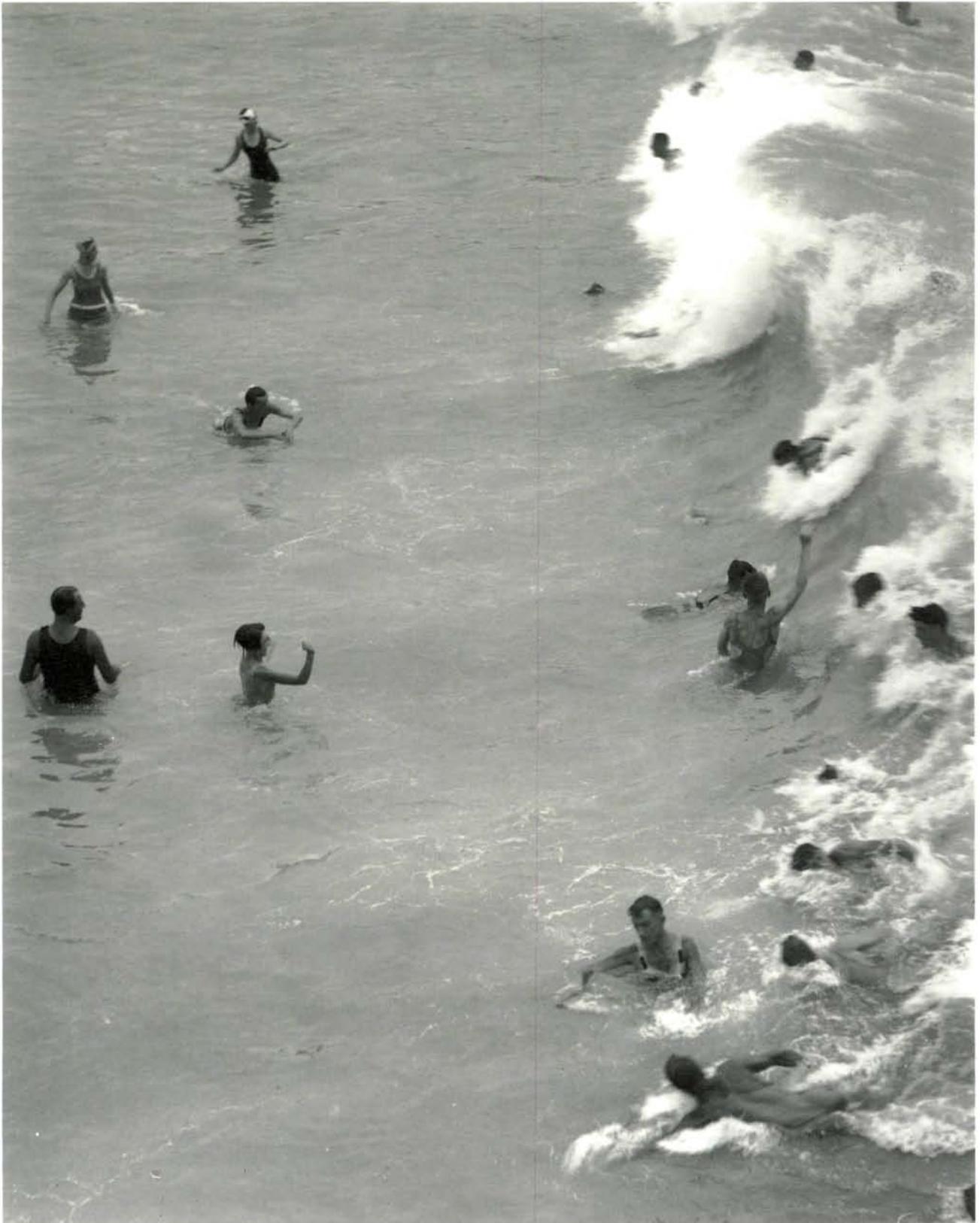
BERNARD 'MIDGET' FARRELLY

## SHOOTING A WAVE

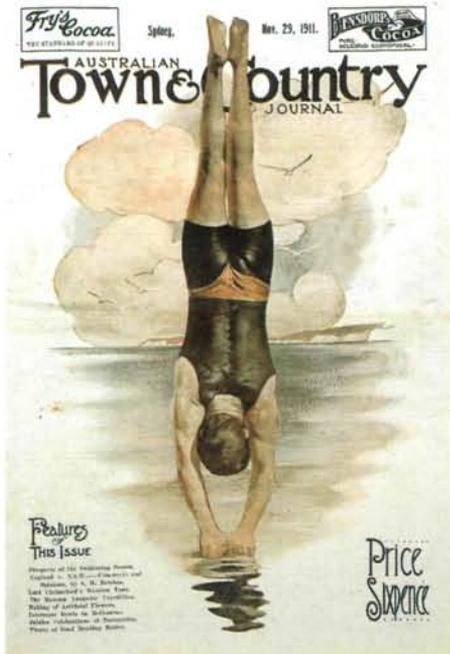
*I can shoot any wave ... That's how I broke all my teeth. When I was 17 ... I got a shoot one day with all the boys and I got in and ... the last 10 or 12 yards, you start to kick your foot hard, to fit your head down, to get in to the shore. And I ran into an old policeman's stomach and I broke all my top teeth, right across ... He had a big fat stomach and the impact broke my teeth. Well, in those days ... there was just no fixing them.*

*I just had to go and get them all out*

ALICE FERGUSON



Harold Cazneaux (1878–1953)  
*Swimmers in the Surf*, c.1930  
Cazneaux Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



Australian Town & Country Journal,  
November 1911  
From the Newspaper and Microform Collection

(above) Men's attire, as portrayed on a 1911 cover of the *Australian Town & Country Journal*. This same issue celebrates the opening of the swimming season, reporting that the recent boom in surfing had not, as some had predicted, led to the desertion of Sydney's swimming pools or a decreased interest in 'natation', but in fact the reverse: the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association was teaching hordes of school children to swim. (top right) Swimming attire as exhibited by a party at Melbourne's Brighton Beach, c.1925. (right) The Jantzen girl takes a plunge in a fashionable red number with matching cap and stockings. Wool and stockinet gave way to silk, and then to cotton, nylon elastane and polyester.



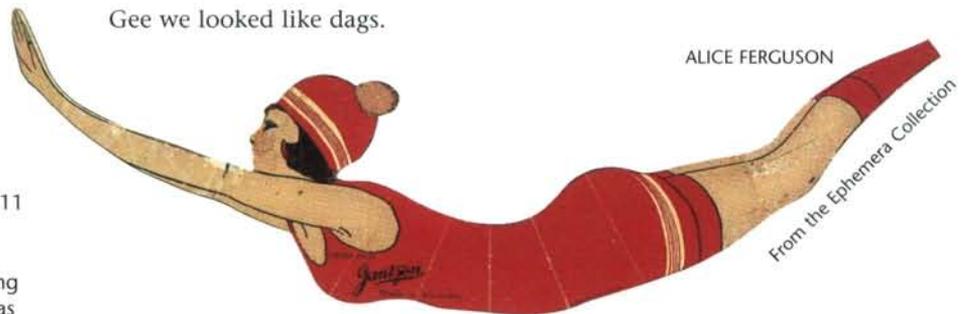
Brighton Beach, Melbourne, c.1925  
From the Pictorial Collection

## SWIMMING COSTUMES 'Gee we looked dags'

WE WORE, NOT NECK-TO-KNEE—but halfway up the thigh, in a pretty blue—blue-and-gold were our colours, and two bands ... of the yellow around the bottom, and a little bit around the neck, and of course any cap that we could put on our heads to make our uniform up ...

[The suits] were woollen, real wool ... they were actually heavy, but a lot of them—I've got a lot of photos—one wished to wear a little belt around them, about half-an-inch wide ...

Gee we looked like dags.



## 'Go back, Go back!'

BY THIS TIME ... WE WERE WEARING SPEEDOS, and ... the first Speedo I had was silk, and I can remember going into the water in it in Elwood [Vic.], and standing up, and my sister singing out to me from the sand, 'Go back, Go back!' ...

She came running out with a towel—because the silk, you could see right through it ... and they had lights on the beach, and this was at night, I remember. But then came the cotton Speedos ...

PAT JARRETT

## ON THE SAND

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY the concept of mixed bathing had met with some difficulties. In 1912 the Presbyterian Church's Reverend W. Goyen had warned bathers to avoid 'promiscuous hoodlums' gathering on some beaches, though he condoned the joint bathing of families or good friends. Archbishop Carr of Melbourne considered that mixed bathing showed contempt for women's modesty, and brutalised men. Many decades later, in 1961, bikini-wearing women were still being fined for 'unsuitable dress' on Sydney's Bondi Beach. Within another decade or two, many local councils around Australia would be officially designating beaches for nude bathing.

Among a wide array of Harold Cazneaux photographic subjects held by the National Library is a Sydney beach series, some images of which had illustrated a 1929 publication, *Sydney Surfing*, by Jean Curlewis. Here (left) pre-sunblock bathers sprawl a tad less cautiously than their descendants today. (below) The surf wheel, one of many devices—ranging from rubber rings, to more latter-day sailboards, dune buggies and jet skis—contrived for frolicking on sand or in surf.



Harold Cazneaux (1878–1953)

*Sun-slain*, c.1930

Cazneaux Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



Harold Cazneaux (1878–1953)

*Surf Wheel (or The Take-Off)*, Sydney, c.1931  
photograph; 23.4 x 20.8 cm

Cazneaux Family Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

# In the pool



## MINA WYLIE: At the 1912 Olympics

*when the Australian flag  
went up for 1 and 2 ...  
Australia sort of took the  
credit, for which they really  
weren't due*

WHEN WE WENT TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN 1912, the men ... didn't think it was right that women should be sent ... After a long fight with them, we were given permission to go, and both Fanny [Durack] and myself went to Stockholm at our own expense. And when the Australian flag went up for 1 and 2 in Stockholm, of course Australia sort of took the credit, for which they really weren't due ...

There was a relay race for women, but on account of there only being two [of us] from Australia, we couldn't take part ... [Fanny and I] wanted to swim twice, but they wouldn't let us do that, that's against the rules ...

*(above)* Swimming star Shane Gould, who in a brief but blistering career as Australia's youngest Olympic medallist (15 years and 9 months) took three gold medals in world record time, plus a silver and bronze for good measure, at the 1972 Munich Games  
From the Pictorial Collection

And we swam the 100 metres there without any lanes, like swimming in the harbour, just a course marked off ... couldn't see the bottom of the pool at all, they didn't even have ropes ... We had to swim and go straight, which [would be]

something novel to these people [today]. They wouldn't know where they were at, would they? ...

After that, we came back and Fanny predominated for about four years, I think, ahead of me. But anyway I finally ... beat her at the old Domain Baths in Sydney. After that, she retired ... I went on swimming. I held every world's record for breaststroke, backstroke, freestyle, for every style of swimming for a consecutive 20 years afterwards ...

[AFTER THE 1912 GAMES] we went from Stockholm down to Germany, we swam in Hamburg and we beat all the competitors in Hamburg. I swam breaststroke and Fanny swam freestyle ... Then we came to England and swam at the Bath Club in London, that's where Royalty all swim, and we each gave only exhibition swimming there ... Then Fanny came back to Australia, and I went across to Ireland, and there wasn't a man in Ireland at that time could beat me. It was just arranged verbally and the house was absolutely packed ... it was some turnout for Ireland ...

[FANNY DURACK AND I] were both invited, VIPs, to the [1956] Games in Melbourne—we didn't do any swimming, of course. We were watching the other people do the work for a change ... they were very good to us down there ...

I was [recently] invited to the Hall of Fame in Florida ... and they presented me with a swimmer's gift:

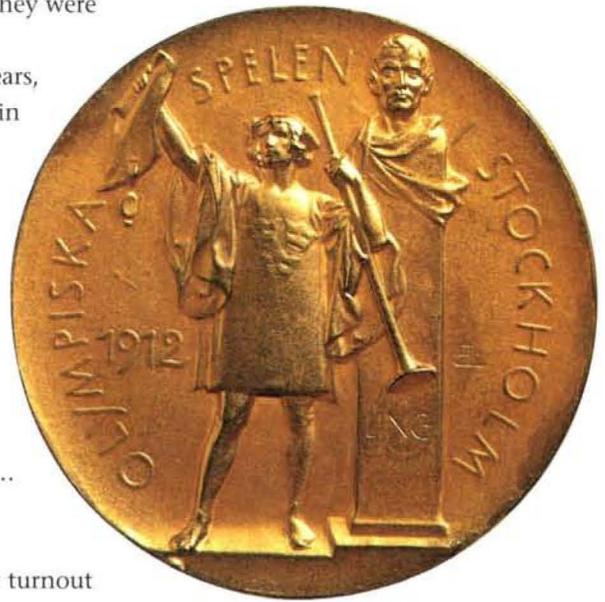
Swimming. Mina Wylie. In recognition of her nomination and unanimous election to the Swimming Hall of Fame, where her world-recognised achievements attendant to swimming immortality shall be permanently enshrined. Presented 16 May 1975 from 8000 of her swimming peers ...

Signed by the President, E. Morgan.  
[That plaque's] unbreakable, too,  
supposed to be ...

MINA WYLIE

*I retired in 1924, undefeated  
Champion of Australia ...  
that's a good effort, isn't it?  
Don't you reckon?*

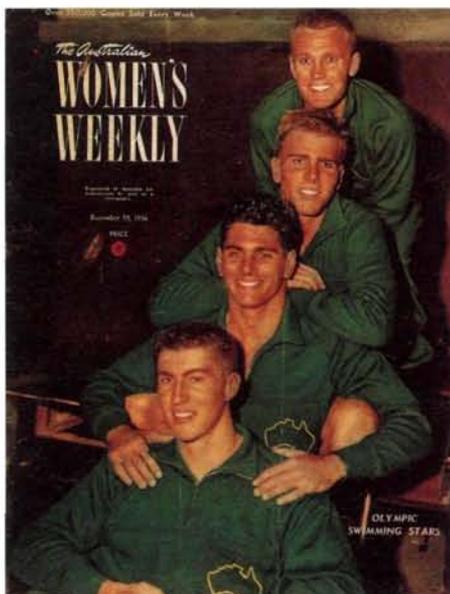
MINA WYLIE



Sarah ('Fanny') Durack's gold medal for women's 100-m freestyle at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. One of many items of realia in the Library's collections gold medallion; 3.3 cm in diameter

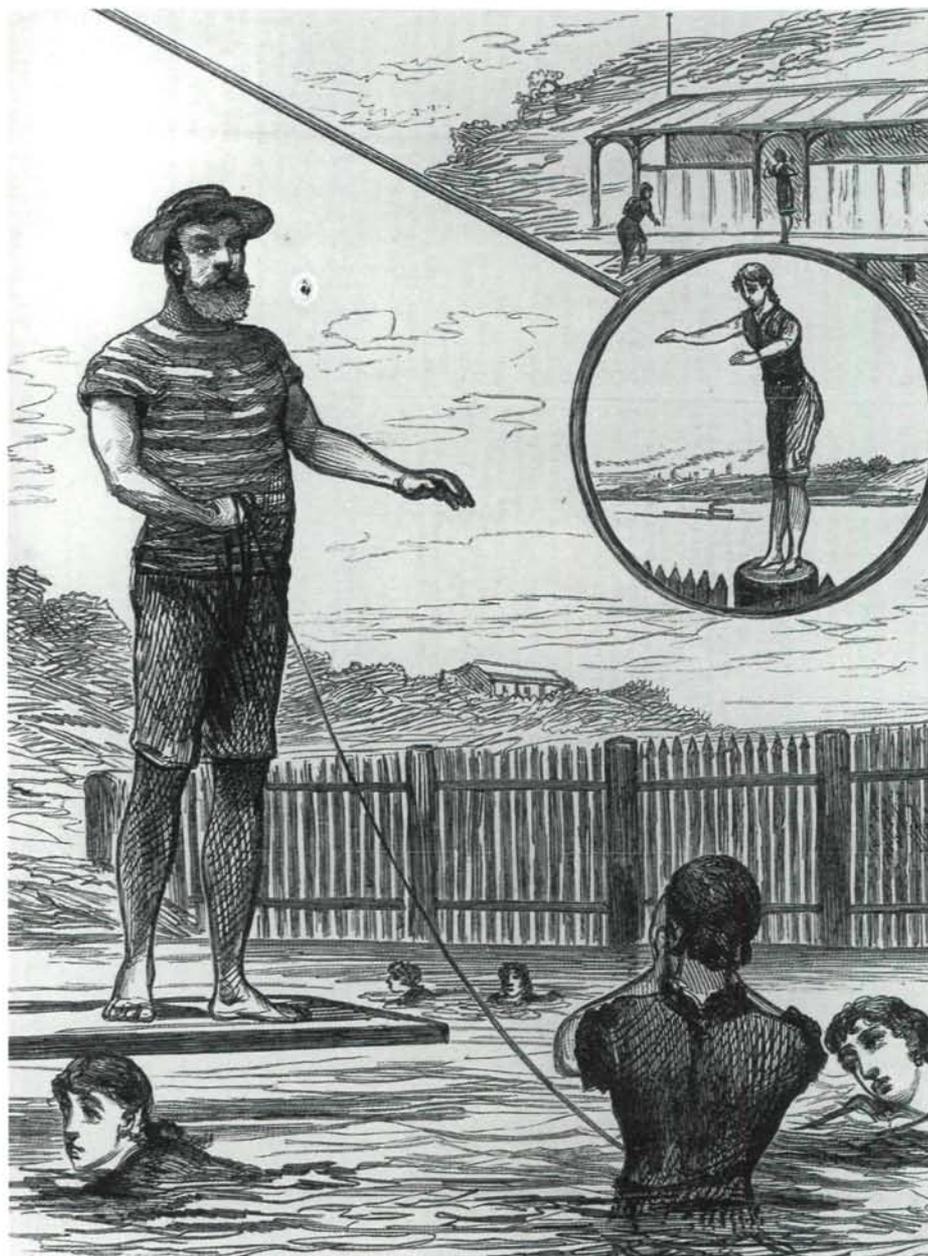
*I still go swimming ... You do  
just as much as you feel  
like—you don't go doing  
miles a day, you just do, say,  
a few laps of the pool and  
get out and have a sunbake  
... There's nothing I enjoy  
better than having a swim on  
a nice day. I still enjoy it,  
I really do*

MINA WYLIE



Victory smiles of Australian men's team at the 1956 Olympics. (from top) Jon Henricks, Murray Rose, John Devitt and Kevin O'Halloran, winners of the 4 x 200 m relay in the world and Olympic record time of 8 minutes 23.6 seconds (*The Australian Womens' Weekly*, 19 December 1956)

(right) 'Professor' Fred Cavill's Ladies Swimming Class, Lavender Bay, Sydney Harbour, as portrayed in the *Australasian Sketcher* of 28 January 1882. Cavill had swum the English Channel from Dover to Calais in 1877, two years before migrating to Australia. He later opened a natatorium near the Botanic Gardens. The 'professor' sired a dynasty of great swimmers and swimming teachers, including Arthur Cavill, credited with inventing the Australian crawl  
From the Pictorial Collection



## LEARNING TO SWIM

### Wylie's Baths, Coogee

MY FATHER WENT into the baths business at Bronte ... that's where I learnt to swim ... we used to go to a lot of the men's carnivals as children, and give exhibitions of 'fancy swimming'—which we called 'rolling logs', 'submarine', 'under-water swimming' and 'streamers' and 'stars'... I used to swim at five years of age with my hands and feet tied, 25 yards ... This started 'synchronised swimming' as it is called today ...

My father ... saw great opportunities of starting mix[ed] bathing, and he was the first man in Australia to have what they called 'dual bathing' ... They called it 'Continental', afterwards. He built the pool known as Wylie's Baths at Coogee,

[Sydney, NSW] which [still] stands, although we sold them years ago. After 50 years of business we sold the whole property, and we're all retired.

