



A very warm welcome to our first E-newsletter.

AWRA aims to produce at least bi-monthly email newsletters, focussing on women's sport issues, advocacy and lobbying matters at a national level. Achievements in sport will be celebrated and international news will also be included.

The distribution of the e-newsletter is to members, media, politicians, government officials, sporting organisations and those we think should be informed to bring about changes for women's sport and recreation.

Readers are invited to respond to the contents and to forward information/news for publication to Kay Edwards at r5e6ka065y@netspace.net.au. Further, we need a name for our E-Newsletter so please send any suggestions to Kay. The prize is a 12 month AWRA membership for your nominated sport or recreation organisation! Note that AWRA Management Committee members are not eligible for the competition.

AWRA Update, from the President, Janice Crosswhite

Over the last few months much has been achieved:

- AWRA's Strategic Plan 2006-2008, which was commenced the end of February, has been reviewed and will be available on our website
- AWRA's website has been under construction since May and will be accessible by the end of October at www.awra.com.au
- A media release went out to 340+ print, radio and television outlets in response to the Senate Report on Women's Sport and Recreation in Australia (available on website). The follow-up to this has been rewarding as far as letting journalists know AWRA exists and is available for media comment
- A welcome and thank you to Dawn Wilcock for filling the casual vacancy of Treasurer and for also taking over the role of supervising the website
- AWRA has submitted a grant application to the Australian Sports Commission for a leadership grant to develop further web-based governance modules
- AWRA has submitted a sponsorship application to Sportscover/SBS and is seeking other avenues of sponsorship
- Letters have been emailed to our members, thanking you for your interest and support, with the assistance of Kay Edwards who has come on board as a casual administration assistant –thank you Kay.

Are we at the beginning of a time of change and improvements for women's sport in this country? Some observers believe that the Senate Report, *About Time! Women in Sport and Recreation in Australia*, and the timing of the Opals world championship is the wedge in the door for the media, governments and sporting organisations to better work together to make a difference.

Here is an opportunity for those in the women's sport movement to continue working together at the national and state level to maintain the momentum so that there is continued pressure and strategies applied to implement the recommendations in the Senate Report. The challenge now lies with the current Federal Government, and through it the Australian Sport Commission, to adopt the recommendations and for the opposition to include them in its women's sport policy for the next federal election. Other recommendations target state and local governments, media and sporting associations. AWRA will continue to support the implementation of *About Time* through its lobbying activities.

Opals create unique place in Australia's sporting history

Australia finally stands alone at the summit of women's basketball after the Opals crushed Russia 91-74 in the final of the world championship in Brazil.



PHOTO FIBA.com

The Opals have placed in the top three nations at every Olympic Games and world championships since 1996, but this is the first time any senior Australian basketball side has laid its hands on a gold medal at the highest level, not discounting the Australian women's Intellectually Disabled basketball team that won gold at the 1992 Paralympics in Greece.

Penny Taylor was the star of the show, finishing with 28 points in the grand final, to earn tournament MVP honours ahead of team-mate Lauren Jackson. The other understated MVP was guard Kristi Harrower (15 points and 5 assists) who lead the team with her composure and ball control.

The Opals: Erin Phillips (Adelaide); Tully Bevilaqua (Canberra); Jennifer Screen (Adelaide); Penny Taylor (Nunawading/Phoenix); Emma Randall (Dandenong); Hollie Grima, (Bullen Melbourne); Kristi Harrower (Bendigo/Valenciennes); Laura Summerton (Adelaide); Belinda Snell (Sydney); Jennifer Whittle (Canberra); Emily McInnery (Dandenong); Lauren Jackson (Albury/Seattle); coach Jan Stirling (Adelaide).

Hockeyroos runners-up in World Cup

The Hockeyroos lost the grand final 3-1 to the Netherlands but did well to get to the major final. As Melanie Twitt said: "We finished fifth at the Championship Trophy so this was a big improvement and shows we are on track for Beijing". The Netherlands played great hockey all through the tournament and lived up to their number 1 ranking.

It was the Hockeyroos third World Cup final from the last four World Cups, after defeating the home team Spain in a bizarre semi-final. In the last minute Spain earned a penalty corner when the ground was plunged into darkness as someone apparently deliberately turned the lights out. Play stopped for 15 minutes. In overtime Australia scored a golden goal through Suzie Faulkner.

2006 Hockeyroos squad is Nicole Arrold, Teneal Attard, Wendy Beattie, Madonna Blyth, Toni Cronk, Casey Eastham, Suzie Faulkner, Peta Gallagher, De-Anne Gilbert, Emily Halliday, Kate Hollywood, Nikki Hudson, Rachael Imison, Fiona Johnson, Amy Korner, Kobie McGurk, Emma Myer, Donna-Lee Patrick, Rebecca Sanders, Angie Skirving, Karen Smith, Sarah Taylor.

