



Australian Womensport & Recreation Association

E-Newsletter No 6, September 2007

From the Editor

It is almost a year since we sent out our first email newsletter! This should be the last in this format as AWRA is working with a Brisbane company to develop a new functional website with an email bulletin capacity, as well as e-commerce and the usual news features.

There has been a longer gap than expected between this edition and our previous e-newsletter as the production team (Janice and Kay) have both been overseas! That happens with volunteers.

I would like to congratulate SBS for the excellent coverage of the Women's World Cup in China and before this their coverage of the World Athletic Championships. In both instances SBS showed live coverage in prime time and the ratings were very good.

In the case of the Matildas history making efforts, the broadcaster showed a ratings' boost. An average audience of 221,000 tuned in for the Matildas quarter final loss to Brazil last Sunday night, a 48% increase for the timeslot, and despite competition from the Rugby World Cup. The audience peaked at 617,000, probably during the second half when the Matildas kicked a second goal to give themselves a chance of winning.

While women make up about 20% of registered soccer players (100,000 approx.) the audience profile showed that it was mostly men who were tuned in to the Matildas world cup campaign.

As a result of their success the SBS head of sport, Ken Shipp, has expressed interest in the current push to establish a women's A-league in Australia. AWRA has been asking this question for quite awhile, since the new Football Federation Australia was formed. In late 2004 the old women's national league was stopped and nothing has replaced it, with the majority of effort and funding going into the Socceroos and the men's A league. The majority of the players in the current national women's team have not played in a proper domestic national league since 2004 –

three years ago, and this is simply not good enough. Our national soccer players are worthy of a league of their own.

Similar to last year when the Opals won the World Basketball Championships, the Matildas have now placed women's football on another level in terms of public recognition. This is largely due to the live television coverage of their games in prime time for the very first time. We have had the opportunity to see them on free to air television – and what a difference that makes to the acknowledgement of women's sport.

SBS's coverage continues with the final match (gold medal) Brazil playing Germany to screen live at 10pm Sunday 30 September. Hopefully more women will be watching!

Janice Crosswhite (crosswhite@bigpond.com)

Congratulations to:

- ✚ **Venus Williams**, for winning her fourth Wimbledon trophy, from the No.23 seed.
- ✚ **Michele Timms** who is to be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (in Tennessee, USA). She is the first Australian basketballer to be honoured by an overseas hall of fame. Michele has been a pioneer in her sport – the first Aussie woman to play professionally in Europe and the first foreign player signed to the WNBA. She is a three time Olympian (bronze and silver medals), winning five WNBL titles and was nominated to the Basketball Australia Hall of Fame 2006.
- ✚ **Kerri Pottharst** who is to be inducted into the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Kerri is another triple Olympian winning gold in Sydney in Beach Volleyball. She will be recognised for her contributions to indoor and beach volleyball in a career which spanned almost three decades.
- ✚ **Debbie Watson**, who captained Australia to a water polo gold medal at the Sydney Olympics, has been elected into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, in the US last June. She was joined by fellow Australian, long distance swimmer **Shelly Taylor Smith**.
- ✚ **The Australian Junior Water Polo team** for winning the Junior Women's World Championships, defeating China.
- ✚ **Lauren Jackson** (Albury) for becoming the youngest and fastest player to reach 4000 points in the WNBA. She recently scored 47 points, to equal the most points scored in a game. Jackson then won the MVP award for the WNBA, for the second time. She is currently ranked as the best female basketball player in the world.
- ✚ **Penny Taylor** (Melbourne) had a superb WNBA season and was named in the All Star 5, along with Jackson. In the best of 5 game final series Taylor top scored with 30 points for the *Phoenix Mercury*, in the deciding game, to lead her team to the premiership. Belinda Snell (*Sydney Flames*) was a team-mate.
- ✚ Womensport Queensland founder **AnneMarie White** has been awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to study overseas and research new and inventive ways of increasing the profile of women in sport in the media. Everyone who knows AnneMarie knows the passion she has for this area and we look forward to all reaping the results of the fantastic research that AnneMarie will conduct on this topic in Canada, New Zealand and the USA.
- ✚ **Emma Snowsill**, who has easily defended her title at the New York City Triathlon. Snowsill dominated the field, winning in 1:57:23.
- ✚ **Age journalist (Green Guide Editor) Nicole Brady**, who wrote a long article featured in the *The Age*, headed *Can kick, mark and handball, but forget about recognition*, which