MINA WYLIE

### A lesson with Frank Beaurepaire

FRANK BEAUREPAIRE ... an Olympic champion [winning silver and bronze medals in each of the 1908, 1920 and 1924 Games] ... used to watch me at the Middle Park Surf Club [Vic.], and he said, '... swim in the shallow water and let you hands touch the bottom, [and] you'll get your style right—and then one day you'll go out into deep water and you'll be able to swim.'

Well now, that's exactly what happened. I used to go along in the shallows, ploughing my way through ... but I was touching the bottom all the way! But then [one] day ... I can remember the joy of suddenly being out in deep water, and being able to swim. And not ... feeling the bottom, but realising that I was going along at quite a rate ...

[There was] no such thing as special coaching in those days ... I once swam in the three-mile Yarra swim ... The only training I did ... was running up and down the beach in the sand, to harden up my legs. But these days, if you were training for a three-mile swim, you'd be doing all sorts of things ...

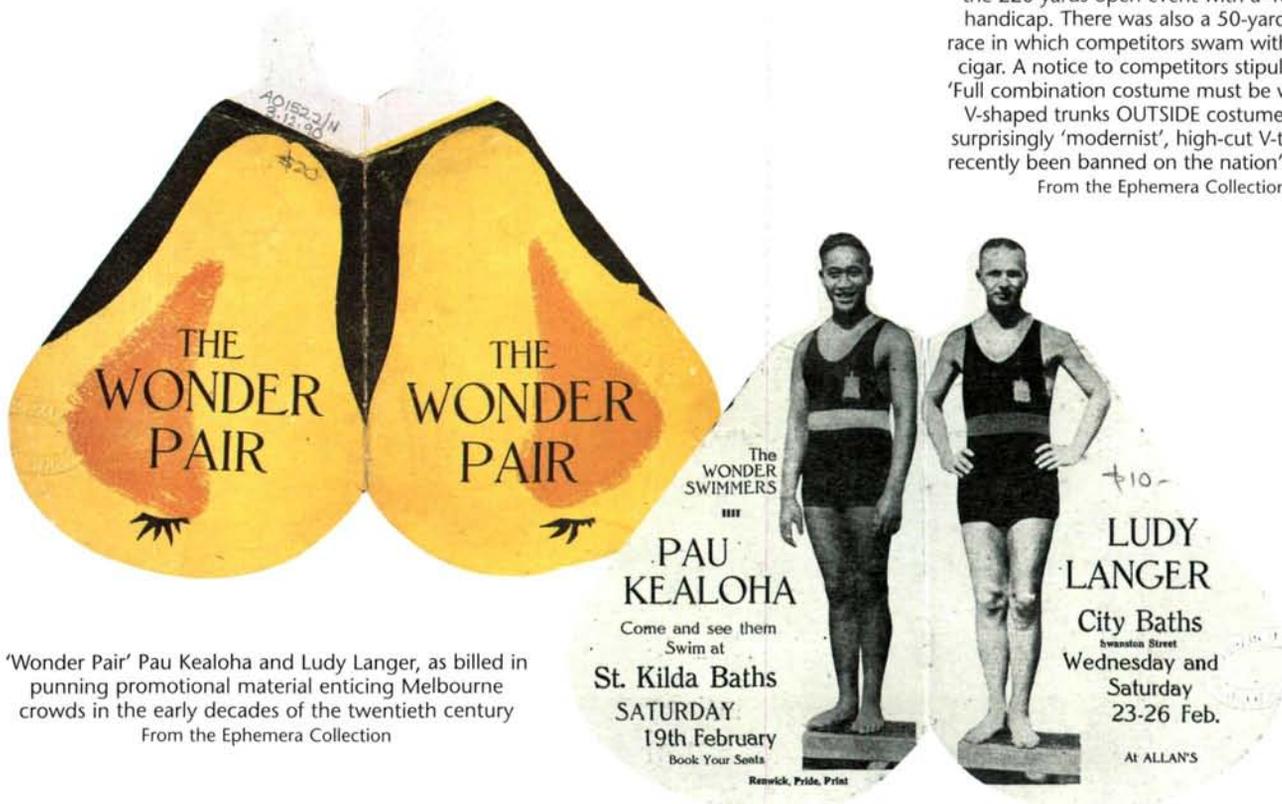
There was no professionalism ... you daren't accept money ... If you won a race, you got a voucher and you took it to a jeweller, and you bought a cup.

I once had a cabinet filled with these cups, which I've since disposed of ...

PAT JARRETT



Annette Kellerman features on the cover of this program for the 1908 West Australian Amateur Swimming Association's Spring Carnival at Claremont. The meeting honoured 17-year-old champion Frank Beaurepaire, who is listed in the 220 yards open event with a 40-second handicap. There was also a 50-yard novelty race in which competitors swam with a lighted cigar. A notice to competitors stipulated that 'Full combination costume must be worn, with V-shaped trunks OUTSIDE costume.' (Some surprisingly 'modernist', high-cut V-trunks had recently been banned on the nation's beaches)  
From the Ephemera Collection



'Wonder Pair' Pau Kealoha and Ludy Langer, as billed in punning promotional material enticing Melbourne crowds in the early decades of the twentieth century  
From the Ephemera Collection



*it was a lovely club ...  
If they had more of those  
clubs now, there wouldn't be  
so many kids hanging around  
the street*

(above) Country swimming championships, Bondi, NSW, December 1935. Country teams regularly met for such sporting competition in the cities—White City in Sydney being the venue for 'Country Week' tennis  
From the Pictorial Collection

## THE SWIMMING CLUB

IT WAS ONLY FOUR YEARS AGO that [Merewether Ladies Swimming Club] finished ... because of lack of interest ... Every Sunday morning we'd swim ... one time we'd have 100. But [in recent years] we'd be lucky if we had three kids coming down for a swim ...

And I used to go [to the club] three nights a week and teach them physical culture ... I had a little old piano ... and one morning I went down ... it was very rough weather, the tide was right up on the baths—and there was the piano, floating out of the clubhouse. That's how high the waves were.

So there were three priests walking along, and I said, 'Please will you help me get the piano.' So there was a line of us on the beach up there, these three men—and a couple of others helped them put the old piano up on the dry, and we got it home and put it in the garage. But it didn't last too long because everything was wet, all the wires and everything. They all rusted ...

But we used to have a lovely time down there with the children ... I was [club] captain 56 years ... I was their first captain [in 1927], and the last one, because as I say the kids lost interest ... I was terribly disappointed because it was a lovely club ... We had a wonderful following ... I used to work all day to sell 10-penny raffle tickets to buy something for our club ... and of course money was very tight in those days ... But everyone you asked, there was always help coming ...

If they had more of those clubs now, there wouldn't be so many kids hanging around the street.

ALICE FERGUSON

## 1500 METRE CHAMPIONS

TWO 1500-METRE EVENT OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, Andrew 'Boy' Charlton and Kieren Perkins—68 years, and some five-and-a-half minutes pool time, apart. Aside from Charlton and Perkins, the 1500-metre Olympic title has been won by Australians Murray Rose (1956), John Konrads (1960) and Bob Windle (1964).



Andrew 'Boy' Charlton,  
From the Pictorial Collection

### 'An escaped torpedo'

This classically simple shot (*left*) shows Andrew 'Boy' Charlton around the time of his 1924 Paris Olympic gold medal victory. Other notable swimmers at the same Games included the shorter distance American swimmer Johnny Weissmuller (later cinematic Tarzan), and Australia's Frank Bearepaire. Charlton, who turned 17 during the Games, came in 40 m ahead of his arch-rival, the Swede Arne Borg, in a world record time of 20 minutes 6.6 seconds, with Bearepaire taking bronze. An impressed American coach described Charlton as 'an escaped torpedo'.

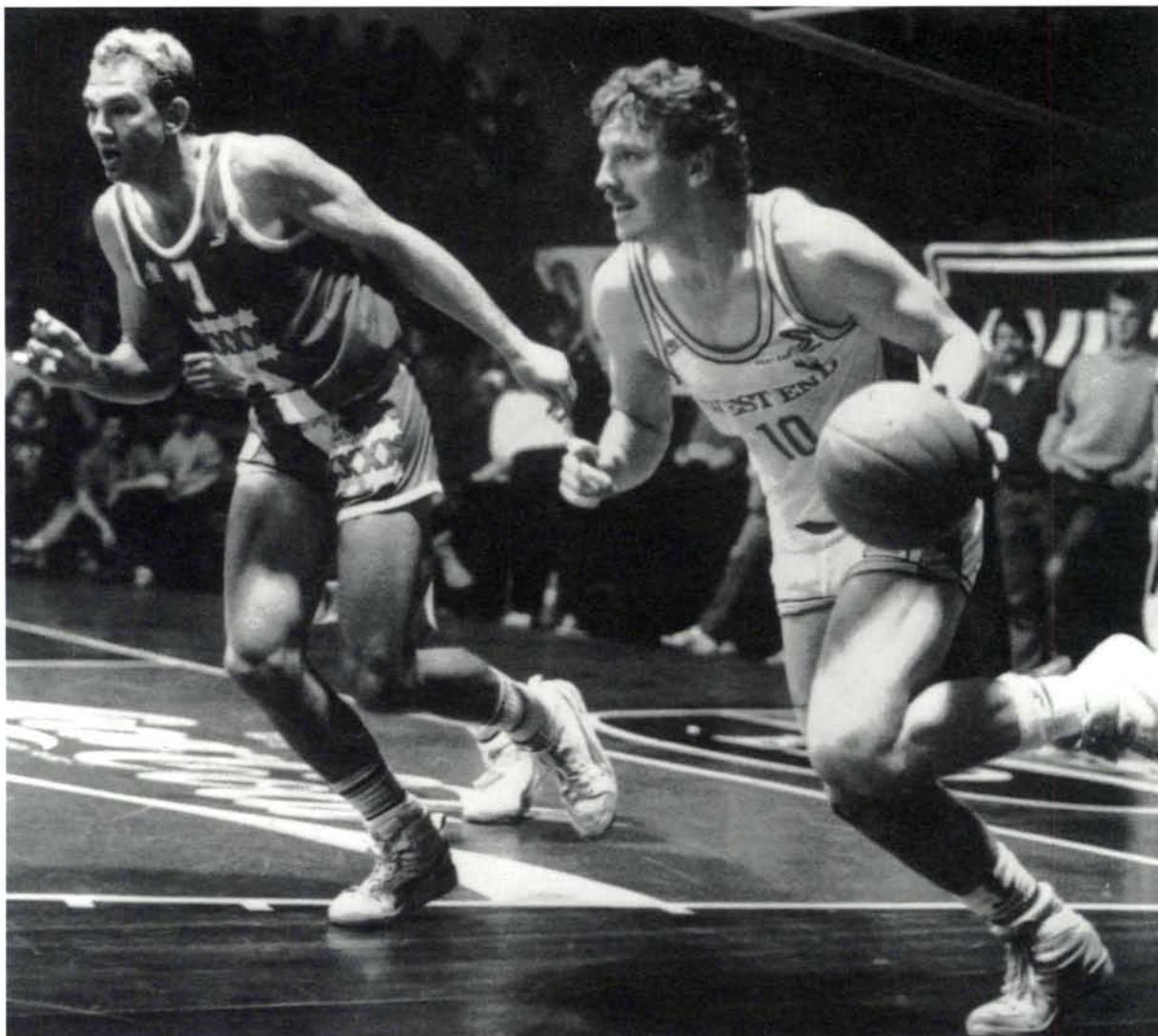


Greg Barrett (b.1943)  
Portrait of Kieren Perkins OAM, 1993  
gelatin silver photograph; 37 x 29 cm  
Peter Weiss Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

### 'Kiss the ground he walks on'

(*right*) This somewhat fanciful portrait of a more recent champion, Kieren Perkins (Young Australian of the Year, 1992), is one of a number of portraits of Australian sporting and other personalities attired in black polo-necked sweaters. Perkins won 1500-m gold at Barcelona in 1992 with a world record time of 14 minutes 43.48 seconds. Four years later, after indifferent form and nearly failing to qualify, he produced one of the most thrilling of Olympic performances to take the event again at Atlanta. Prompting fellow-swimmer Hayley Lewis to observe that 'Australia should get down and kiss the ground he walks on.'

# On polished boards



## BASKETBALL

WITH AMERICAN-STYLE RAZZLE-DAZZLE, the professional National Basketball League (NBL) was launched in Australia in 1979, proving an immediate crowd-puller with 10 000 people attending some games. The sport has sown its own local superstars such as Andrew Gaze. Basketball boomed in Australia after the Second World War, following tours by American teams such as the Harlem Globetrotters. Australia's first international appearance was the men's team at the 1956 Melbourne Games. Women's basketball was not made an Olympic sport until 1976.

Netball (officially renamed from women's basketball in 1970) has also had spectacular success in Australia, regarded as the game's world headquarters. The Australian netball team won gold at the 1998 Commonwealth Games and has been reigning World Champion for the past three years.

*(above)* Mike McKay of the Adelaide 36ers leads Larry Sengstock of the Brisbane Bullets in an upcourt burst in 1986  
Promotion Australia; from the Pictorial Collection



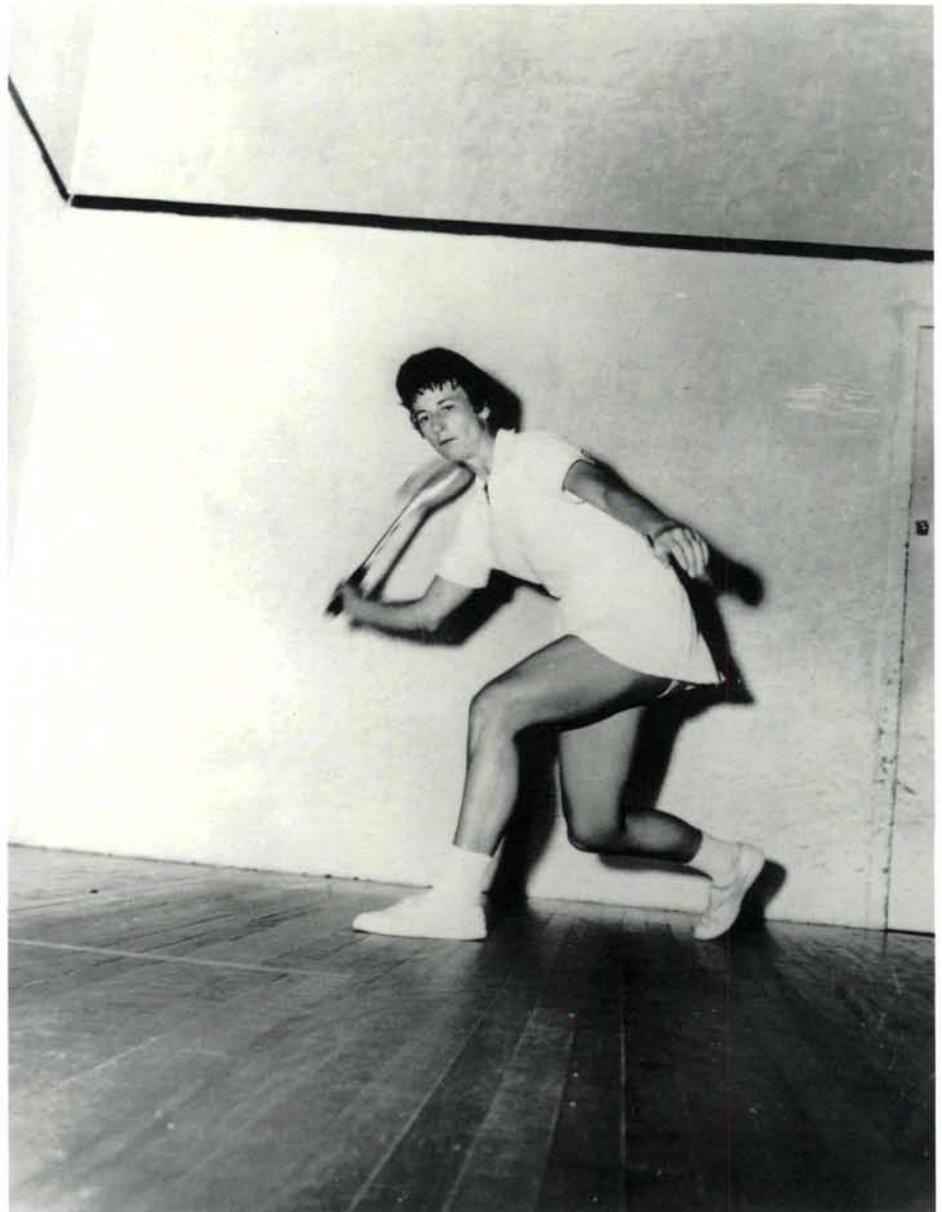
## VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL, like basketball, gained impetus from European migration following the Second World War. The sport is also popular on sand. Beach volleyball, introduced as an Olympic sport at Atlanta in 1996, will feature at Sydney 2000 at a venue on Bondi Beach.

Canberra Comets and Brisbane City, 1983  
Courtesy of the *Canberra Times*  
From the Pictorial Collection

*she showed such potential in tennis ... then you didn't hear of her again*

(right) Heather McKay, from Queanbeyan, NSW, started playing country tennis at the same time as Margaret Smith (Court), before switching to the game which she dominated as few other sportspersons have ever dominated a single sport. At the time of this photograph in 1971, aged 30, she had won the British Open Title (effectively the world championships) for 10 consecutive years, and was to win a total of 16 consecutive times. One of 11 children, she also represented Australia in hockey.



Heather McKay, 1971  
From the Pictorial Collection

## SQUASH

### Tennis's loss is squash's gain

IN THOSE EARLY YEARS when I used to go to Sydney at the age of 12 and 13 and be picked in these clinics, [Heather McKay] was picked from another part of the country area in tennis also.

She showed such potential in tennis—then you didn't hear of her again, and then she popped up in squash—and became probably the greatest woman of all time in squash.

But she was a very good tennis player in her early years.

MARGARET COURT

# On grass and clay



## STARTING OUT: Margaret Court

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY. I always remember my first racquet ... was a paling off a fence. And then I remember [aged eight or nine] a friend of my mum's came around, and she said, 'Margaret's got quite a good eye for a ball. I think I've got an old tennis racquet at home there that nobody ever uses. Maybe she'd like it.'

So she brought that racquet around ... It was one of those with a ... plain brown wooden frame, and it had no leather grip, and I could barely fit my hand around it. And I thought it was the best thing I ever had in my life. I remember buying some transfers, and putting some transfers on it to make it look pretty ... and that was my first racquet ... It was like a treasure had been given to me ... and really I had a racquet that I could hit a ball with.

Then I enrolled in classes on a Saturday morning in Albury [NSW] ... two shillings a class, and we would have anything from 130 to 150 young kids that would come from all the outlying farming areas as well ...