The recent Opals and Hockeyroos success is a reminder how well Australian women perform on the world stage in team sports. The Australian Women's Water Polo team also won their World Championship and cricket, softball, netball, beach volleyball and soccer to a lesser extent, are always at or near the top in their international competitions. But who would know their names and their faces and what are their levels of compensation? This issue was on the agenda and reported in the Senate Report on Women's Sport and Recreation in Australia.

Thumbs up to:

- *The Age* and *The Australian* which featured the Opals on page 1 and across two pages in the sports section after their win. The following day *The Age* printed in the Letters to the Editor section a letter from Janice Crosswhite commenting on the quality coverage of the Opals and requesting more coverage of women's sport.
- Netball Australia and the Australian Netball Players Association, who have come to an agreement over daily allowances paid to players representing Australia. While the \$200 daily allowance is still substantially below the allowances paid to players representing Australia in a number of other sports, the allowance at least begins to cover player's expenses and loss of income while they are on national team duty. The Australian Sports Commission is believed to be the source of the increased allowance.
- ABC TV, which in the same week in September featured two excellent programs on women in sport. *Australian Story* profiled Sharon Anyos (Gold Coast) who is a World Boxing Council Champion. The program told about the risks of promoting a women's boxing event, the attitudes towards women boxers and concluded with Sharon retaining her world title, but losing about \$10,000 on the fight. *Nerves of Steel*, produced by Film Australia is an hour program showcasing the talent search, scientific and coaching efforts of the Australian Institute of Sport to make up Australia's first female skeleton team for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin. It is an amazing story – Australia is ranked 6th in the world after only 5 months practicing on ice and Michelle Steele (originally a gymnast and at 19 the youngest competitor) qualifies to compete in Turino.
- Six time world surfing champion Layne Beachley who has lent her name and forked out her money to ensure the rebirth of international surfing on Sydney's northern beaches. The Beachley Surf Classic, held from October 9-15 – Sydney's first women's standalone world championship in 10 years – and the purse of \$135,000 is the highest in the 29 year history of the women's pro tour. The NSW Government contributed \$150,000 to cover the running costs of the event.

Thumbs down to:

- The Federal Government for not responding to our newest world champions with a government reception, as has regularly happened in the past with winning football and cricket teams! Minister for Sport Rod Kemp had lunch at the Sydney airport with the Opals on their arrival back into Oz. However, the AFL did the team proud by hosting them in a parade around the MCG on grand final day.
- The Federal Government, again, and the Australian Sports Commission, for their silence on the Senate Report, *About Time. Women in Sport and Recreation in Australia*.

Sport News:

Golf: Karrie Webb has won her fourth title for the year, the US LPGA Tour's Longs Drug Challenge in California. Webb, a former World No 1, is enjoying a resurgence this season

Triathlon: World Champion Emma Snowsill had to settle for second in the Beijing Triathlon World Cup event, on the same course to be used for the 2008 Olympics.

Congratulations to:

- Heather Reid (CEO Capital Football in Canberra) who presented a keynote paper on mentoring, in Doha, Qatar. The State of Qatar hosted the International Sports Science Congress prior to the 15th Asian Games Doha 2006. Heather spoke about the mentoring program, *Mentor As Anything*, which she developed for the Australian Sports Commission.
- Johanna Vescio (IWG co-chair and senior lecturer University of Technology Sydney) who recently presented the keynote address at the South East Asia Conference on Women and Sport, in Kuala Lumpur.
- The Malaysian Government, which has established a Women's Sport Division at their National Sports Council with a Director and 12 fulltime staff.
- Cheryl Munson, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for her services to tenpin bowling, at Government House, Sydney, in September.

Did you know?

* Bowls Australia's current national membership of 267,000 bowlers includes 86,000 women (33% of membership) of which 80 per cent are aged over 55. That figure makes Bowls Australia one of the largest sporting organisations representing adult women in the country.

* Bowls Australia is working with the Women and Sport Unit of the Australian Sports Commission to increase gender equity opportunities through its sport and structure.

* About the new release movie *Offside* which deals with a young woman's attempt to enter a soccer stadium in Iran to watch Iran's bid for the World Cup. Given that women are still forbidden to attend football matches she disguises herself but is apprehended, as are other soccer obsessed girls. Director Jafar Panahi, rating 4 out of 5, at art house cinemas.

"GENDER EQUITY" Workshop in Fiji

hosted by [Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee](#)
[Women in Sport Commission](#)

Susie Yee from Fiji reports "that a Gender Equity Workshop was held 13-14 October. Starting Friday night, there was an Official Opening by our Minister for Women, followed by a briefing on the workshop, introduction of our facilitators from Amarna (Queensland), and cocktails.