- pointed out that girls play sport but it is rare to read about it or see it. “Unless they are gold winning swimmers, girls rarely get treated equally by the sports media”. She has come to this realisation after taking her daughter to a season of Auskick and observing the AFL’s “Women’s Round” the weekend 11-12 August.
- ✚ **Basketball Victoria**, for the ongoing success they are having with their Women in Basketball Program. Look at www.basketballvictoria.com.au or phone 03 9927 6666 if you want to be involved in the women’s basketball network, with activities for coaches, players, officials, administrators and committee members.
 - ✚ **Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews**, Scotland, for hosting the Women’s British Open, which is the first time the course has staged a women’s professional tournament. It is just as well that the old sign on the St Andrews clubhouse has been taken down. It read “No women, no dogs.”
 - ✚ **The Hockeyroos** for weathering the heat, humidity and smog to win the four nation test event in Beijing. In the final they defeated China on penalty strokes 3-1 after the score was locked at 2-2.
 - ✚ **The International Softball Federation** for launching a campaign to get softball reinstated for the 2016 Olympic Games. The campaign, *BACK SOFTBALL*, is a two-year initiative designed to improve the sport so that it meets the criteria used to assess sports for the Olympic program. Softball was taken out of the 2012 Olympics but was not replaced as the IOC could not agree on its replacement sport so there is a chance it could get back in for 2016.
 - ✚ **The Australian Netball Team** for winning the three-test Holden series 2-1 against New Zealand, but not without some rule controversy. The Melbourne match went into double overtime with confusion on when the game needed to be won by 2 goals. However, the Kiwis actually won the game in regular time but the timekeeping malfunctioned.
 - ✚ **Karen Murphy**, for winning the Australian Indoor Lawn Bowls Championships at Tweed heads in a tiebreak final against 17 year old Kelsey Cottrell
 - ✚ Rising swimming star **Bronte Barratt** has broken Tracey Wickham’s world 400 metres freestyle record which lasted 29 years.
 - ✚ 15 year old **Cate Campbell**, another rising star in swimming, who shook the established order of Australian female sprinting ranks to beat world champion Libby Lenton in the 50m final at the Japan Open, in the fourth fastest time ever
 - ✚ **Marina Go**, an experienced publishing director and former editor of Dolly, Sunday Life and ELLE, who has been appointed to the Netball Australia Board.
 - ✚ **Tammy Ogston** (AUS) who refereed the opening game of the FIFA Women's World Cup China 2007, Germany-Argentina on 10 September. This is her third consecutive FIFA Women's World Cup
 - ✚ **Kerryn McCann**, champion marathon runner, who has had her third baby (a boy) born 6 weeks prematurely to protect him, before she has chemotherapy for breast cancer. We wish Kerryn all the very best for a full recovery.
 - ✚ **Jana Rawlinson** for her great win in the 400m hurdles at the Osaka World Athletic Championships and to SBS for their wonderful coverage of the two weeks with nightly prime time 3-4 hour sessions.
 - ✚ **The Matildas**, who have done us proud at the World Cup in China, winning their first game against Ghana 4-1, an historic win as it was their first in a World Cup – then drawing 1-1 with Norway, ranked fourth in the world, then another draw (2 each) against Canada, (coming from behind on each goal), to loose 3-2 to powerhouse Brazil in the quarter-final.

The Australian Womensport and Recreation Association has been successful in its grant application for a Volunteer Small Equipment Grant which will allow us to purchase a much needed laptop computer, a printer, software, a digital camera and memory sticks.

Unfortunately we were not so successful with applications to the Fosters Community Fund and the Australian Sports Commission.

Barbara Barkly (CEO Womensport Qld.) has resigned from the board of AWRA. We thank Barbara for her very valuable and worthwhile contribution over 2005-2007.

Our new board member to welcome is Nicolle Rantanen from Adelaide. Nicolle has accepted the position of Treasurer, which Anne Sheehan has stepped down from but she stays on the Board. Nicolle makes a most suitable Treasurer as she holds a Masters of Business Administration, is a Certified Practising Accountant and has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. She is currently 2/3rds of the way through a Masters in Commercial Law and is the Director of Strategy & Business Services for the State Superannuation Office which forms part of the Department of Treasury & Finance (South Australia). In her spare time Nicolle likes to play golf.

President Janice Crosswhite attended a Women in Sport Breakfast in Apia, Samoa, at the South Pacific Games last month. She was representing AWRA as an observer as Australia (and New Zealand) does not compete in the South Pacific Games. The meeting was fairly brief but it was a good opportunity to meet many women and men from the Pacific and distribute our membership brochure. Various speakers reported on anti-doping programs, HIV education and the Oceania Athletes Commission (Alana Slatter, Australian gymnast, is on this). The meeting was hosted by Baklai Temengil (from Palua), Chair of the ONOC Women in Sport Commission.

As part of the HIV education program, male and female condoms were being handed out at the Games. You can look at the Oceania Sport website: www.OceaniaSport.com/HIV

These South Pacific Games were considered the best ever, with excellent new facilities (constructed by the Chinese in exchange for fishing rights) catering to 33 sports with 4000+ athletes and officials accommodated in schools. New Caledonia led the medal count with Samoa second.

Janice also represented AWRA as a speaker at the Sydney Sports Business Summit on 27 August speaking on the "the business of women's sport". Subsequent to this the magazine *Leisure Management Australia* will feature a profile of AWRA.

At the Sports Summit AWRA's 2007 Election Policy was launched. It is available by email from crosswhite@bigpond.com and will be placed on our new website.