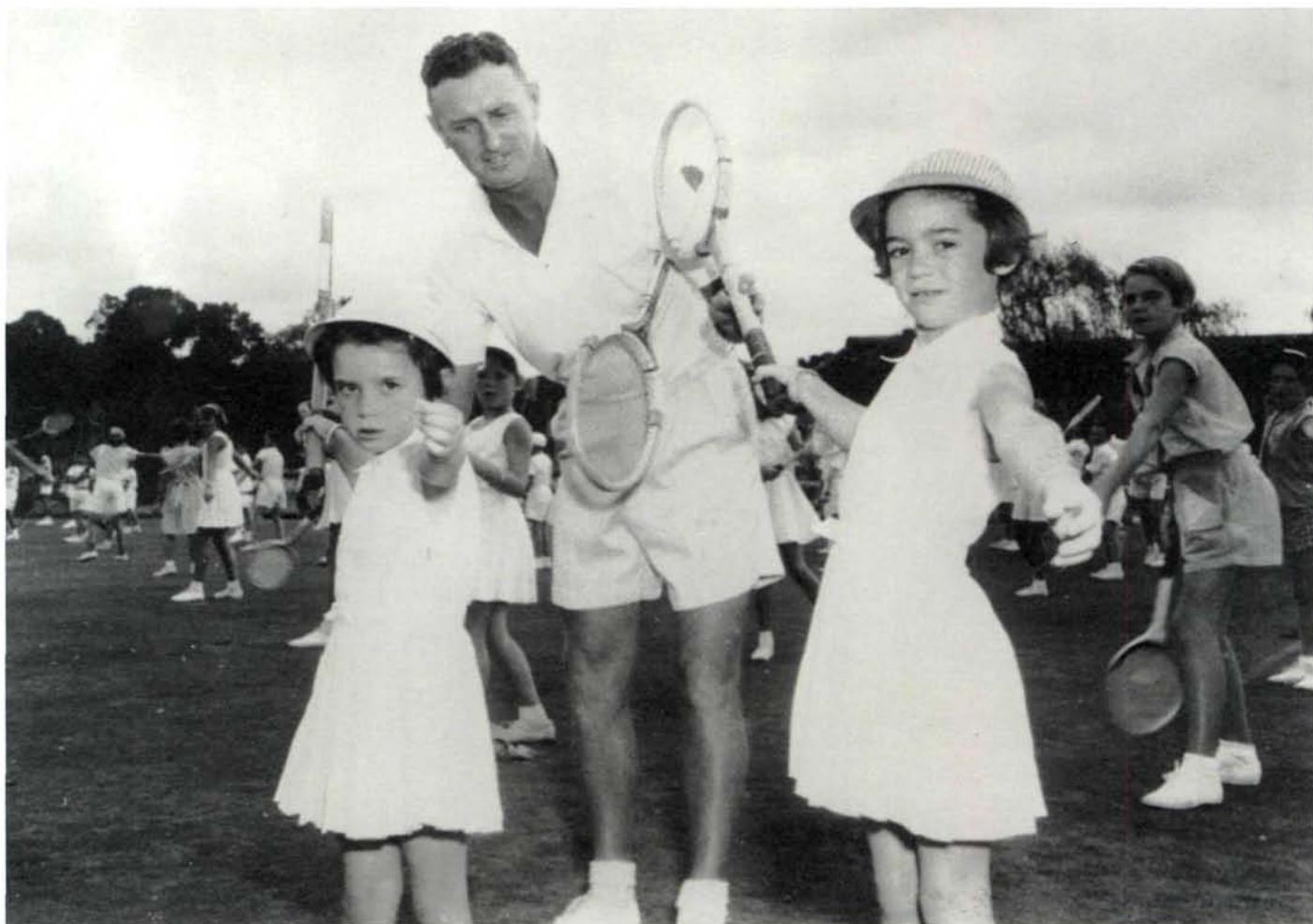
Then the man that ran the courts there [Wally Rutter] ... started to see that I had a little bit of potential; and I used to be always over on the courts even when they were closed ... he couldn't keep me off them ...

On one side of the tennis courts there was a big tyre factory and there was this lovely big, long brick wall and I used to hit on it for hours and hours.

MARGARET COURT

(above) Mass demonstration of a forehand drive at the Victor A. Edwards school, Roseville, NSW, in the early 1960s. More than 15 000 pupils were enrolled

*Australian Panorama*; photograph by W. Brindle  
From the Pictorial Collection



*'Margaret's got quite a good eye for a ball'*

## WORKING TOWARDS WIMBLEDON

AT THAT TIME I THINK [coaching clinics] were probably all over Australia, particularly in country areas ... Rod Laver and myself, and Roy Emerson, Tony Roche, Jane Lehane—and Evonne Goolagong a bit later—were all from country areas ... They had like a 'spy coach' ... who would come into the country areas and see what talent was around. Then, once or twice a year, they used to pick the best juniors ... to go for a clinic to Sydney ... We also had Country Week. We had State age championships and there were always the tournaments ... So they were always keeping an eye out for spotting young players ...

Frank Sedgman ... came through Albury [when I was] 13, with a professional group ... and they saw me hitting up, and he ... said, 'You know, you could be the first Australian woman ever to win Wimbledon.' And somehow that goal dropped into me ... I started to train towards it ...

[Two years later I went] to Melbourne ... Mum never, ever wanted me to go ... she used to always say, 'When are you going to come back from Melbourne and not go on with your tennis? You should be home' ... because I was very young going away ... at the age of 15. But I knew that was something I had to choose to do ... if I stayed [in Albury] I wasn't going to go any further, and ... I wanted to be the first Australian woman ever to win Wimbledon ...

(above) The young Margaret Smith's first coach, Wal Rutter, in a junior clinic, Albury, NSW  
From the Pictorial Collection

And I had all these people helping me, and I loved it. Keith Rogers would ... come and pick me up, and we'd go running the streets when the milkman was still out there ... I'd go to gym before work ... and Stan Nicholes would come in ... So I'd ... lift heavy weights for five mornings a week. Then Keith Rogers would pick me up to go and train for a couple of hours on the court ... But I loved it ... people used to say to me, 'Well, you're missing out on your teenage years'—but I never missed out on anything, because I was really doing what I loved to do ...

I was very good friends with Roy Emerson and Rod Laver and all those guys, and Harry Hopman saw I was very hungry, and I would train and I would run and I would jump. He'd say, 'Run,' and I'd run, and he let me practise with the boys, and I used to think that was absolutely wonderful ...

I think then, at the age of 17, I went to Queensland to play in really my first open tournament, my big national title. I'd played juniors, I'd played in State championships, and I was starting to knock on the door with a few of them—I was getting very close ... and that year in Queensland [1959] ... I wasn't even seeded in the women's, and there I was in the quarter-finals beating the number one player in the world ... Here I was in the main women's event final on the Monday ... and I came out and I played [Jan Lehane] ... and I beat her in the final ... So all of a sudden here I was—a raw country kid, hadn't had a lot of experience—I'd sort of become a world-beater overnight.

Frank Sedgman and Stan Nicholes and Keith Rogers got together ... They kept me home for a year just to train more in the gym ... and in '61 I did my first overseas tour.

MARGARET COURT

## WIMBLEDON, 1963

I NEVER LIKED THE CENTRE COURT waiting room at Wimbledon ... it would be raining, and you'd be sitting there nerve rack[ed], waiting to go on the centre court, and then all of a sudden it was too wet, and you'd have to go back up to the dressing room. I always remember that Saturday afternoon [in 1963] we sat in that dressing room from about one o'clock right through until dark nearly, waiting to go on to the centre court ... Then you'd hear: ' ... be ready. You go on to the court in 20 minutes.' You'd go down—and you'd get sent back again ... Up and down from the waiting room ... or just sitting up in that small dressing room where your opponent was ... In the other sporting stadiums throughout the world, you could be by yourself ...

EVEN AFTER [WINNING] WIMBLEDON you didn't have a break ... you'd be going into some little tournament somewhere. It was a tremendous let-down after, and then you had all these people [gunning for you], because you were number one in the world, and Wimbledon Champion, and somebody is trying to knock you off ... You always had to be ready.

It might have been after [winning Wimbledon in 1963] that I went around the MCG on the finals of the football in an open car, and that was something else ... about 80 000 people ... and you're driving in an open car around it.

MARGARET COURT

*I liked the bigger stadiums,  
the more open stadiums ...  
I found [Wimbledon] very  
tiny. I felt everybody was on  
top of me ... you could just  
about hear them breathing  
... I just could never get the  
feel for the place*

MARGARET COURT



Margaret Court (née Smith) in 1967, four years after her powerful serve and volley technique had made a reality of her long-term dream to become the first Australian woman to win the Wimbledon Singles Title  
From the Pictorial Collection



Jack Crawford (1908–91), Wimbledon champion, 1933  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

## A STRING OF WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONS

JACK CRAWFORD AND EVONNE CAWLEY (née Goolagong) are two among a host of Australian Wimbledon singles winners, ranging from the first, Norman Brookes (1907, 1914) through to Pat Cash (1987)—and whose ranks include multiple winners Gerald Patterson (1919, 1922), Lew Hoad (1956, 1957), Rod Laver (1961, 1962, 1968, 1969), Roy Emerson (1964, 1965), Margaret Court (1963, 1965, 1970) and John Newcombe (1967, 1970, 1971).

### ‘Gentleman’ Jack Crawford

When Jack Crawford in 1933 won Wimbledon [for Australia for] the first time since 1919, there is no question whatsoever that from the Australian viewpoint ... [he] was the best known sportsman in the world. And I include Don Bradman. [Europe and America had] never even heard of Bradman ... but every single person involved in sport had heard of the great Australian, Jack Crawford. This may sound extraordinary to cricket lovers, but I can assure you, and it will be verified by the players in the team—this was a fact.

ADRIAN QUIST

### Evonne Cawley (Goolagong)

Evonne had very natural talents ... she had the most beautiful natural backhand, and a grace and flowing on the court.

MARGARET COURT

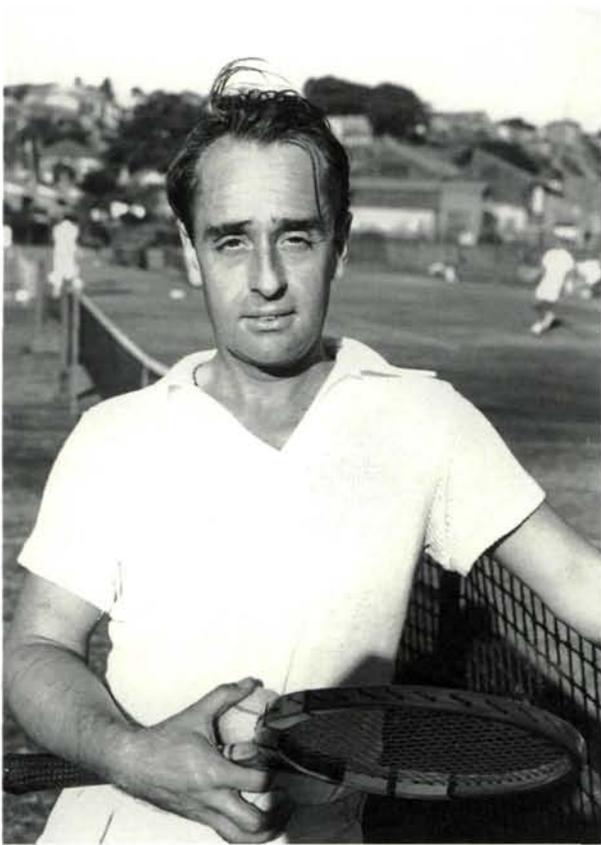


(right) Evonne Cawley (née Goolagong) at the Australian Open in Melbourne, 1974. Wimbledon winner in 1971 and 1980  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

## THEN AND NOW

### Sportsgoods sponsorship

FROM [THE EARLY] PERIOD OF 1928, right through until today, the sportsgood manufacturers of Australia either employed or subsidised every first-class player,



Adrian Quist  
AIS; from the Pictorial Collection

male or female ... so that those players could be employed for the principal purpose of playing exhibition matches—so that those manufacturers could obtain tennis ball adoptions. In other words, the life blood of the sports manufacturers anywhere in the world is the sale of tennis ... and golf balls ... They are expendable items.

And during that long period of Australian success ... Hoad, Rosewall, Cooper, Anderson, Sedgman, McGregor, Jack Crawford ... everybody was either employed by a manufacturer, or subsidised ... [And] boys like Hoad and Rosewall ... were given a job by

manufacturers which allowed them to play tennis for 12 months in the year, and exhibition matches round Australia ...

Slazengers, or Dunlop, or Spalding, would ring up the secretary of the Dubbo Club or the Wagga Club ... and say, 'We can let you have an exhibition match with the following players, but in return we would like to have your 12 months' tennis ball business' ... And ... the proceeds gained from the exhibition match of, say Emerson, Anderson, Hoad, Rosewall, for one night, would be quite substantial, so [the club] would be happy—[and] the manufacturers would gain 12 months' tennis ball business.

So, if we are completely honest with ourselves ... we must say that players were employed to play tennis ... They were almost professionals.

ADRIAN QUIST

*during that long period of Australian success ... everybody was either employed by a manufacturer, or subsidised*



Evidencing the product promotion of sport, Slazengers (makers of racquets and balls) presented tennis hints from American Davis Cup and Wimbledon Champion Jack Kramer as an Australian department store promotion in 1949. Many young up-and-coming or established players were supported by sportsgood companies  
From the Ephemera Collection



Adrian Quist, in the sort of shorts which he and Harry Hopman pioneered in Australian tennis  
From the Pictorial Collection

*Harry ... was the first player on the courts in New South Wales with shorts. But I don't think they had the quality and appearance of the shorts that I wore*



Ticket for the singles competition at Kooyong, 1953 Davis Cup. Australia defeated the US 3-2 to retain the Cup  
From the Ephemera Collection

## OF SHOES AND SHORTS

[ONE DAY] IN 1939, Harry Hopman and I were walking down Philadelphia's side streets, and we looked in a shop window and we saw ... a yachting shoe, and it had a herringbone sole, and we'd never seen this in our lives. We went in and ... we bought a pair for me, and we also purchased a pair for John Bromwich ... We put on the shoe ... and it gave us a great shock, because it was vastly superior to any footwear we had ever used. And that same sole today is the basic and main footwear sold by the Dunlop organisation—known as the 'Volley' shoe ... They took out some form of control over it ... and that today has been the biggest-selling shoe in this country ...

Very recently ... The *Sun* wrote an article about Harry Hopman ... and it said that Harry was the first player to wear tennis shorts in Australia ... But I sincerely believe I was certainly the first Australian ever to wear tennis shorts, because in 1933 I watched the great English player Bunny Austin playing on the centre court at Wimbledon in shorts. I asked Bunny where I could get a couple of pairs of his shorts, he gave me his tailor's address, and I purchased two pairs of billiard-cloth shorts, which I would say, compared to the shorts today, were slightly longer ...

I returned to Australia in 1933, via New Zealand ... Up till this stage ... I was too nervous to get into [the shorts] ... However ... the big occasion came in Auckland when Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand played a three-way international match, and I wore the shorts for the very first time. And I must say it was an enormous experience in those days—because, like cricketers, Australians only wore long trousers.

At [a dinner] function given by the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association ... they invited the then Prime Minister ... [and] when he got up to welcome the teams ... he mentioned the fact that he had been watching the young Australian playing, and whilst he admired his game, he did feel that the wearing of shorts was only a passing fancy, and that he sincerely trusted that the Australians, like the cricketers, would [stick] to wearing long trousers.

And then I came [on] to Sydney, and [by] this time ... Harry Hopman had been able to get some shorts, and we both played in the New South Wales Championships ... and Harry ... was the first player on the courts in New South Wales with shorts. But I don't think they had the quality and appearance of the shorts that I wore ...

I can recall going down to Victoria [later] ... and [Sir Norman Brookes] ... saying to me one day at Kooyong, 'Well you've certainly started something here, you fellows: these tennis shorts ... I suppose they are much more comfortable to play in?'

I said, 'Yes, they are Sir.'

'Well,' he said, 'I suppose you can't hold back the game, can you?'

ADRIAN QUIST

## SIR NORMAN BROOKES

SIR NORMAN BROOKES was President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, and also President of the Victoria Lawn Tennis Association ... [and] a most prestigious figure ... When Norman said anything, both in this country and abroad, people listened.

In many respects he was a difficult man to know—he was very dour, he had a long face, rather sallow in complexion ... but I found, after years of playing and getting to know him better, that he [did have] a lot of humour in him, particularly if he had [had] a few drinks ... and he was an extraordinary man.

He used to play tennis at the age of 64 ... One day in Germany, just before we were going to play the Germans in the Davis Cup, he said to me, 'Quisty, how about coming and playing doubles with me, against Henry Kleinschroth and some other player?' Well ... you know, when you're young ... you are not very happy when such a man, in his late 60s, asks you to play. But [when] we got on the court, I not only found that Norman Brookes could [still] play, but he played so well that we won our match ...

Norman was a great player and a marvellous administrator ... During the period he was president in Melbourne he was able, because of his affluent situation, to invite all the players down to his home at Frankston, and would provide a whole Sunday of great pleasure—swimming, tennis, beautiful food, a general atmosphere of socialising ...

I travelled 'round the world a lot ... and I can tell you that [it] added enormous prestige ... having Sir Norman Brookes accompanying that team as the president ... When I see and hear ... all the problems that the game has ... I don't believe this would have occurred had Sir Norman been president of the Association today.

*Dyckster June 25 1907*

Norman Brookes had the satisfaction of achieving a very severe beating in Canada. Brookes's last American service especially puzzled the great ball-player, who was distinctly off his game, and Brookes won a hollow victory at 6-2, 6-1, 6-0.

Widling and Parker also took their singles—the fourth Australian, Dunlop, has already been put out by Widling—and Brookes and Dunlop won their tie in the doubles.

As was generally expected, Smith beat Laves, the former showing again the brilliant form which won him his victory over the United States champion.

The three Americans—Chalkier, Wright, and Larned—all won their singles with comparative ease, and both the American pairs were successful in the doubles against moderate opponents, though they did not show anything very surprising in the way of form.

The famous Huddley Brothers, who resigned at Wimbledon last year, but were handicapped by an injury which was of them sustained, beat Hough and Escombe with the best of one set.

Results of yesterday's play—

The Singles Championship Doubles: H. L. Gibeaux—A. J. S. Hunter, Lorraineville, Canada, beat W. J. Clothier, H. J. S. Fothery and K. Fothery, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0.

The Doubles Championship Doubles: H. L. Gibeaux—A. J. S. Hunter, Lorraineville, Canada, beat W. J. Clothier, H. J. S. Fothery and K. Fothery, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0. H. J. S. Fothery beat W. J. Clothier, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0.

### American and Australian Prospects

The American International Team—W. A. Larned, B. C. Wright, W. J. Clothier, and H. Ward—arrived in England at the beginning of last week, and lost no time in getting to work. The American four and the Australians, Brookes and Dunlop, played at Queen's last week. The Singles and Doubles together furnished an interesting trial run for the forthcoming International. America triumphed, for Wright and Ward came through their respective halves, beating respectively Brookes and Gore in the semi-final; both of these were close five set matches, and either result might, on another occasion, be reversed. Ward had previously beaten Ritchie, and Brookes had beaten his own countryman, Dunlop, who, in his turn, had accounted for the other American, Clothier. It seems likely from these results that America will beat Australasia should they meet, which is what will happen bar accidents. But the match will not, by any means, be a procession for the Yankees, for Brookes has proved himself to be a real good one, and Dunlop is a fine Double player, though he appears to have been somewhat out of form last week. On the other hand, it is distinctly encouraging to English prospects that Gore, who may be regarded as a reserve man, can run warm to two sets all. Ward and Wright, by the way, did not play the final off, Ward taking a walk over. The other Singles' Champion of America, Miss Sutton to wit, was staying last week with Mr. and Mrs. Hillyard, at Thorpe Satchville, otherwise America might have scored a double victory in the Singles at Queen's.



W. J. Clothier



A. W. Dunlop

ADRIAN QUIST

Page from one of five bound volumes of newspaper cuttings documenting World Tennis Champion Sir Norman Brookes' career from 1900 to 1914. In 1907 Brookes became the first Australian to win Wimbledon. He played Davis Cup tennis for Australia in eight challenge rounds, and served as formidable president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia from 1926 to 1955. Sir Norman (1877–1968) wore a signature grey tweed cap while playing, and was said to be partial to a bracing tot of brandy between sets MS 2979; from the Manuscript Collection

## GODFRIED VON KRAMM: Friend and aristocrat

[IN 1950] AT THE GAZIRO SPORTING CLUB ... I ran into my old friend, Godfried Von Kramm ... He realised that with Germany's involvement in the war it was not going to be easy for him to again participate at Queen's Club and Wimbledon ... But you know, when you play a game ... you're certainly not interested in the politics that caused these great turmoils, you're just individuals meeting again. And to meet Godfried ... at these Egyptian Championships in 1950, was certainly one of the great pleasures of my life.