The workshop proper will be held on Saturday. We also had a guest speaker from the Fiji Women's Rights Movements. Invitations were sent to all our women on the 39 National Sporting Federations together with the Disabled Groups, NGO's, Women's groups, Clubs, Schools and other sports clubs".

Coming events:

October 2006 – Girls Night In, to raise money for women's cancers. Girls Night In is your opportunity to get all your female friends to have a fun night in and help raise money to find a cure for breast and gynaecological cancers. Just invite people around for a night and ask them to donate the equivalent of what they would have spent on a night out. Call 1300 65 65 85 or visit girlsnightin.com.au for your complimentary host kit from The Cancer Council.

October – November 2006, around Australia

The Clare Burton Memorial Lecture 2006

'Jobs, Care and Justice: A Fair Work Regime for Australia' by

Professor Barbara Pocock, Director of the Centre for Work + Life, University of South Australia.

Professor Pocock explains:

'Australia – a rich country – is experimenting in radical ways with industrial laws and care regimes. Inequality in the labour market is widening, as some Australians do well out of a changing labour market whilst many other workers and their children are not so lucky.

The labour market is a place of interdependence. The well-paid rely upon the low-paid. The producers need the reproducers. This lecture explores how, in this environment, fairer and more sustainable work and care outcomes can be secured – for Australian women, men and children.'

On Clare Burton ...

In 2006 the eighth series of Clare Burton Memorial Lectures will be held around Australia. The lectures commemorate Dr Clare Burton, who passed away suddenly in August 1998. Clare was a leading researcher, public sector administrator, academic, consultant and writer on employment equity.

On Barbara Pocock....

Barbara Pocock has been investigating work in Australia for over twenty-five years. Since 2003, with the award of a five-year Queen Elizabeth Fellowship, she has been analysing the nature of the fit (or misfit) between work, home and community in Australia. She has also undertaken research on vocational education, low pay, casual work, long hours, gender pay inequality, the politics of unions, industrial relations, gender and work, employment and work and family. She joined the University of South Australia in 2006 to establish the Centre for Work + Life, as part of the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies.

SYDNEY

Wednesday 8 November, Sydney, 5.30pm

Hosted by University of Technology, Sydney, Training Room, Level 6, Building 10,
235 Jones St, Broadway (city, opposite Central station)

Contact Kate Wilson, Manager, Women @ UTS (02) 9514 1081 kate.Wilson@uts.edu.au for more information and

rsvp: Joanna Leonard (02) 9514 1274 joanna.leonard@uts.edu.au

ADELAIDE

Wednesday 18 October 5.30 pm

Stamford Plaza, 150 North Terrace, Adelaide

Hosted by University of South Australia

Contact: Lyn Browning (08) 8302 1729 lynette.browning@unisa.edu.au

PERTH

Friday 27 October 12 noon

Hyatt Hotel

Hosted by Curtin University of Technology

Contact: Barbara Groombridge (08) 9266 4140 b.groombridge@curtin.edu.au

CANBERRA

Wednesday 1 November 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm dinner
Great Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent, ANU
Hosted by ACT Universities
Contact: Kate Janssens, ANU (02) 6125 3595 Kate.Janssens@anu.edu.au

MELBOURNE

Thursday 2 November 6.00 pm
RMIT Capitol Theatre, Building 113, 113 Swanston St
Hosted by RMIT University
Contact: Amy Love (03) 9925 4210 amy.love@rmit.edu.au

BRISBANE

Tuesday 7 November 6.00 pm
Owen J Wordsworth Rooms, Level 12, S Block, QUT Gardens Point
Hosted by Queensland University of Technology
Contact: Kym Mayers (07) 3864 4174 k.mayers@qut.edu.au

(Editor's note: the Clare Burton Memorial Lectures are excellent. The chosen speakers are world class in their field. Highly recommended.)

15-28 January 2007 – Australian Tennis Open, Melbourne; which deserves a mention because it is one of the major tennis events that has equal prize money for women and men

March 2007 - AWRA Annual General Meeting in Brisbane, date and venue to be decided, but at time of ASC Conference, *Our Sporting Future*, 21-23 March.

2010 – Sydney, Australia, the next International Working Group for Women in Sport World Conference on Women's Sport

AWRA Committee of Management:

Janice Crosswhite OAM, President; Sandra Sampson, Vice President; Dr Imke Fischer, Secretary; Dawn Wilcock, Treasurer; Committee Members: Heather Reid, Jennifer Riatti and Barbara Barkley,

For more information about AWRA and/or e-newsletter contributions please to Kay Edwards at r5e6ka065y@netspace.net.au