Womensport and Recreation NSW Update, by Helen Lowe, EO (Tel: 02 8116 9734)

The successful Breakfast Club quarterly meetings continue with Senator Kate Lundy our August speaker. We also conduct quarterly media meetings organized by Ann Mitchell which aim to gain regular coverage of women's sport in the major newspapers and magazines, on major radio stations and on both free-to-air and pay television. Coming up are our Schoolgirl's Breakfasts: Sydney on 8 November and Forster Regional Breakfast, 29 November and Tamworth next April.

Nominations are now open for the Sue Fear Award for Courage & Achievement in Sport go to www.womensportnsw.com.au

Womensport and Recreation Tasmania Update by Anne Sheehan

- We have been successful with 3 years of funding to deliver the Get Active Program (GAP) across Tasmania. Recently appointed a new project officer (Rosy Green) who is based with Women's Health (Department of Health and Human Services) in Launceston.
- Working with consultants in the development of a Strategic Plan for the organisation.
- Jogalong (one Sunday in the month) continues to be conducted
- In the process of organising a Schoolgirls Breakfast with the Stars

Rising Stars

One of the nation's best kept secrets is golfer Sarah Kemp (from Tuncurry) who has headed back to Europe in her second year as a touring pro. After playing in the Women's British Open and other tournaments she will try to earn her card for the 2008 LPGA Tour. She is good friends with Nikki Garrett who won the first two European tournaments of the season and is fourth on the money list

Another to look out for is professional Anna Lawson, who almost broke through for her first four-round win on the ladies European Tour in Spain earlier this year, coming second

More Golf News

A merger of the West Australian Golf Association and Women's Golf Western Australia will be decided early in 2008. If it is agreed to go forward a single body will be created by January 1, 2009. WA is one of the last states to combine their administration. Tasmania and Queensland have done this and South Australia and New South Wales are close. Victoria is certain to be the last to create a single body with both the Victorian Golf Association and Women's Golf Victoria failing to agree on a number of key objectives. (Source: Pacific Golfer)

Resources

The Jean Hailes Foundation for women's health national magazine is distributed free on an individual basis. It is published twice a year and is very informative and educational on women's healthcare and controversial issues. Contact by writing to PO Box 1108 Clayton South VIC 3129, fax 03 9548 9210 or email education@jeanhailes.org.au

The Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's health websites have grown: you can log on to: www.jeanhailes.org.au (information on community and health events, nutrition, new resources); www.managingmenopause.org.au; www.healthforwomen.org.au; www.earlymenopuse.org.au; www.boneoforlife.org.au; www.agingwell.org.au; www.managingpcos.org.au (information on polycystic ovary syndrome)

Vale Eileen Wearne 1912-2007

Eileen Wearne, who has recently died at 95 years as Australia's oldest Olympian, was the second woman to compete in track and field for this country, at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. She came fourth in her 100 yards heat and was eliminated. Edith Robinson had been the first female track and field athlete in 1928.

Wearne recalled that when the team arrived in Los Angeles, the men stayed in the Olympic village but the women, with their chaperones were put into a hotel and had little freedom. If one went out, they all had to go out, whether to church or to the hairdresser. They weren't allowed out at night and no man could venture beyond the hotel's sitting room.

In 1938 Wearne competed in the Sydney Empire Games (forerunner to the Commonwealth Games) and won gold in the relay (4 x 110 yards) and a bronze in the 220 yards. (Source; SMH)

Did You Know?

- ❖ **Olympic gold medallist Nicki Hudson** plans to swap her hockey stick for a golf club and turn professional after the 2012 Olympics. She will practice and be coached for golf for another four years (as she competes in hockey) and then see how she performs as a golf professional.
- ❖ **NSW will host the ICC Women's World Cup in 2009.** Some other states may hold warm-up matches.
- ❖ On the occasion of the FIFA Women's World Cup China 2007, FIFA and UNICEF have launched **Goals for Girls!**, a new joint campaign to harness the power of sport, particularly football, to promote education, gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Goals for Girls! will use the women's football competition as a platform to explain how educating girls not only helps eliminate gender discrimination but also contributes to addressing many of the most serious problems their communities face.
- ❖ **Sporting Life** section of the *The Age* has listed Australia's current top ten female athletes:
1. Lauren Jackson (basketball). 2. Liesel Jones (swimming). 3. Karrie Webb (golf). 4. Jana Rawlinson (athletics). 5. Libby Lenton (swimming). 6. Amber Halliday (rowing). 7. Anna Meares (cycling). 8. Penny Taylor (basketball). 9. Sharelle McMahon (netball). 10. Karen Rolten (cricket).

Coming up:

4-12 October; the Adelaide Australasian Masters Games

5 October; launch of the Women's National Basketball League season for 2007-08;
www.wnbl.com.au

10-17 November; World Netball Championships; Auckland New Zealand; the Australian team will be announced Monday 1 October.

AWRA Board:

Janice Crosswhite OAM, Chair; Sandra Sampson Deputy Chair; Jennifer Riatti Secretary; Nicolle Rantanen Treasurer; Anne Sheehan; Heather Reid and Dr Imke Fischer.

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