Kramm and I just talked about the awful ... problems of the war ... knowing full well that we, as pre-war



competitors ... had no personal feelings at all against each other ... It was a great pleasure to see that he had survived—he certainly lost a few toes in Russia [but] apart from that he was the same Godfried, and even in 1950 a superb tennis player. Age mellowed him, as it did all of us, but he still played beautiful tennis, and we met in the singles semi-final and had a great match; we also played in the doubles final ...

A man like Baron Von Kramm deserves a special mention, because after he left Australia in 1930, and went back to Germany with his colleagues, Henry Kleinschroth, the German manager, and Henner Henkel, who incidentally was killed in the war in Russia, Godfried was imprisoned ... The Nazis were in power and Von Kramm as far as I know went to some night club which was out of bounds in that regime ... a night club in which the gays were present ... and so ... spent a time confined in imprisonment ...

When Godfried was released, the King of Sweden, who was a great tennis enthusiast—Gustav—immediately welcomed Kramm as ... his own personal guest ... so that Kramm could be accepted, as he should have been accepted, by everyone in the world.

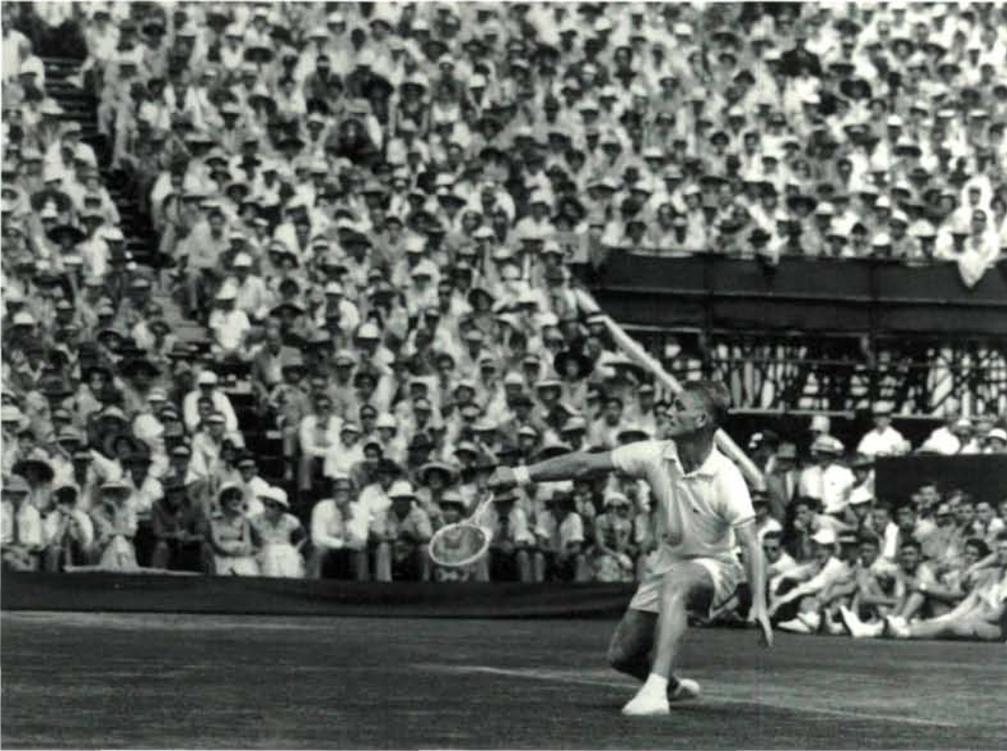
So it was an amazing experience for a man of Von Kramm's calibre ... He was a Baron—Baron Godfried Von Kramm—he was a German aristocrat, one of the most gracious and pleasant people I have ever played against in my life, and a man who I was delighted to call a personal friend.

ADRIAN QUIST



Program for the Davis Cup Inter-Zone Final, Australia versus Germany, played at Wimbledon in 1936. Adrian Quist was in the Australian team, and Godfried Von Cramm (Kramm) in the German one. The pair played in the second game of the event. They formed a friendship which survived the war, and met on court again in the 1950s

From the Ephemera Collection



(left) Lew Hoad shows flair at Sydney's White City courts in 1956  
ANIB; from the Pictorial Collection

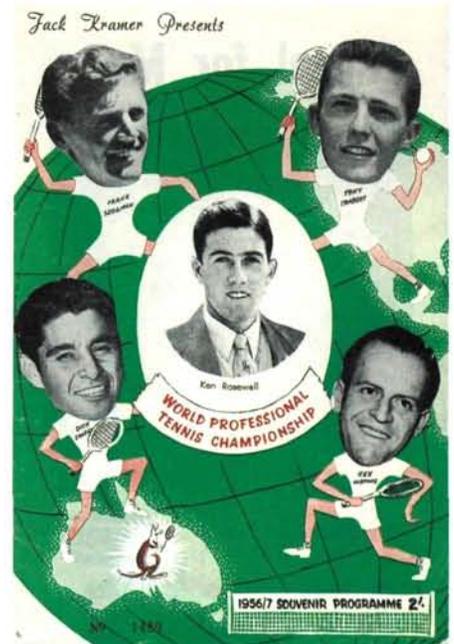
## HOAD, LAVER AND ROSEWALL

WHEN [LEW] HOAD was at his greatest and when he wanted to win something ... well on that day no one could beat him ... but to continue doing it, week-after-week-after-week, month-after-month, that wasn't Lew. He'd sooner sit down, talk with his friends, have a beer in his hand ... But my goodness he had enormous natural ability ... he was a genius when it came to picking up balls and flicking them over, doing almost extraordinary things ...

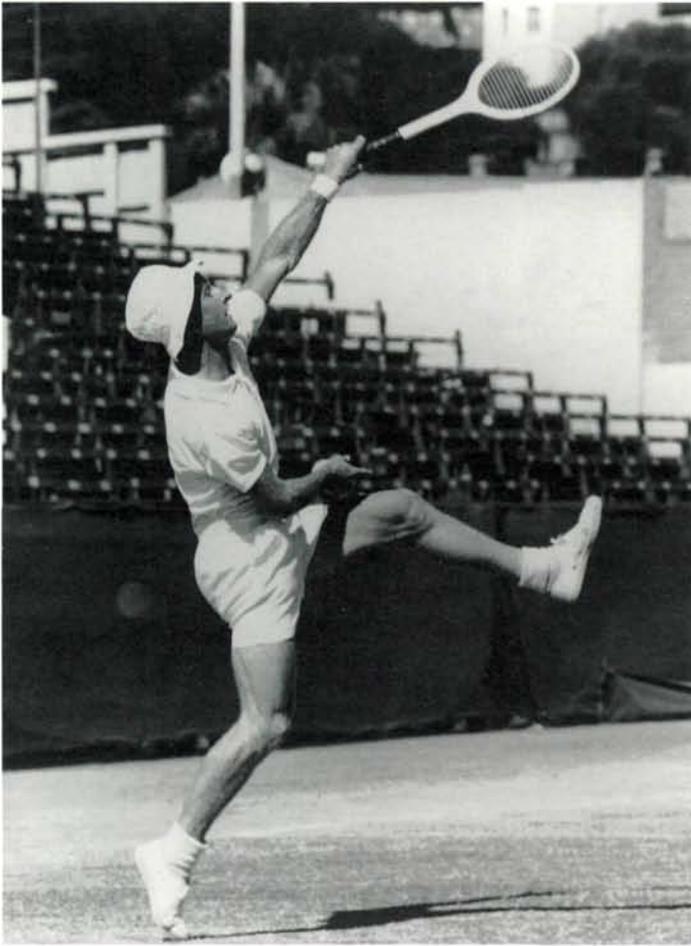
ROD LAVER was another so-called typical Australian, coming from the far country of Queensland ... I was manager ... when Rod played Neil Fraser in the final of Wimbledon, and one day before the final I left Wimbledon with him in the car, and he turned to me—he had his shoe off—and he said, 'Look, I've got a swollen toe and I can't put my shoe on.' I nearly dropped dead with shock, because the final was the next day. And I said, 'Look, you've got to come to a doctor.' But ... he said to me, 'Why don't I go to the doctor in the morning? He can lance my toe.' I said, 'That's the Final day.' However, I had to give in, because he was so tired.

Anyway, I called round the next morning to his room, ready to take him to the doctor ... and he was playing poker with his team mates ... and I said, 'Ready, Rod?' And he said, 'No, it's all right, I got a razor blade and I cut open my toe' ... He'd put the razor blade under hot water and he'd sliced his big toe and he'd let out all the pus ... and so he went on to the Final and played. He cut a little hole in his shoe, and he played the Final.

He lost the Final, but not because of that. Although I believe it was, frankly, but I'd hate to say it ... But that is Laver, a typical boy who couldn't be bothered



Rising 22-year-old star Ken Rosewall, surrounded by Frank Sedgman, Tony Trabert, Pancho Gonzales and Rex Hartwig in a souvenir program for Jack Kramer's World Professional Tennis Championship, played in Australia, 1956–57. Purists, bemoaning the loss of players to this populist entertainment (and the resultant escalation of tennis ticket prices) criticised the initiatives as 'circus routines'  
From the Ephemera Collection



ANIB; photograph by W. Brindle  
From the Pictorial Collection

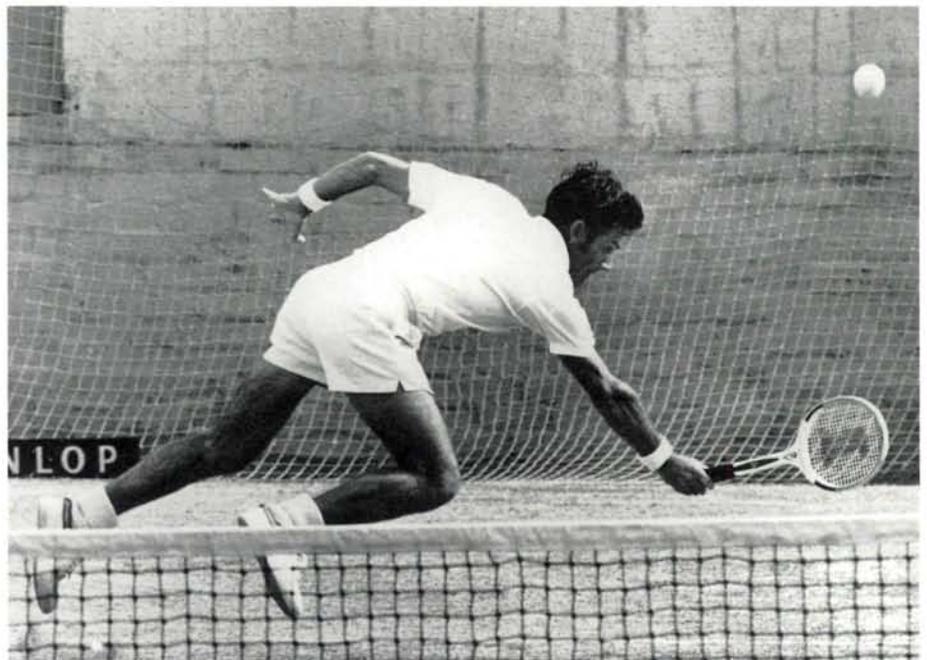
*the French consider Rosewall  
the finest player that  
Australia ever produced*

going to a doctor, didn't want any fuss ... and yet he was a genius in many ways, a left-hander, short, small, quick, wonderful reflexes, and there are a lot of people who think that no one was a better player on his best day ...

KEN ROSEWALL ... whose whole life was tennis ... he ate it, he slept it, he lived it ... was just as good a player as almost anyone in the game. I believe ... he was a better player than Newcombe, Roche and many others. The fact that he didn't win Wimbledon is not the beginning and the end of everything ... he was a great tennis player over a very, very long time—from the age of about 18 until about 43 he was beating every tennis player in the world ... The French consider Rosewall the finest player that Australia ever produced.

ADRIAN QUIST

(left) 'Rockhampton Rocket' Rod Laver is seen here hitting a high return after having recently won the 1962 Australian, French, Wimbledon and American singles titles. (below) Ken Rosewall was runner-up at Wimbledon four times over 20 years but never took the title. At 43 the seemingly ageless champion was still rated among the world's best.



From the Pictorial Collection

# On the river



Sculling Match on the Thames: Joseph Henry Sadler, *Champion of the World, Versus Edward Trickett*, 27 June 1876  
Gibbs, Shallard & Co.; coloured lithograph; 51.1 x 71.5 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

## ROWING AND SCULLING

INITIATED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES by Captain John Piper, rowing was one of the first of the colony's transplanted sports. From 1818, four-oar and six-oar teams competed on Sydney Harbour against crews from visiting American and English ships. Tasmania was also an early stronghold of the sport, with Australia's first regatta being held on the Derwent River at Hobart in 1827.

In Olympic competition, Australia's Henry ('Bobby') Pearce took gold in single sculls at the 1928 Amsterdam and 1932 Los Angeles Games. Sydney-born oarsman Mervyn Wood (afterwards New South Wales Police Commissioner) followed this up with gold for single sculls at the 1948 London Olympics, silver at Helsinki in 1952, and bronze in double sculls in Melbourne in 1956. (The National Library's Oral History Collection holds an interview conducted with Wood in 1975.) A more recent rowing height was the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where the 'Awesome Foursome' took gold in the men's coxless four, and Australia won the men's double sculls. (Also on the water, but in a craft of different configuration, kayaker Clint Robinson paddled to gold in the K1 1000-metre event.)

(above) One among a number of great early Australian oarsmen was Sydney-born quarryman Edward Trickett, World Sculling Champion of 1876. A crowd of 25 000 lined Sydney's Circular Quay for his hero's welcome home after the London win.

(below) Admission ticket number 115 ('not transferable') for the Hunter's Hill Amateur Regatta, 1 January 1863



From the Ephemera Collection

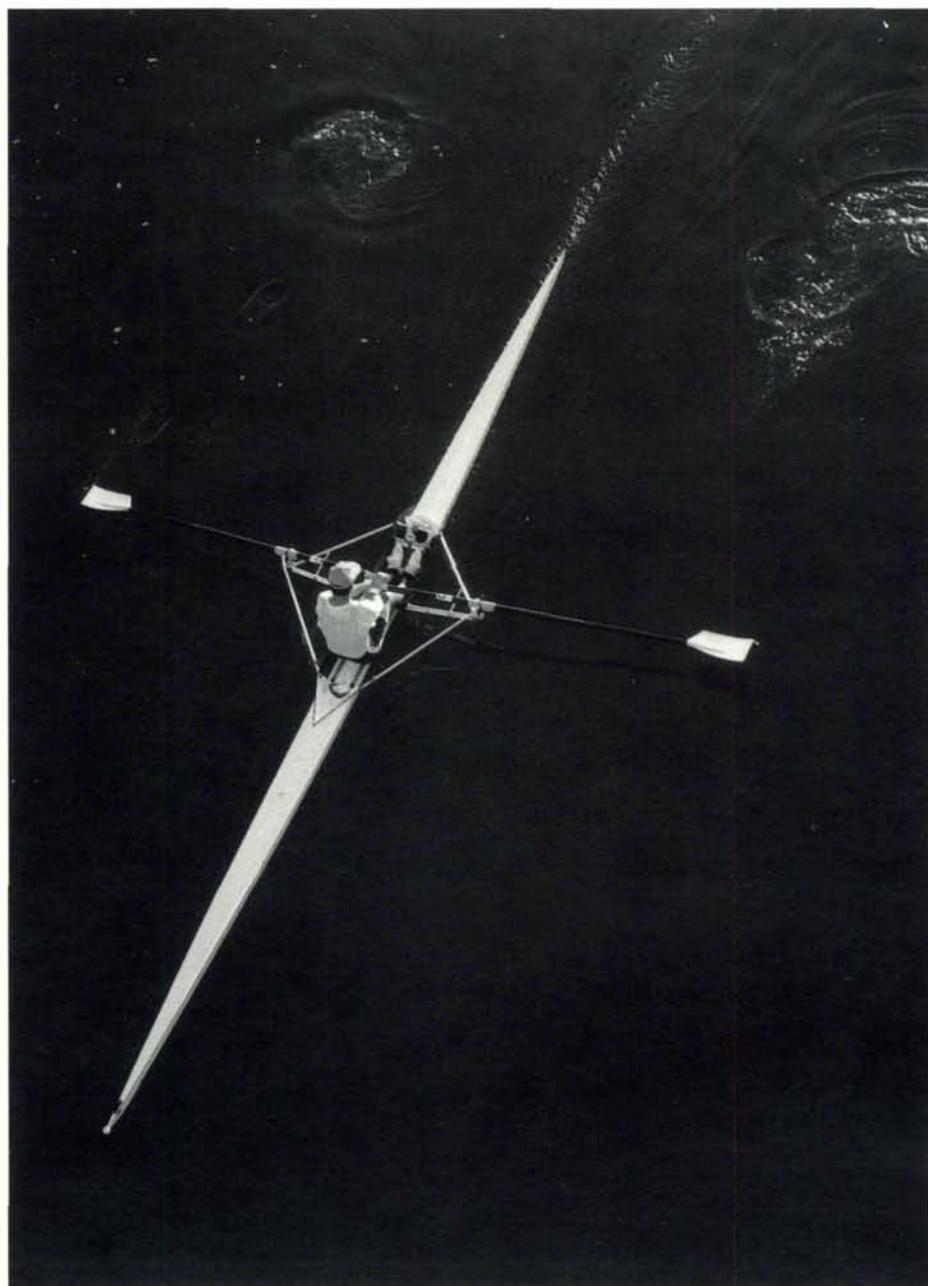
self to race, and this year one could not wish for a pluckier man. He says this is his last appearance, and as he ~~was~~ <sup>had his</sup> 40<sup>th</sup> ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> ~~week~~ birthday last week, so I heard, I think he will be wise to rest on his laurels.

3.15. pm. Eight-Oar Race final heat  
Bucks Station.

United Kingdom (Leander Club)	
1. A.C. Gleadstone. 11 <sup>st</sup> . 6 <sup>th</sup>	5. C.D. Burnell. 14 <sup>st</sup> . 2 <sup>nd</sup>
2. F.S. Kelly. 12. 1	6. R.H. Sanderson. 13. 6
3. B.C. Dringstone. 12. 11	7. R.B. Etherington Smith. 12. 7
4. ... .. 12. 6.	8. H.C. Bucknall (Stk) 11. 6
	9. C.C. Melan (cox) 8. 8

(above) Page from Frederick Septimus Kelly's diary, recording rowing events at the 1908 London Olympics. Kelly (1881–1916) was an outstanding Sydney-born oarsman and musician. Educated at Eton and Balliol, and a friend of poet Rupert Brooke, he served throughout the Gallipoli campaign and was killed on the Western Front in 1916. According to contemporary reports of his rowing, his 'natural sense of poise and rhythm made his boat a live thing under him.' Kelly was a member of the veteran eight United Kingdom crew which won the gold medal against Belgium at the 1908 London Olympics. This extract from his diary lists the crew of the eight-oar race, Kelly himself among them, for the final heat. He observes that the United Kingdom team officially won by '2 lengths, but I think it was more like 2½ to 3 lengths. Our opponents stuck to their work very gamely, but they were a beaten crew at the White House.'

From the Manuscript Collection



(right) Many years on from Kelly: different boats, but not-so-different strokes—a contemporary oarsman trains on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin. silver gelatin; photograph by Loui Seselja Canberra Life Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

# Cutting away



## ALL IN THE FAMILY: The axing Youds

DAD WAS ... GOOD WITH THE CHOPPING AXE, and we [seven brothers] more or less followed along in his footsteps ... Trevor is the eldest and probably the smallest ... he chopped for a few years and he had marked successes, then he gave it away. Then there's Mervyn ... the best in his day in Tasmania ... an outstanding axeman in good wood ... He is getting a little bit older now and he's just fading out for the time being, but I think he'll probably get into training and come back again. Then there's Rex ... he was a very good axeman, too, but in 1946 he had the unfortunate luck to break his leg over in Victoria ... and when his leg was put back together ... the ankle ... didn't knit properly ... and it

*for his size he is a terrific little axeman*

(above) Royal Agricultural Show,  
Melbourne, 1957  
From the Pictorial Collection

*you'd get a win and it would whet your appetite—and you'd get down to the finer points of how to do your axe up, and training methods, and different species of wood—how to read them ... Once you start winning ... you get the idea in your mind, 'I want to go to the top'—which I think is the objective in any sportsman's gaze—and you just go on and on. And after you win handicaps, you look to the championships*

DOUGLAS YOUND

has played up with him right through the years up till he had it off early last year or the year before. And he's got a wooden leg on now, and it sort of cramps your style as far as wood chopping goes ...

Then we get down to myself. I've been chopping for 31 years. I had my first success at Deloraine here in Tasmania in 1945 ... I've had marked success throughout the years, and I'm still winning, so I can't complain ... Just two years ago ... I won the title of World Champion of Champions ... I was quite happy about it.

I was unfortunate enough to have a chain-saw accident just prior to the [1970 Tasmanian wood chopping centenary] championships, and all I could do was look on ... I had something like 300 stitches across my stomach and this held me up for a few months. Naturally, when the 1974 championships came up ... I was a little bit determined to prove that I could do all right—and I did do all right, and I was quite happy about it ... I [presently] hold three or four at the Royal Sydney Show, which is ... the place of wood chopping in Australia ... because it's fairly hard wood and all the top contenders for titles or handicaps congregate there every Easter ...

The next brother down, younger than me, is Bob. He had an accident in the bush, where wire rope wrapped round his head and he was unconscious for four days, and after that he didn't worry so much about wood chopping ... Then there is Billy—he is the baby, as we call him ... the last boy ... he's got on top, he is one of the world champions at tree-felling at the Sydney Show, and he has won a lot of State titles here in Tasmania, and he has done quite well with the single-handed sawing ... He's 35 years old, but that is a good age for wood chopping—from 35 to 45—and he has quite a good few years in front of him, and they'll be good years, I think. The only thing Billy lacks is a little bit of weight ... If he had another stone on him, I don't think anyone could probably beat him—in Tasmania, anyway. For his size, he is a terrific little axeman ...

Over the years I've enjoyed the wood chopping ... I know I have slipped back a little bit, but I'm still getting a win or two. I've enjoyed this mainly because you meet so many people and ... I've had so many trips out of it, and I owe this all to wood chopping. If I'd taken on something else, I wouldn't have done nearly as well ...

When I left school, I went working in the bush with Dad, and this started my early chopping career ... I worked in [the bush] for round about 30 years,



A young Douglas Yound after winning the World Tree-Felling Championship at Sydney's Royal Easter Show for the first time, in 1956. Yound also won the 15-inch World Championship, a double never before achieved. Photograph courtesy of Douglas Yound; from the Pictorial Collection

I suppose, and I found this developed your body and your muscles; it's a good way to learn to read wood ...

[And] here I am now on [a dairy] farm. And, as I say, I'm still chopping well, and I'm going to keep on chopping till I think it's time to give it away.

DOUGLAS YOUD

## ON STYLE

SOME OF THEM RECKONED I hit too fast. I was talking to a chap down on the north-west coast in the early days. He said: 'Never change your style, because the power will come later on, and you'll be right.' I kept up this fast hitting ... I stuck to it, which is my style. I think if you change your style, you've got to change your chopping, and you've got to learn all over again.

You've got to play it a little bit by ear ... If you get hard wood, you've got to slow down a little bit ... We used to study how to cut. We found the best way to cut the big logs was to hit reasonably fast and just use your arms, instead of the whole lot of your body ... We found we could go quite a lot longer with less fatigue ...

Once you get up in the back of a log ... if you can kick on about halfway through the back of your log, your wind comes back to you—your second wind—and this has won me quite a lot of events ...

*with the old axes most of us have, they've stood by us over the years ... They're hickory handles ... imported from America in billets, and made up into handles over here ... To get a good handle to suit an axe is the main aim of the axeman*

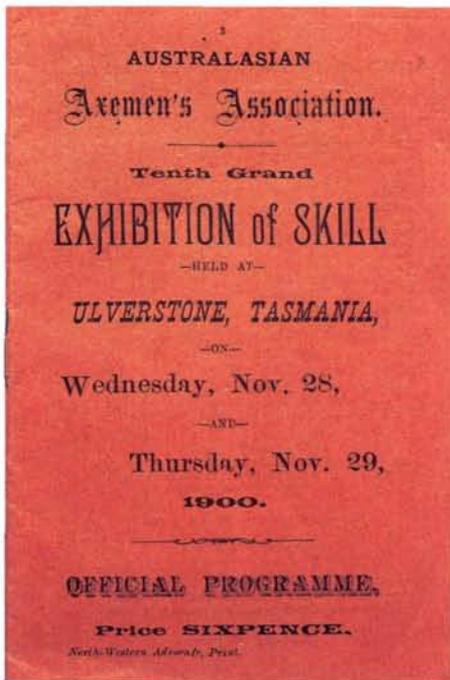
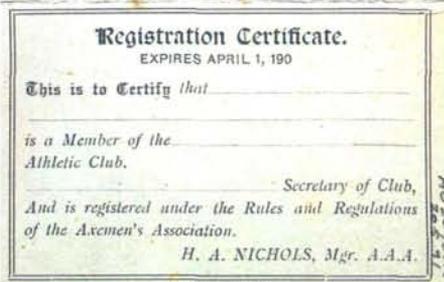
DOUGLAS YOUD

THEY HAVE THE DUMMIES set up so that you are chopping away from one another, and the chips don't bother you ... There has been an occasional axe fly ... It doesn't give you a very good feeling, I can tell you ...



Douglas Youd with Tommy Edwards, and brother Mervyn Youd. A somewhat bemused Linda McGill, Olympic and Channel swimmer, presents the award for the Tree-Felling Championship Final, Royal Easter Show, Sydney, 1964

Photograph courtesy of Douglas Youd; from the Pictorial Collection



Two early 1900s relics from the site of Australian competition wood chopping's origins, Ulverstone in Tasmania.  
 (top) A pocket-sized Australian Axemen's Association registration card. The association was patronised by the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Governor-General of Australia.  
 (bottom) Exhibition program for the year 1900. Events comprised the Handicap Chop, Standing Blocks, 6-foot Girth; the Champion Chop, 18-inch Standing Blocks; the Underhand Handicap Chop; and the Double-Handed Handicap Sawing Match, Scratch Blocks, 6-foot 4-inches  
 From the Ephemera Collection

Last year ... a chap had an axe go over him in Victoria and it cut a woman's arm off at the wrist and she had it sewn back on again ... But it's not very often you hear of that ... They reckoned they should have wire fences round, and this, that and the other. It probably would have been a good idea, but it's going to restrict the spectators' view ...

There's not many accidents in the chopping arena, not as many as you would think ...

IN YEARS TO COME, it's hard to say what will become of the wood chopping. It's growing and growing, but I think we are paying more and more for our entry fees and travelling expenses ...

Last year I had quite a good year—I won something like \$2000, but I think there wouldn't be any profit in that, because you've got entry fees, you've got axes, you've got handles to buy, you've got travelling expenses, you've got boots and shoes—and when it's all boiled down you're really only chopping for the love of it, the love of the sport.

DOUGLAS YOUD

### A BIT OF HISTORY

WOOD CHOPPING STARTED here in Tasmania, way back in 1870. This was down at a place called Ulverstone ...

I think the first chop, as they come in order, would be the standing [or vertical] chop, which ... is a tree standing up, and you've got to cut it down in the least time you can ... Then, naturally enough ... you've got to cut logs off it, or cut it in halves—that comes into the category of the underhand ...

Now the tree-felling ... this goes back to the old days when all the bushmen had to work with were the crosscut saw and the bush axe. A lot of old trees that grow in the forest have what we call rotten butts, or ugly old butts, that grow up bottle-shaped, then they grow up into a nice barrel ... They used to get four-by-twos or similar pieces of timber and insert notches in these trees till they got above the foul piece, and then they used to fall them up above this ... Over the years this worked itself into a competition ... They used to have just ordinary square pieces of timber and they used to race up one side with three boards and then descend and go up the other side to finish the log off ...

Tree-felling, I think, is one of the most spectacular events of the Sydney Show, because not only does it give you a little bit more time to catch the front markers, but it also gives the onlookers a lot more time to watch each axeman's technique ... It's a bit of a thrill, you know, climbing up the trees and getting to the top. Then again, you fall—but it's your own fault really ... if you don't put your holes in right ...

The crosscut saw ... was used in the early days to fell trees, rather than the axe ... now they've got up to the pitch that they're almost as fast as a chainsaw ... I've won a few double-handed sawing championships ... with a fellow called George Foster ... He is about 17 or 18 stone [114 kg] and as strong as a bull, and all you had to do was hold your end of the saw and he'd nearly do the rest.

DOUGLAS YOUD

# Paralympics and disabled sport



Louise Sauvage, Paralympic Games, Atlanta, 1996  
Photograph by Serena Owens  
gelatin silver photograph; 25.4 x 20.3 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

THE PARALYMPICS celebrates its 40th anniversary at the Sydney 2000 Games. An expected 4000 athletes from 125 countries will compete, the largest of any Paraplegic Games to date—and larger than the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Eighteen sports will feature, with sailing and wheelchair rugby being the two new events. The term ‘paralympic’ was coined to denote an event held in ‘parallel’ with the Olympic Games. The first Paralympics were held in Rome in 1960 (developing from the earlier International Wheelchair Games of 1948) when the Olympic Federation endorsed the concept of Paralympic Games being held in the same city, and using the same facilities, following on from the closing events of the Olympics themselves.

Australia has a superb Paralympics record, finishing second on the gold medal table at Atlanta in 1986 with a total tally of 42 gold, 37 silver and 24 bronze. At the 1960 Games, Daphne Hilton took two gold, three silver, and one bronze. Shooter Libby Kosmala has taken medals at five Games. Swimmer Priya Cooper, and athlete Louise Sauvage, have between them won 15 gold medals, setting more than a dozen world records at Barcelona and Atlanta.



Nathan and Joshua Stewart, Sydney, 1993  
Photograph by Serena Ovens  
gelatin silver photograph; 20 x 20 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

The time-honoured tradition of street cricket (above), as portrayed in the *Calendar of Disabled Sport, 1994*, published by the Australian Confederation of Sports for the Disabled. The National Library holds a series of photographs of Paralympians and disabled athletes competing across a wide range of sports, from basketball, swimming and track and field, to archery and shooting.

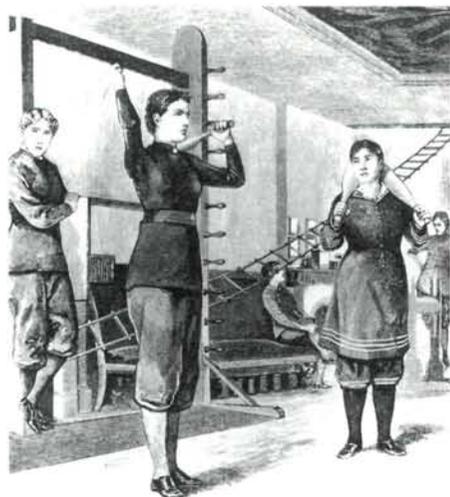
# Shaping up



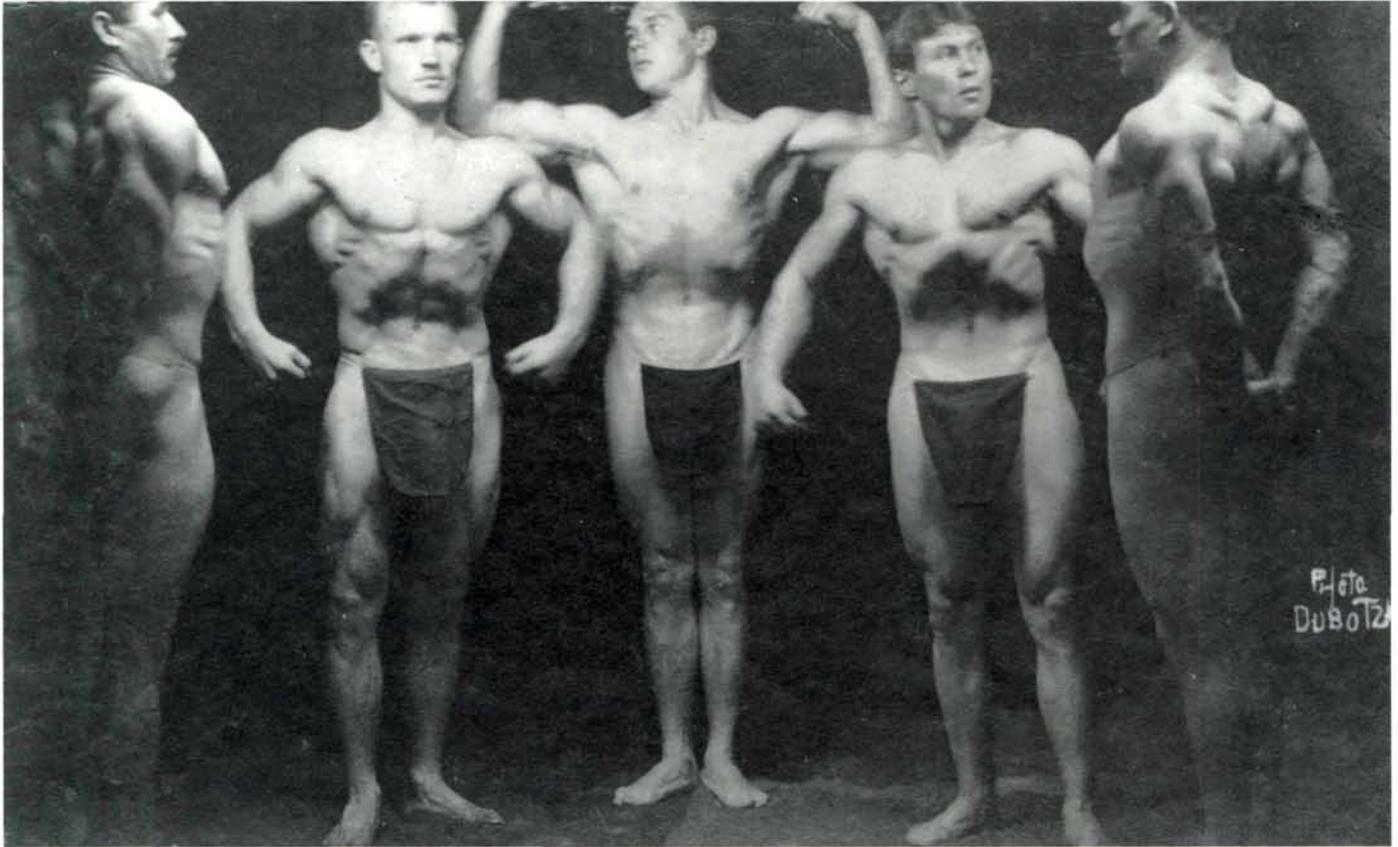
Gymnastics at a Naval Training School  
A.C. Butcher Gundagai Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

IN RECENT DECADES, women athletes have taken up body building for strength and endurance in their particular sports. A pioneer of such training was Australia's Margaret Court, who weight trained for tennis in the early 1960s and was dubbed the 'Aussie Amazon' by a then cynical British press. Today, however, women's powerlifting is a sport in itself. Alongside male counterparts such as Dean Lukin (weightlifting gold, 1984 Los Angeles Olympics), Australian women like Bev Francis (five consecutive world titles, 1980–1984) and Heidi Wittesch have met with international success.

(right) A lesson in Indian clubs at an 1881 Melbourne ladies gymnasium conducted by Misses E. Dick and A.C. Moon. The *Australasian Sketcher's* reporter commented that 'The gymnastic exercises considered so necessary for men are equally so for the other sex'. Although it was not seen as 'desirable' to actually make 'athletes of our girls', it was 'more than desirable that they should grow up healthful and capable, possessing in a sufficient degree the muscular power which alone imparts grace to movement, and that lightens domestic duties and all the business of daily life'. The reporter had 'no sympathy with those people who consider feebleness a female charm'.

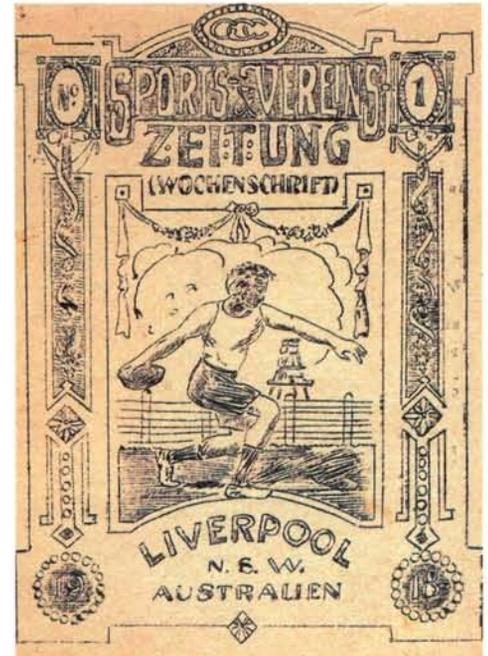
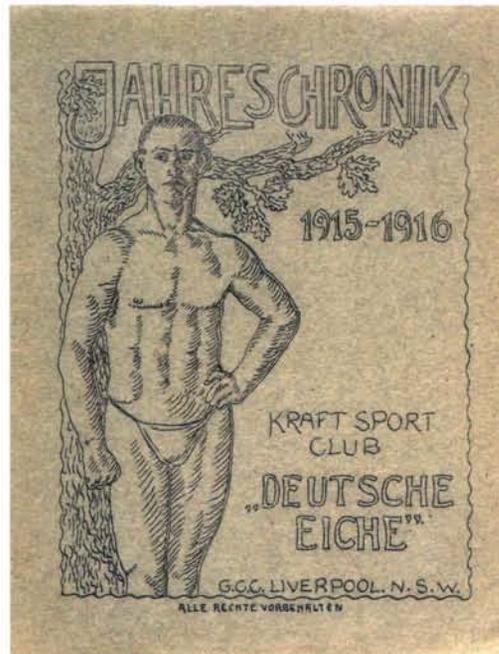


A Ladies Gymnasium  
*Australasian Sketcher*, 23 July 1881  
From the Newspaper and Microform Collection



Bodies beautiful—Pusman Athletics at Berrima Concentration Camp, 1914–1918  
gelatin silver photograph  
From the Pictorial Collection

(above) This impressive, yet discreet, demonstration of athletics comes from a collection of 68 documentary photographs of Berrima Concentration Camp, NSW, set up for holding German prisoners during the First World War. Sports were also a focus for prisoners held in a camp at nearby Liverpool, as evidenced by these programs produced by inmates (right).



Sports programs, prisoner-of-war camp, Liverpool, NSW, 1914–1918  
MS 3637; from the Manuscript Collection

# The mighty wheelman



## STARTING OUT: Hubert Opperman

MY FATHER HAD BEEN a racing cyclist, an uncle had retailed to me about how good he was ... I was really enthralled by these stories ... And I always had this urge. Cycle racing had this attraction for me right from the start ... And out at Darling or Glen Iris [Victoria] ... there were two lads named Costello—Bill and George—and I recollect that as we were coming down from Sunday school one afternoon, we saw these two racing bicycles outside a confectionery shop, and one of my mates said, 'Oh, there's the Costellos. They were in a 100-mile bicycle race yesterday' ... [And] I couldn't believe that anybody could possibly race 100 miles on a bicycle and still survive the next day ... still able to ride their bicycles. Anyhow, I was introduced to them, and they caught this interest of mine ... so they took me over to the Oakleigh West Cycling Club ...

[And my father had] a Turner Model 19 machine ... And I remember my dad saying, 'Well, I don't use the bike very much. I'll sell you this one for £10.' (Which he never got.) ... And I rode it back that night, without lights, on that rough Dandenong Road from Hampton Park. And I bought a Brooks B17 racing

'Oppy' (second from right),  
Warrnambool–Melbourne road race, 1920s  
From the Pictorial Collection



An Opperman promotion for Malvern Star  
From the Pictorial Collection



Eighteen-year-old Hubert Opperman wearing fastest time winner's sash for the Launceston-Hobart race of 1922  
From the Pictorial Collection

*for the first time in my life  
I heard the extraordinary  
sound of 30 pairs of wheels  
going around together ... like  
the whirring of ... a hundred  
pigeons' wings*

Aubrey Box, one of the scratch men ... was singing through the mud and the slush as they passed me, 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'—which had been a hit song of that period. And I thought, how in heaven's name can anybody ever ride a bicycle in a race and have enough breath to sing?

So they went past me—I hung on, and then with a groan I had to let them go. And I staggered in to the finish and found to my amazement that they felt that I'd put up a very, very good performance. And I had my first experience then ... of the camaraderie that exists between sporting people, when those mighty men of the wheel, as I regarded them then, helped me to get into my clothes, and they helped to fit on the mudguards so that we could ride home and not have the wet from the road on us ... It was something that I never forgot.

HUBERT OPPERMAN

saddle, put it on the machine, and duly found myself lining up [at the age of 16] in the 20 miles [32 km] handicap road race at Oakleigh West ...

I started off second limit with Paddy McMahon, an ex-champion ... And I had this studded machine, no racing tyres on it, the only thing that was 'racing' on it was this saddle. And it was a bitter day, such as only Melbourne can produce, spitting rain and cold sou'-westerly. And [we] went up and down Dandenong Road twice to get the distance in. It was a morass of red mud, puddles, potholes and only one strip of asphalt that was put down as an experimental piece for a mile at Springvale ... After nearly every race we had to have fresh ball-bearings put in the heads because of the jamming of them ... when you got on to metal road, that was just like velvet ...

Anyhow, I caught McMahon, I passed him and I was in front, and nobody ever tried more to win a race than I did. And I was on my own until I got back two or three miles from the finish, and then the bunch caught me. The scratch men had caught their out-markers and brought them through with them, and for the first time in my life I heard the extraordinary sound of 30 pairs of wheels going around together ... like the whirring of dozens or a hundred pigeons' wings. I couldn't forget that. And I couldn't forget that

## TOUR DE FRANCE, 1928

TEN DAYS [after the 385 km Paris–Brussels race], the Tour de France started ... on a formula which was completely against [we four Australians], because in the first eight stages the teams started at 10-minute intervals ... They were cycle-trade teams, 10 men in each, who obviously would pace one another. We only had four; it was akin to four men pulling 10 men in a tug-of-war. Then they had eight stages through the mountains where everybody went together, and in the last stage everybody went together again. The French papers, the European papers, said that the Australians would only last three stages.

Nothing I ever did in cycling after that was ever as hard ... You just did not know from one day to the other how you were going to continue ... you had no let-up from the start of the race to the finish, just constantly pacing ... Your legs became so wooden that you'd ride down to the start and you'd wonder what was turning the pedals, you'd wonder how the bike would move, and yet somehow after 30 or 40 miles the life would revive into them again and you'd manage to finish. I have seen photos of [us] ... at the end of a day's stage, and we just don't look as if we're in this world. It was considered to be one of the hardest [Tours] held, because of this formula ... they decided against it in future years ...

We had one stage, from Luchon to Hendaye, that was 250 miles [400 km]. We started at midnight and we were out on the beginning of these mountainous roads with just the occasional car light that would come past ... it was impossible for [our manager–mechanic] Bruce Small to find us, as we were scattered along the road ... It wasn't until about three o'clock in the morning, when dawn broke, that we ... came together again and could see the road.

And then we climbed the Pyrenees and the Alps, over which we'd never been before—the climbing was seven and eight miles up to the 7000 feet [2134 m] peak, and then you started the descents, fearsome descents, with drops over the side of 1000 feet ... with roads that were rough and metalled, and only perhaps a few feet from the edge at times. We found that while in many cases we were equal to [the Europeans] along the flat, the climbing—the descents—called for a different type of ability entirely.

[Some night riders wore] miners lamps on their caps ... [the] riders who knew the road sufficiently to get out ahead had the illumination, and the others were left staggering round [behind] ...

But we were fortunate [in that] if we'd gone to a Tour de France run under different conditions and hadn't performed very well, we'd have been eliminated from public memory and forgotten. But the four Australians, they stand as a landmark ... one of the historic feats of the Tour de France, because of the small team, and the fact that three [riders] did finish.

And I regard it as a bleeding for myself ... never again did I ever feel ... so fatigued as I did day-after-day, in [that] Tour de France.

HUBERT OPPERMAN

*you'd wonder what was  
turning the pedals*

(below) Page 358 of Sir Hubert Opperman's typescript for his autobiography, *Pedals, Politics and People* (1977). The Library holds many of Opperman's papers, including personal diaries and correspondence, covering his sporting and political careers. The sporting documents consist of 23 folio-sized news cutting books of cycling events (mainly road and broad track), many in France, from 1914 to 1930. There is also a collection of photo albums and glass slides, mainly of his Tour de France period. In the extract (below), Opperman reflects on visiting France in his capacity as Australian Minister for Immigration, and being decorated with a French medal of thanks for his services to cycling. Viewing a leg of the Tour de France, he was astonished by the fact that the modern cyclists, unlike those of his day, were not obliged to carry their own spare tyres: 'Mechanics were ready, only seconds behind, with wheels, or bicycles, when called up on short-wave radio by the race director ... I felt like Rip Van Winkle waking up to the realities of modern years.'

the pressure of later years rested lightly on glowing visage and figures, which had faced and conquered the hills and gales of bygone days.

It was the stuff that dreams are made on.

Cologne presented ~~me~~ another unique moment. As riders congregated for the first fierce bicycle battle to Liege, in the <sup>TREB</sup> Tour de France, Jacques Goddet called me to the dais and, as the newspapers reported, "Decorated the Australian Minister for Immigration with the <sup>TREB</sup> ~~Medaille de La Reconnaissance~~, the medal of thanks, for services to cycling". From the pistol shot, it was plain that Continental cycling racing, from my days, had stepped into seven-league boots. Increased speed with improved roads, multiple gears, feather-weight silk tyres, lighter frames and equipment, had raised their average like inflation <sup>with</sup> ~~under~~ a <sup>PRINTING PRESS</sup>. I was driven with hair-graying intensity, skill and dexterity by Chevalier Georges Speicher, film star, handsome, and

Typescript for *Pedals, Politics and People* (1977)  
MS 6429; from the Manuscript Collection

## PARIS–BREST–PARIS, 1931

[BUT] IN THE BACK of my mind all the time ... was this Paris–Brest–Paris race, which is held only every 10 years, and was being held for the fifth time ... It had Nicholas Frantz, who had won the Tour de France twice, it had a selected field for long distance ...

We faced 24 hours of rain and we were under the capes, howling wind, hail, and it was hard riding to get to Brest. But ... I realised from my experience in 1928 that you're riding stronger and better after the Tour de France than at any other time in your life, and if you can retain that form you'll show your peak performance ...

[I had earlier trained] at a place called La Baule, and I [had ridden] up and down that latter part of the Paris–Brest [route] through Brittany until I knew every inch of the road. And I was well known, too, along the road ... it hadn't escaped their notice that I was down there. And so I was in a most friendly atmosphere. Quite inspiring.

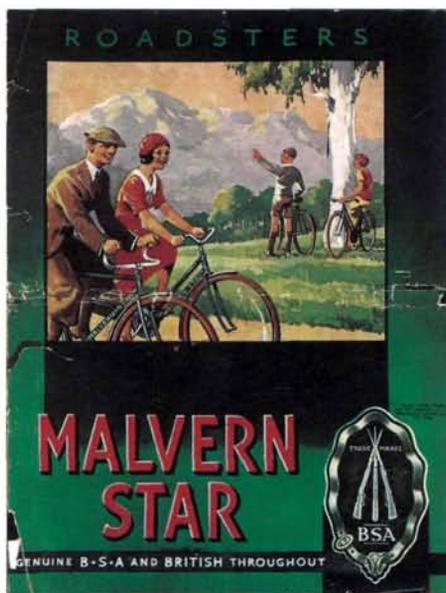
Anyhow [in the actual race] when we turned at Brest, there were 14 of us left ... and we went together until we were at Rennes ... 200 miles [322 km] from the finish. And a fellow named Bonduel, a Belgian, came up to me and he put his hand on my shoulder and he tried to say something in Flemish, which I didn't understand ... [When] we stopped three minutes at Rennes [a translator explained] 'What he's trying to tell you is that he's got to drop out, but the Genial/Lucifer team is going to team with the Alcyon team to beat you.' So that meant that if an Alcyon man went away, instead of me being able to swing on to the wheels of the Genial/Lucifer team ... and chase with them, they would be holding back, [and] I'd have to chase on my own. And the same thing, vice versa ... [So] I had to be right on the wheel of the man who broke away.

So at about 50 miles [80 km] from the finish, one of the Alcyon men, Marcel Bidot, broke away. I chased him and he punctured, and then the Alcyon team came after me and went past me ... And they looked tired—Nicholas Frantz was one of them—so I made a jump on the hill and broke away, and I was three minutes ahead with 50 miles to go. And then [four riders] got together and chased me. And they caught me just before the finish, three miles from the finish on the cobblestones. And that's when Bruce Small ... came up alongside and said, 'They're dead from the chase, keep at them!' So I jumped up on the footpath and raced along the footpath and then down on the other side and on to the other footpath, and each time they sent a different rider along to try and catch me, and they'd catch me, and then the others would, when I slowed—anyhow that was to keep them tired, and we [finally] got on the track with a lap-and-a-half to go, and I took the last position so I wouldn't get boxed in, and the bell rang.

And it was the track on which I'd won the Bol d'Or [in 1928]—I knew every angle, every slope of it, how long the straight was, it was imprinted on my mind—and I was just going to take the run around the top when ... the Italian moved ... And he went up high on the track and I was able to go up with him because I was getting the advantage of being on his wheel. And as he made his run down he faltered, he collapsed—he'd just reached the end of his energy—but he'd put me high on the bank and I was able to swoop down and get the advantage of that, and I couldn't believe it possible as I went past and won by about 10 lengths over Louyet.

That, naturally, I regard—despite any records I've broken since, even the ride across Australia ... as the pinnacle point of my pedalling existence. And it represented

*Bruce Small ... came up alongside and said, 'They're dead from the chase, keep at them!'*



Bruce Small's Malvern Star company catalogue, featuring the newly-released 1937 'Coronation Range' of roadsters and junior models. Small (later Sir Bruce) was Opperman's manager and support mechanic  
From the Ephemera Collection

everything that I'd worked for, because my *forté* was long-distance cycling and that [at 726 miles; 1168 km] was the longest [non-stop] ride in the world ... It was against competition, and so I regard it as the top-notch event of my cycling life.

HUBERT OPPERMAN

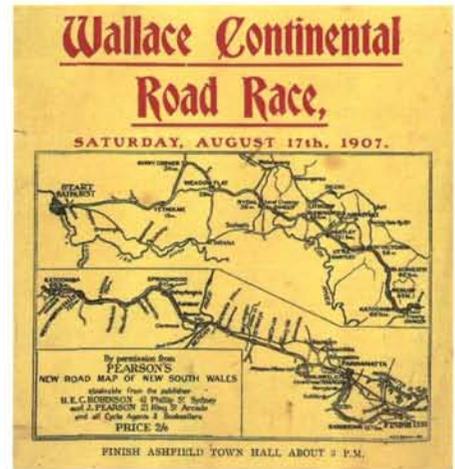
## A CHANGE OF GEAR: INTO POLITICS

I REMEMBER MRS CASEY getting very impatient with [Richard Casey—later Lord Casey, Governor-General of Australia] and saying, 'Oh Dick, you've got to remember this man, he's everybody's pin-up boy—every kid that's got a bike knows about Oppy.' No, ... well ... it wasn't his world. But [Oppy] was a household name ...

Well ... Oppy's entry into politics ... meant ... the end of his active association with Malvern Star ... Opperman was the Member for Corio for 18 years ... Government Whip in 1955, he was Minister for Shipping and Transport, he was Minister for Immigration, and he was High Commissioner for Malta. And he was knighted in 1968 ...

I think I picked the right fellow ... He was a great Australian, Opperman, who began life as a bicyclist!

PAT JARRETT



Program for the 1907 Wallace Continental Road Race from Bathurst (central western NSW) to Ashfield Town Hall, Sydney—a length of 133.5 miles (213 km). A sponsor provided beef tea sustenance to the 136 riders en route. According to a handwritten note in the program's results box the winner was F. Aplin

From the Ephemera Collection



FOLLOWING ON OPPERMAN'S PRECEDENT, a number of later Australian cyclists have attained international success, including taking some Olympic gold: Russell Mockridge (1000-m Time Trial; and 2000-m Tandem with Lionel Cox, 1952 Helsinki Games), the men's cycling team (4000-m Team Pursuit, Los Angeles Games, 1984) and Kathy Watt (Women's Individual Road Race, Barcelona, 1992).

Participants in a less formal road event, these Bendigo cyclists rode to Sydney for the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1932

From the Pictorial Collection

# Cliff-hanging

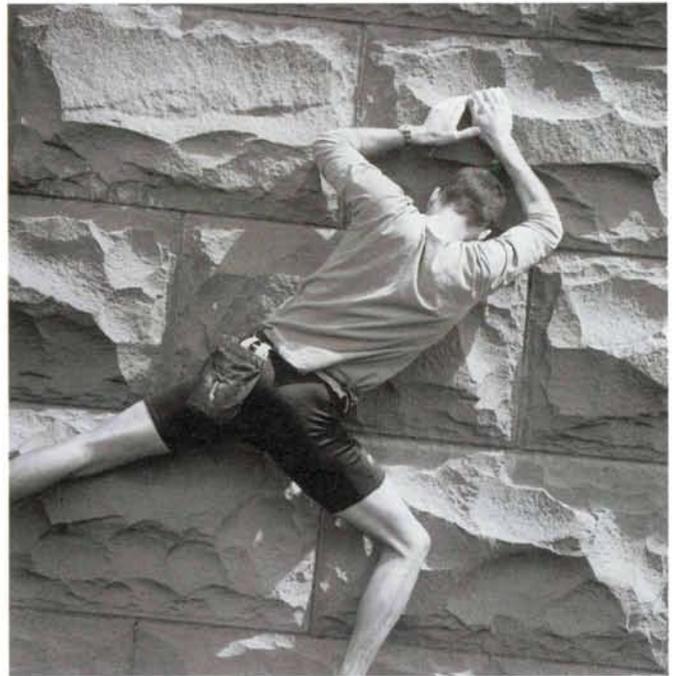


Climbing the Three Sisters, Blue Mountains, NSW, 1952  
ANIB; photograph by W. Brindle  
From the Pictorial Collection

CLIMBING WAS POPULARISED in northern England following the Second World War, with climbing clubs also spreading within Australia over the same period. In more recent decades, universities and other interest groups have built indoor climbing walls to hone their skills on, and there has been striking improvement in the strength, style and portability of equipment (including some flash-looking lycra climbing-suits).

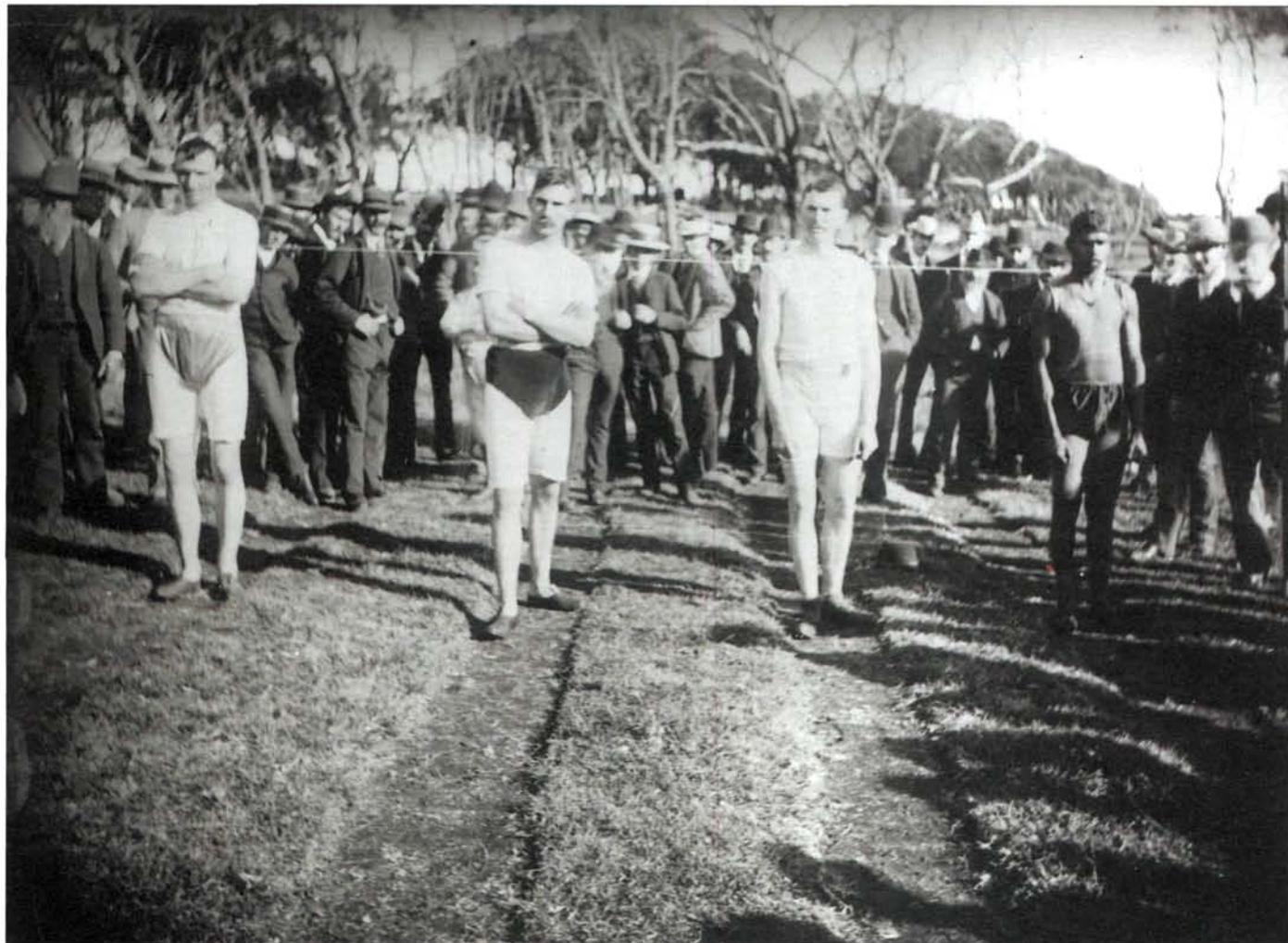
At the sport's upper reaches, in October 1984, mountaineers Tim Macartney-Snape and Greg Mortimer became the first Australians to conquer Everest. Macartney-Snape also later succeeded in a dramatic solo ascent on the same mountain from sea-level to summit without carrying oxygen. Today, abseiling courses may be run by a diverse array of groups, from Outward Bound expeditions to those conducting 'initiative-training' courses for business executives. A recent variation on assaulting rock faces has been canyoning.

*(below)* A chalk-handed climber practises on the clefts of the National Library's podium with a gentle metre-deep fall to the lawns, while *(left)*, the real thing offers a more perilous drop for members of the Sydney Rock Climbers Club in the early 1950s.



Practising on National Library of Australia Podium, Canberra, 1996  
silver gelatin; photograph by Loui Seselja  
Canberra Life Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

# Up bush: In the paddock, down the creek



Sports Day, Corunna, New South Wales  
Tilba Tilba Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

## COUNTRY SPORT

IT IS A CLICHÉ OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT, well evidenced across the pages of this book, that bountiful numbers of great sports men and women hail from country regions, where sport has been an intrinsic part of social life. (To touch on just two sports—in cricket, Bill O'Reilly, Stan McCabe and Don Bradman came from Wingello, Grenfell and Bowral respectively; and in racquet sports, Margaret Court, Rod Laver, Evonne Cawley and Heather McKay came from regional Albury, Rockhampton, Barellan and Queanbeyan.) Farm tennis courts, paddocks, back roads, local rivers and creeks have been the early arenas for greater and lesser champions.

*(above)* Starting line for a footrace at Corunna, NSW. One such race, the annual Stawell Gift in Victoria, has become a classic. First held in 1878, run over 110 m, with a handsome prize, the event draws some top-line athletes and is claimed as the oldest professional footrace in the world.



Cycling at Moruya, on the southern NSW coast  
From the Pictorial Collection

## By sea and creek

CYCLING HAS BEEN a popular activity since the first velocipedes appeared in Australia in 1868. With the advent of chain-driven bicycles, and especially pneumatic tyres, increasing numbers of men and women took up cycling from the 1890s for both transport and recreation, negotiating bush roads and tracks to neighbouring creeks and beaches.

And, in the days before municipal pools, rivers and creeks were low-maintenance venues for early swimming meets.



Swimming competition, Mandurama, NSW

This image, deteriorated from prolonged under-house storage, is one of some 3000 produced from glass negatives made by E.A. Lumme and his wife, whose commercial photography business now serves to document regional social life from about 1900 to 1915

Photograph by E.A. Lumme

Mandurama Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



Bush cricket, Canberra region, mid-1920s  
From the Pictorial Collection

## In the paddock

AUSTRALIAN GOLF is said to have begun in the early 1830s, on a very rough paddock course marked out on one Alex Reid's country property at Bothwell, central Tasmania. Improvisation is sometimes still required in the game today: in South Australia's desert landscape, the course at Coober Pedy features dirt and gravel fairways, and black 'greens' composed of rolled sand and sump oil.

Cricket, too, has been played in incalculable numbers of country paddocks and roadways. In one variation of the game at the property 'Fernhill' (near Canberra) in the early 1900s, it was customary for the women to play the men once a year, the ladies plying a cricket bat and the gents a pick handle.



A turn of golf at Gundagai, NSW  
A.C. Butcher Gundagai Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

## Hot soccer—and bush tennis

MAKING THE FIRE FOR BONFIRE NIGHT began in early October. Apart from the crackers and the rockets, the adventure of the night was kicking fiery kerosene balls around a paddock ploughed so that there could be no risk of bushfire—or worse, a fire in a ripening crop.

Using a tennis ball as a core, we stitched old rags tightly around it until it was as big as a soccer ball. We then put it to soak in a big tin of power kerosene. Perhaps 20 children would kick the burning ball until it fell to pieces.

It now sounds dangerous, but no one ever got burnt.



Croquet and tennis at a country venue  
Humphery Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

ALMOST EVERY AUSTRALIAN country home had a tennis court made of clay or ant bed, and families took it in turn to hold Sunday tennis.

We used coarse salt bought in hundredweight [50 kg] jute bags to kill the weeds on the court. The weeds that survived the salt were killed with arsenic. We bought the poison as a powder in 4-gallon [18 L] tins. It was my job as a child to keep the court free of weeds. I made liquid arsenic by stirring the powder into boiling water on an open fire. I was always careful to note which way the wind was blowing.

There were good public tennis courts all through country districts in every State, usually positioned near a dance and meeting hall. Tournaments were held at weekends. According to ability, players were handicapped up to three points a game.

ERIC ROLLS

## A bout of bush hockey, c.1920

THEY HAD NEVER PLAYED HOCKEY [at Barmedman Primary School, NSW] before, but the headmaster asked me to get a hockey team going ...

We didn't have any hockey sticks, so we went out into the bush and we got mallee sticks ... it was very crude, and it had the branch sticking up, and we trimmed it all back, and that's what we used for hockey sticks. We had a cricket ball ...

And I just gave up trying to umpire, because everybody went everywhere, and I didn't know who was on which side—it ended up to be a hilarious affair.

But later on, after I had left, I read in the paper where they had continued their hockey and were very keen about it. And the women won the Country Week ... about three or four years later.

SALLY MURRAY



Oodnadatta races, in gibber-plained northern central South Australia  
From the Pictorial Collection

## PICNIC RACES

PICNIC RACE DAYS were great social events, with special distinctions between the *public* (not welcome as members, but so necessary to finances) and the *members* (nominated and voted in). Members and public met at the beer tent. Often a call had to go out to the nearest publican for another truckload of kegs. The takings made happy honorary treasurers.

The horses had to be paddocked together until six weeks before the first meeting of the season, when they could be brought in to the stable and fed. (There were always rumours that old so-and-so was seen taking an illegal tin of oats to his horse in the paddock.)

The racing standard was often high. Bookmakers travelled long distances to attend. Big Gladstone bags hung on often big bellies, and the lean penciller—a calculating machine—licked his indelible pencil. 'Six to one bar one!' might be

AUSTRALIA IS SAID TO HAVE more racecourses and meetings than any other nation in the world. Featuring among these, picnic races at remote locations often attract enthusiastic city spectators too. Across the nation, frill-neck lizards (Eulo, Qld), wild goats harnessed to billy-carts (Lighting Ridge, NSW), camels and ferrets might also be contenders in races, and sheep shearing and rabbit skinning might be suitable matter for wagering.



Talbingo station, NSW

Photograph by J. Fitzpatrick; from the Pictorial Collection

*picnic racing thrived in the  
now-lost days of generally  
profitable farming*

(above) The refreshment tent at a picnic race meeting at 'Talbingo' station, southern highlands, NSW. The neighbouring beer tent would often be a key revenue raiser.

the first call before the money began to come in and fix the odds. Jockeys wore silk and rode like professionals.

Picnic racing thrived in the now-lost days of generally profitable farming. In the 1950s people dressed as though for the Melbourne Cup. By the 1960s, day dress had become more casual, but the last night ball was formal. Tails, not dinner suits, and long gowns were favoured. They still are, in some of the few clubs that have survived.

It is good to dress up sometimes: remembering the past secures the future.

ERIC ROLLS

# Reading all about it

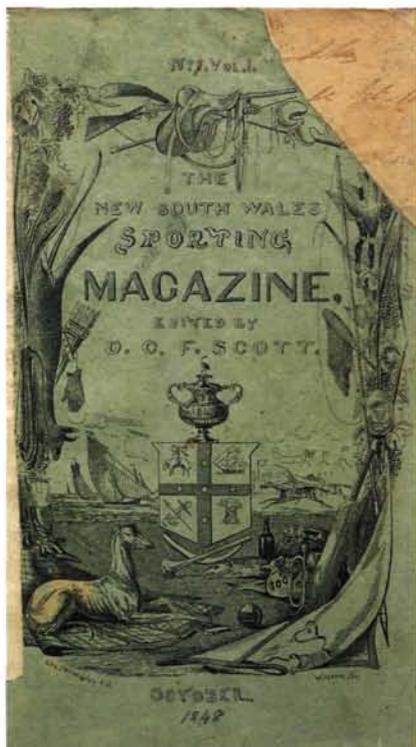


## THE MEDIA: From 'sporting and dramatic news' to Sky Channel

TRANSMISSION OF SPORTING NEWS AND EVENTS has proliferated over the decades, from the conventional newspapers, journals and magazines, to newsreels, and on to live broadcasts and Sky Channel. Having another major impact is the Internet. Today, many sports and sporting clubs and associations host their own Web sites for fans and promotion. Organisations such as the Australian Sports Commission or the Australian Institute of Sport have their own home pages, with many more such groups, both official and unofficial, coming online every day. There are also sports celebrity Web sites, some created by official institutions (such as the State Library of South Australia's Don Bradman home page), others set up by home enthusiasts from their lounge-room computer. And, as with any other topic on the Internet, chat groups also operate for the various sports.

Sporting images too can be accessed in digital form, via commercial agencies, or collecting institutions such as the National Library of Australia, whose Images1 site can be accessed via the Library's home page.

*(above)* Still photography was supplemented by motion pictures, and later by live broadcasts from across the world. Here an eerie of sports photographers sits in residence at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1931  
Fishwick, Little, Turner, Cameron; glass slide  
Ellison Collection; from the Pictorial Collection



New South Wales Sporting Magazine, 1848  
(Sydney: printed by D. Wall, 1848)  
From the Ferguson Collection



The Coo-ee Sporting & Theatrical Record, 1908  
(Perth: H.P. Falkiner at the Morning Herald)

(top and bottom) An emphasis on fishing, coursing, horse sports, cricket and sailing is indicated by the cover graphic of the *New South Wales Sporting Magazine*, from October 1848. While in Perth's *Coo-ee Sporting & Theatrical Record* of 1908, football and boxing commentary is interspersed with reviews of light comedy and juggling acts.

## PAT JARRETT: A sports writer on the *Herald*

ONE OF THEM SAID TO ME ONE DAY ... 'Why don't you think about coming on to the *Herald*?'

'Oh,' I said, 'they don't have very many women on the *Herald*.' (I think they had about one woman on the reporting staff) ... I said, 'Well, who should I write to?'

And ... it was Mr Keith Murdoch that I wrote to, and the sort of letter I wrote (which is what you do, when ... 18-or-so years of age), I practically, in effect, said 'How the Melbourne *Herald* was coming out without me at night, I just couldn't possibly imagine!'

Well, to my delight and surprise, I was told to come and see ... Sidney Deemer ... And he said, 'And what's the first thing you read in the *Herald* at night, Miss Jarrett?'

And in all innocence, and in truth, I said, 'Mickey Mouse.'

He said, 'So do I! Now ... when would you like to start?'

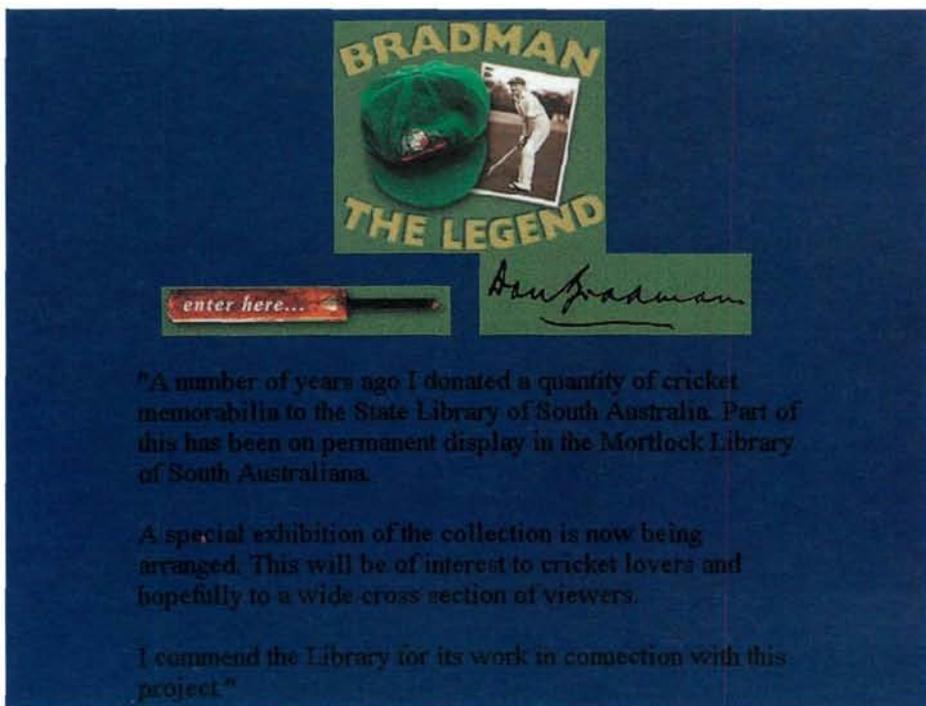
I just said, 'Wednesday.'

And he said, 'And how much do you think you'd want ... working here on a permanent basis as the sports writer for the Melbourne *Herald*?'

Again, I just plucked a figure out of the air: '£5.' (That was a fortune!) ...

And I never walk down Flinders Street to this day ... without thinking of the night that I walked ... home to tell my mother and my sister that I was starting work next Wednesday on the Melbourne *Herald*!

PAT JARRETT



"A number of years ago I donated a quantity of cricket memorabilia to the State Library of South Australia. Part of this has been on permanent display in the Mortlock Library of South Australia.

A special exhibition of the collection is now being arranged. This will be of interest to cricket lovers and hopefully to a wide cross section of viewers.

I commend the Library for its work in connection with this project."

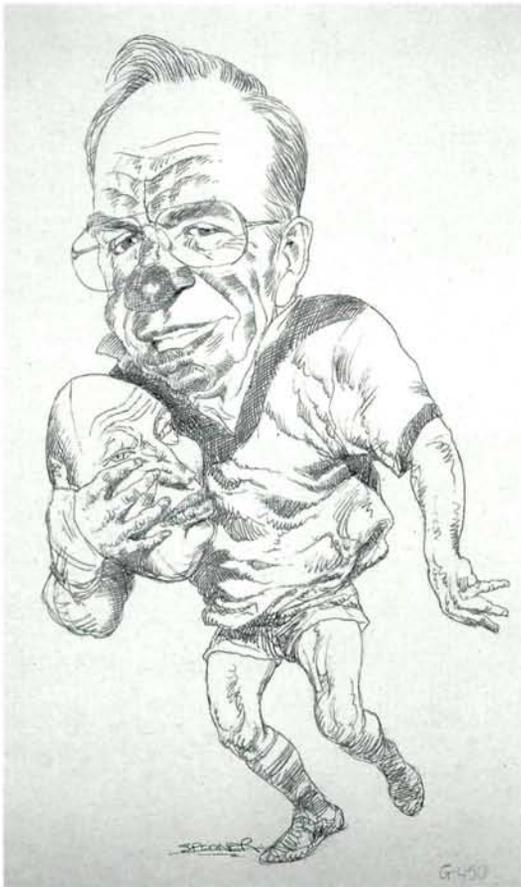
Celebrities on the Net: Don Bradman site, maintained by the State Library of South Australia  
(Reproduced courtesy State Library of South Australia)

## SELLING SPORT: SALES AND PROMOTION

TODAY, IN ADDITION TO THE TRADITIONAL SPORTSGOODS, sporting celebrities may lend their aura to any number of products ranging from mobile phones to real estate and breakfast cereals. And in the heady, opening days of the new millennium, sportsgoods, like any other commodity, can be located via the Internet's search engines and purchased electronically from anywhere in the world via the home computer.

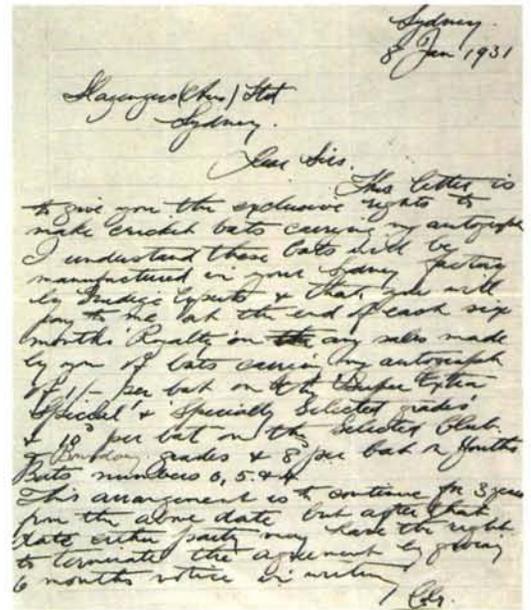
(right) From an earlier era, this 1931 letter from Clarence ('Clarrie') Grimmett to Slazengers (Australia) gives them exclusive rights to use his autograph on a range of cricket bats. Grimmett, a leg-break bowler, represented Australia in 37 Test matches between 1925 and 1936, taking 216 Test wickets, an Australian record until 1959.

(Among other cricketing manuscripts, the National Library holds a copy of an agreement between W.G. Grace and the English cricket team that toured Australia in September 1873.) Also reflecting an earlier age is this 1930s trade catalogue for Melbourne's Hartley tennis racquets (bottom right). The catalogue offered a range running from the 'Silver King De Luxe' at 80 shillings ('undoubtedly the best and strongest racquet ever made') down to the new 'Chevron' low-priced model at 18 shillings and six pence.

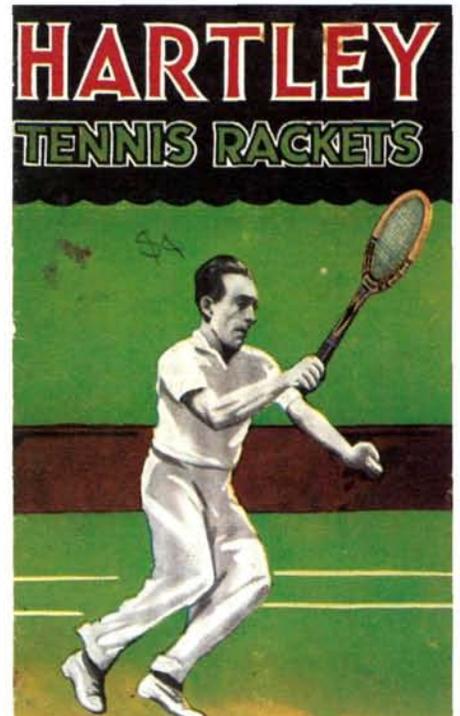


John Spooner (b.1946)  
[Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer, 1995]  
drawing in pencil, pen and ink; 30 x 17 cm  
From the Pictorial Collection

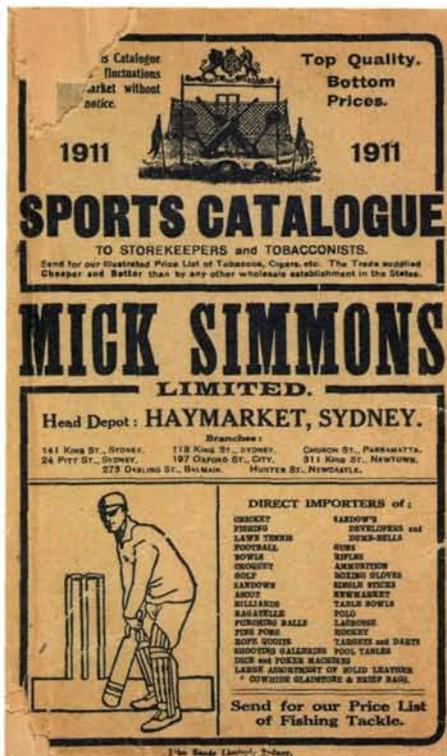
For centuries, sport has also been a metaphor for cartoonists to portray other social activities such as politics and business, a recent example being John Spooner's evocation (left) of Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer's business tussles in the 1990s—particularly appropriate given both men's business ventures into sport. In America, Rupert Murdoch has bought into baseball, while Kerry Packer, himself a keen polo player, is seen as the man who changed the face of cricket in the 1970s by packaging and televising the World Series game. Night matches in brightly-coloured clothing placed a new emphasis on entertainment, drawing enthusiastic, often boisterous crowds. The two business moguls have stouped over rights to televise rugby union, whose marketability has greatly risen since institution of the World Cup in 1987.



Licensing agreement between Clarence Grimmett and Slazengers (Australia), 1931  
MS 9268; from the Manuscript Collection



From the Ephemera Collection



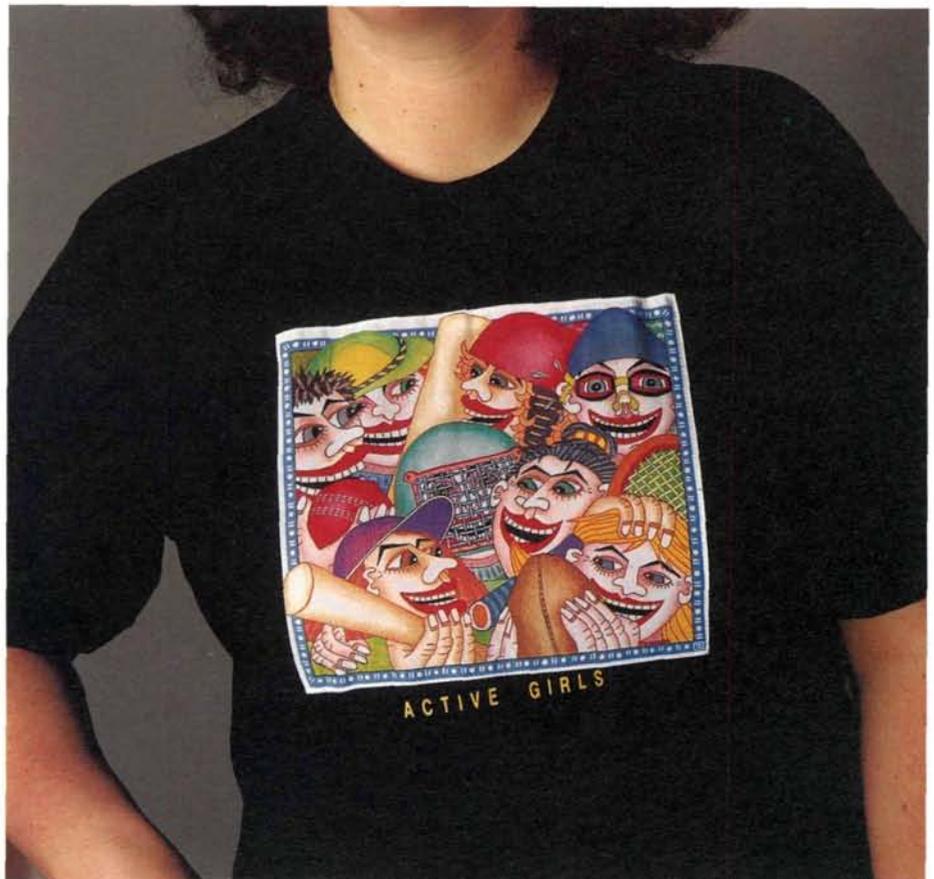
Sports mail-order catalogues such as this 1911 one (left) from Mick Simmons, once dispatched sportsgoods across the nation. This particular catalogue featured a handy 10-gauge, 12-inch, cast iron, 14-pound Winchester Breech Loading Cannon. (For 'celebration and for saluting. Can be heard at three miles.')

As part of its promotion, the Simmons store also employed many sporting idols, such as 1930s cricketer great Stan McCabe. In more recent times, rock stars have been used for sports promotion—as evidenced by American entertainer Tina Turner's association with rugby league in the 1980s

From the Ephemera Collection

GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS and official bodies such as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) have also enthusiastically promoted sport in recent times. According to its Web site mission statement, the ASC was established to recognise the immense role which sport plays in providing health, social and economic benefits to the nation. The Commission was set up to provide national leadership and funding in support of sport, and to increase participation by all Australians. It also has the brief of promoting excellence in sports performance. The Canberra-based Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), which started operation in 1981 at the National Sports Centre at Bruce in Canberra, is a key component of this program.

(right) A lively T-shirt forming part of the Australian Sports Commission's 'Active Girls Campaign' to encourage female participation in sports.



From the Ephemera Collection

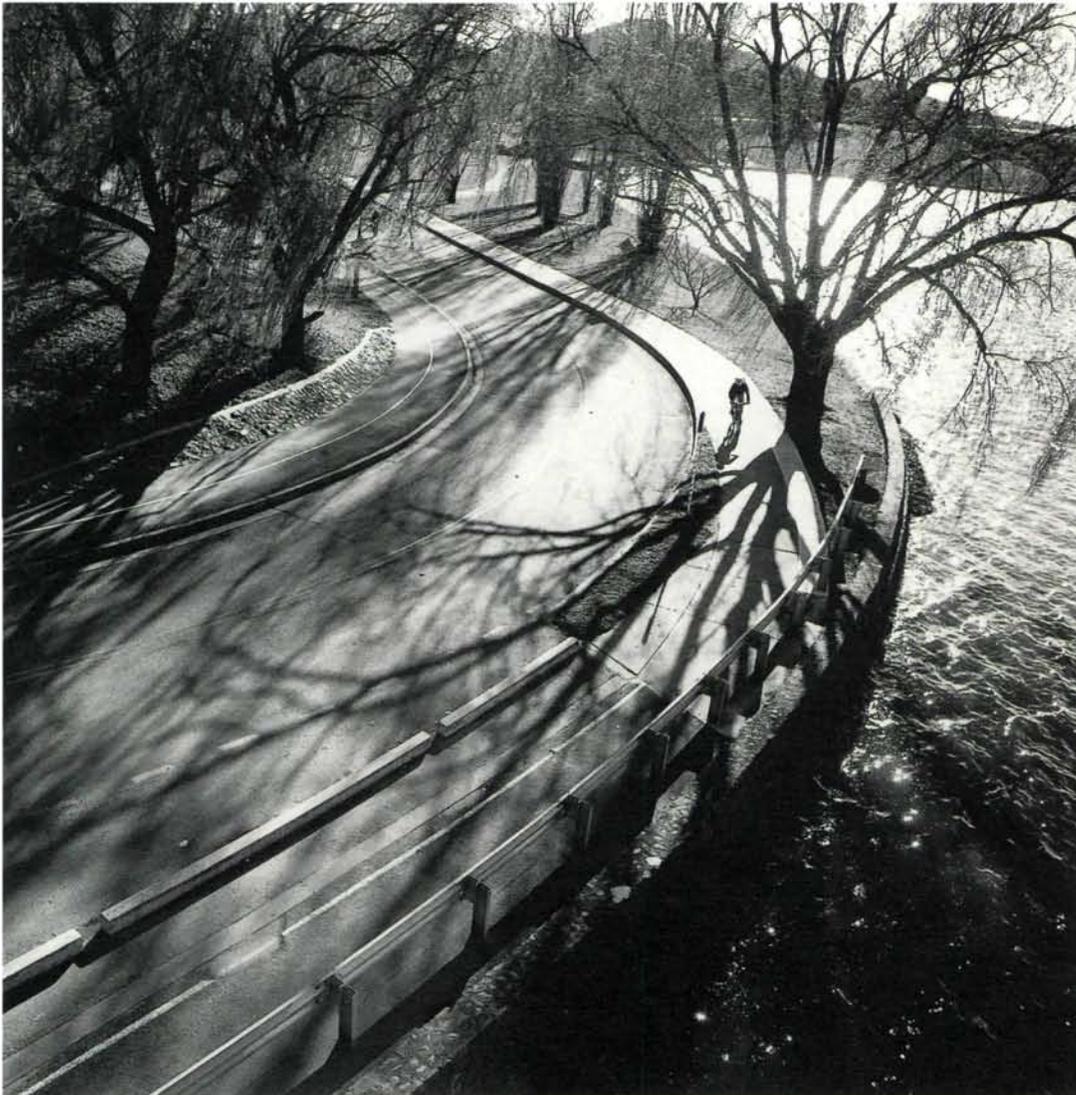
# Gentler games and recreational pursuits



## FLY A KITE, ROLLERBLADE OR RIDE A BIKE

RECENT DECADES HAVE SEEN A BOOM in recreational and 'keep-fit' activities, ranging from aerobic classes, jogging, rollerblading and cycling, down to urbanites maintaining their muscle tone by walking to work or walking the dog. Many local councils have set up fitness circuits in public spaces and there has been a boom in events such as fun runs. These days, tracksuits and designer jogging shoes may also become somewhat ironic apparel for markedly less strenuous pursuits such as shopping or sipping cappuccinos.

*(above)* Rollerblading  
Photograph by Loui Seselja  
Canberra Life Collection;  
from the Pictorial Collection



Cyclist on shores of Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra  
silver gelatin; photograph by Loui Seselja  
Canberra Life Collection; from the Pictorial Collection

This image of cycling (*above*) comes from a series of 167 silver gelatin photographs undertaken by the National Library of Australia's Photographics Unit to document daily social life and customs of the capital in the 1990s. (*right*) According to the late-1970s Australian Information Service news story accompanying this photograph, kite flying was taking off in Australia, largely through the efforts of the Kite Fliers' Association of South Australia. The group liked to fly their kites well above the 90 m allowed without notification by local air traffic control authorities, and group founder Robert Hains believed there were few healthier, happier family and community-oriented pastimes than kite flying: 'A father who helps his son get a kite airborne has a friend for life—or vice versa ... kites are great conversation starters, idea promoters, philosophy stimulators, and one of the best reasons in the world to organise a picnic with good food, good wine and good company'

AIS; from the Pictorial Collection



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Details on past Olympics, and on the 1908 Australian Rugby Union Team, are drawn from:

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Ausport: Australian Sport Database (Australian Sporting Commission);

The Official Web Site of the Sydney Olympic Games

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Peter Solness; *The Australian Womens' Weekly* (reproduction of magazine covers); the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (reproduction of Sydney 2000 logo), and the Olympic Co-ordination Authority/Bob Peters (photographs of Olympic venues); the National Archives of Australia; the *Canberra Times*; the *Age* (John Spooner's cartoon of Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer); EMAP/Mason Stewart Publishing; *Courier Mail/Queensland Newspapers*; Ure Smith (photo of Les Darcy from *Australia's Golden Boy of Boxing*, 1965). The photographs of Douglas Youd (provided courtesy of Douglas Youd) were collected by Gregg Borschmann in connection with a National Library Oral History project and an associated publication, *The People's Forest* (completed 1999). The Library sometimes makes copies of loaned photographs and albums for placement in the Pictorial Collection. Persons who (as indicated by sometimes brief annotations accompanying photographs) made such material available and which appears in this book are: Mrs Hodda (Reginald Keith in training); Mr G. Piggott (Hubert Opperman at start of Dunlop Road Cycle Race); A.H. Ingram (Bondi Swimming Pool, 1935); Mr A. Fitzgerald (Brighton Beach, Melbourne, c.1925; cricket game in Canberra region, c.1925); Mr R.D. Kempe (Oodnadatta races); Mrs Briggs (Chicago White Sox Baseball Team, 1914); W.D. Parkinson (Bendigo cyclists, 1932); and Mrs H. Henderson Kelly (Moruya lady cyclists).

### Abbreviations used in photo credits: ANIB, AIS

This book uses a number of photographs taken by the Australian News and Information Bureau and its successor, the Australian Information Service, which are abbreviated as 'ANIB' and 'AIS' in the captions respectively.

## NOTE ON ORAL HISTORY RECORDINGS AND INTERVIEWEES

The main text of this book is derived from highly selective and heavily excerpted interview transcripts from the National Library's Oral History Collection. They are verbatim transcriptions of the spoken word and reflect the informal, conversational style inherent in such historical sources. The National Library of Australia is not responsible for the factual accuracies of the memoirs, nor the views therein. Where possible, the National Library provides for interview transcripts to be read by the interviewee and corrected for errors, clarification or amendment. At times, however, for various reasons, it has not been possible for this process to occur and the 'final' transcripts necessarily remain in an 'uncorrected' form. (Such uncorrected transcripts are indicated in the interviewee details following.)

The selections made in this book have been excerpted from transcripts varying from 15 pages to, in some instances, more than 200 pages in length. Sometimes elements of the same story may occur dozens or more pages apart in the interview transcript. For purposes of flow, style, unity and continuity across the whole book, minor editing and rearrangement of intact blocks of text has sometimes been employed. This, however, where it occurs (as indicated by stylised separators, or by ellipsis: ... ) has not effected the sense or integrity of the original material. For the full content and context of the interviews, however, interested persons should consult the original recordings and full transcripts in the collection.

## Interviewees

**Jack Brabham, (Sir) 1926–**  
Motor racing driver and builder; 3 times World Racing Car Champion (1959, 1960 and 1966); with Ron Tauranac began own company and developed a Formula One car, winning 1966 Constructors Championship TRC 3251. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Australians of the Year Oral History Project Recorded: 8 May 1995, Sydney, NSW

**Brien (William Baxter) Cobcroft, 1934**  
Equestrian competitor 1964 Tokyo Olympics; bronze medallist in the equestrian 3-day event team at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics TRC 391/12. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 19 April 1975, Quirindi, NSW

**Billy (William Henry) Cook, 1910–85**  
Winner Jockeys' Premiership in 1939 and 1945; winner Melbourne Cup 1941, 1945 and Sydney Cup, 1953 TRC 391/39. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 21 January 1980, Sydney, NSW [Uncorrected transcript]

**Margaret Court (née Smith), 1942–**  
Winner of 11 Australian Open Championships between 1960 and 1973. Wimbledon Women's Singles Title holder 1963, 1965, 1970. Multiple Winner US and French Titles TRC 3346. Interviewer: Gail O'Hanlon Interview conducted in association with the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History Recorded: 8 September, 8–15 December 1994, Nedlands, WA

**Bernard ('Midget') Farrelly, 1944–**  
International surfing champion (including first non-Hawaiian to win Makaha International Contest, 1963) and surfboard manufacturer TRC 2802. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 30 October 1984

**Alice Ferguson, 1909–**  
Captain, Merewether Ladies Swimming Club (Newcastle, NSW); early female life saver TRC 2301 INT.16. Interviewer: Claire Williams New South Wales Bicentennial Oral History Collection Recorded: 25 February 1987

**Pat (Patricia Irene Herschell) Jarrett, 1911–90**  
Melbourne *Herald* sports journalist; swimmer and woman cricketer TRC 2661. Interviewer: Mark Cranfield Recorded: 4–5 September 1984

**Alex Jesaulenko, 1945–**  
Australian football player and coach; player/player-coach for Carlton 1967–79; coach for St Kilda 1980–82 TRC 2275. Interviewer: Professor John Molony Recorded: 1988, National Library of Australia [Uncorrected recording; not yet in transcript]

**Sverre Kaaten, 1908–**  
Champion Norwegian skier before emigrating to Australia in 1928; pioneering snowsports figure and developer in Mount Kosciuszko region, NSW, from 1930s DeB 1127. Interviewer: Hazel de Berg Recorded: 27 November 1979

**Ray Lindwall, 1921–96**  
Rugby league and cricket player for St George club, Sydney, NSW; Test cricketer 1940s and 1950s; Test cricket selector TRC 2674. Interviewer: John Ringwood Recorded: 25–27 September 1990, Brisbane, Qld

**Ern McQuillan, 1905–88**  
Boxing trainer and manager of numerous champions including Vic Patrick and Tony Mundine TRC 391/43. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 19 August 1980, Newtown, NSW [Uncorrected transcript]

**Peter Macken, 1938–**  
Competitor in modern pentathlon at 5 consecutive Olympic Games, from Rome (1960) to Montreal (1976) TRC 391/29A. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 31 May 1979, Caringbah, NSW

**Marlene Mathews, 1934–**  
Bronze medallist 100 and 200 metres, 1956 Melbourne Olympics; world record holder in 100 and 200 yards; gold and silver medallist, 1958 Commonwealth Games; Olympics team official and administrator TRC 391/79-80. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 28 August 1981, Sydney, NSW

**('Gelignite') Jack Murray, 1907–83**  
Early waterskiier and event organiser (Bridge-to-Bridge Ski Race, Hawkesbury River, Sydney); participant in Redex Road Trials, 1953–1955 (winner of 1954 event) and 1968–1969 London–Sydney Marathon TRC 391/24-25. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 18 May 1976, Sydney, NSW [Uncorrected transcript]

**Sally Murray, 1899–**  
Teacher; hockey player at Sydney Teachers College early 1920s; early surfer TRC 2301 INT.34. Interviewer: Claire Williams New South Wales Bicentennial Oral History Collection Recorded: 6 March 1987

**Hubert (Ferdinand) ('Oppy') Opperman, (Sir) 1904–96**  
Captain Australian team, Tour de France, 1928–31; winner among many other races of Brest–Paris–Brest cycle classic, 1931. (Later federal politician and Australian High Commissioner to Malta) TRC 121/61. Interviewer: Mel Pratt Recorded: 4–5 Mar 1975, Melbourne, Vic.

**Bill (William Joseph) ('Tiger') O'Reilly, 1905–92**  
Test cricketer, 1930s, including 1932–33 'Bodyline' series; subsequent cricket writer, commentator and raconteur TRC 2793. Interviewer: John Ringwood Recorded: 29 February, 21 March, 25 April and 18 July 1992

**Adrian (Karl) Quist, 1913–91**  
International tennis player, Australian Davis Cup team from 1933 to 1948, including winning team in 1939 TRC 391/34-35. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 3 January 1980, Point Piper, NSW [Uncorrected transcript]

**Mina (Wilhelmina) Wylie, 1891–1984**  
Pioneering womens swimmer and Olympian; silver medallist, 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games; swimming teacher TRC 391/10. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 18 October 1975, Sydney, NSW

**Douglas Youd, 1927–**  
World Champion axeman and wood chopper TRC 391/16. Interviewer: Neil Bennetts Recorded: 2 January 1976, Golden Valley, Tas.

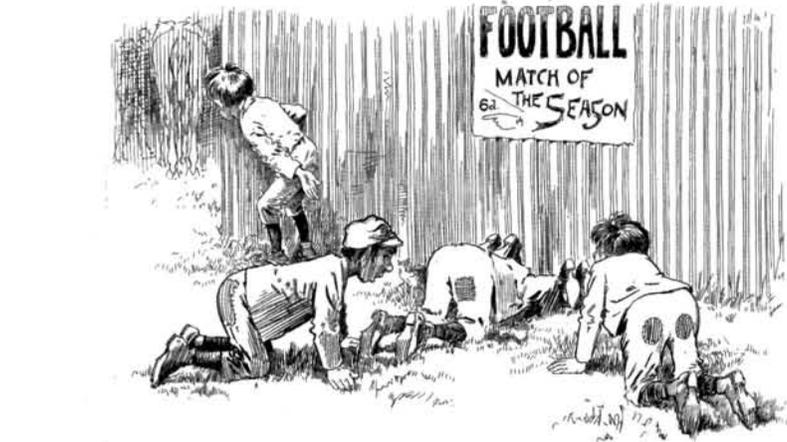
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# A Sporting Nation

## Celebrating Australia's Sporting Life

Compiled and edited by Paul Cliff

THIS TIMELY PUBLICATION WILL APPEAL equally to the serious sports enthusiast and mainstream reader. *A Sporting Nation* celebrates Australia's sporting history by drawing on the National Library of Australia's extensive collection of books, journals and newspapers, and its pictorial, manuscript and ephemera holdings. Its main text comprises excerpts from the Library's oral history recordings, with additional features by Olympian Marlene Mathews, and Eric Rolls and Marion Halligan.

Following on the Library's earlier publication in this same series—*Acquired Tastes: Celebrating Australia's Culinary History*—this beautifully illustrated, colour compilation presents in 26 dynamic features a broad and popular sweep through the nation's sporting culture, opening with a recollection of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and a survey of the Sydney 2000 Games by Marlene Mathews. It then moves through such diverse sports as fishing, boxing and wrestling, cricket (with a special focus on the hallowed tradition of England versus Australia Test matches), athletics, the modern pentathlon, rugby union, league and Australian football, horse racing, motor racing, waterskiing, surfboard riding, life saving and beach culture, tennis, wood chopping and cycling. The book closes with a tribute to country sport and a consideration of sports media and promotion.

Commentators, both greater and lesser known, include Jack Brabham, Margaret Court and Adrian Quist, Bernard 'Midget' Farrelly, Bill O'Reilly and Ray Lindwall, Ern McQuillan, 'Gelignite' Jack Murray, Hubert Opperman, and pioneering Olympian swimmer Mina Wylie. Other sports identities or events featured include Donald Bradman, Douglas Jardine and the 'Bodyline' Test series, Andrew 'Boy' Charlton and Kieren Perkins, Norman Brookes, Rod Laver and Evonne Cawley, Heather McKay, Phar Lap and the Melbourne Cup, Vic Patrick and Tony Mundine, the Redex Road Trials, the Paralympics and disabled sports, and the proud tradition of picnic racing. Together they represent the full texture and sweep of Australian sporting life—how sport defines the way we live, work and enjoy our leisure, and forms a central part of our popular culture.

