



AWRA Enews 7 November 2007

From the editor:

The Federal Election has shown again that sport ranks low on the political scale of importance. Major parties did not release a proper balanced sports policy or react to sporting needs other than by promising facilities, mostly for male professional sport, in usually marginal electorates. You can read below the Australian Labor Party's sport and recreation funding promises.

At the time of sending out this Enews the Rudd Government has announced some Cabinet Ministers but has not named the new Minister for Sport. It is disappointing however that Kate Lundy (Senator ACT) has been dropped from this shadow sport role, as she is passionate about sport and did a great job pursuing and contributing to the 2006 Senate Inquiry into Women's Sport and Recreation in Australia.

In this Enews we congratulate Sue Taylor AM on being elected to the Board of International Netball. Sue is one of a few Australian women to represent their sport in a leadership position internationally. Pam Tye OAM is another. Pam is President of Hockey Australia and Vice President of World Hockey. AWRA would like to know of others so please contact me if you can help on this.

Last year at the Women's Sport World Conference I attended a special session on this topic of female representation on world sporting bodies. There are very few, as can be seen by the representation of women on the International Olympic Committee (currently 15 out of 114) and in Australia our national survey last February revealed it is 7:1 ratio male to female on Australian sports boards.

What can you do? In Sue Taylor's case she was not able to attend the meeting where the vote was taken but she sent a video to stake her claim. Well done Sue! This sort of supporting

strategy may be useful in any board election process as women need to come through state, to national boards before making international positions.

As you will have noticed this Enews is still in a word file. We are sorry it is not on our new website in its new format, as the website is running a couple of months late.

All the very best from AWRA for a happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and successful New Year!

Janice Crosswhite (crosswhite@bigpond.com)

Congratulations to:

- ✚ The Australian Netball team for winning back the World Championship from New Zealand. In a low scoring game where defense was paramount the Aussies held the lead from the end of the first quarter to win 42-38. It is the ninth world netball title for Australia. Also congratulations to GM Holden for adding to their sponsorship of the Australian team by giving 13 cars (one per player and to coach Norma Plummer) for free 12 months use, as a special bonus for being World Champions.
- ✚ Germany for winning the Women's World Soccer Cup final, 2-0, over Brazil, making it the first nation to win back to back titles. It was a great game to watch – the Germans owed a huge debt to their goalkeeper Nadine Angerer, who saved a penalty shot from World Player of the Year Marta. Indeed, the German team went through the tournament without conceding a goal.
- ✚ Queensland Logan Thunder's, who have been granted a license to play in the Women's National Basketball League from 2008, on the premise it meets sponsorship and financial agreements. Logan, near Brisbane, joins the Townsville Fire as the Queensland teams in the national competition.
- ✚ Opal squad member Rohanee Cox who has been named the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female Sportsperson of the Year
- ✚ The Matildas, who have moved up three spots to record their highest ever position of 12th in the latest FIFA Women's World Rankings announced overnight. It is Australia's best position since the ratings commenced in October 2003 and comes after the Matildas sixth-placed finish in reaching the quarter-finals at the World Cup in China in September.
- ✚ Louise Sauvage, wheelchair racer, and Petria Thomas, swimmer, on their induction into the Australian Hall of Fame.
- ✚ The 2007 Summer University Team Australia which won a total of 11 medals at the World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand. The 181 strong team included 17 female officials and 59 female athletes: **7 of the 11 medals were won by Women:**

Women's Basketball	Gold
Dani Samuels Discus	Silver
Sarah Katsoulis 50m Breaststroke	Silver
Sarah Katsoulis 100m Breaststroke	Silver
Alice Mills 100m Freestyle	Bronze
Caroline Marton Taekwondo Welter Weight	Bronze
Ruth Rowe Taekwondo Heavy Weight	Bronze

Australian University Sport was very pleased with the results, in particular the Women's Basketball team winning Gold – the first team sport gold medal won by an Australian team at a Universiade.

- ✚ Dr Elizabeth Tindle, a counsellor with the Queensland University of Technology, who won a silver medal playing in the 60+ basketball at the Adelaide Australasian Masters Games in October. Elizabeth is 69 years young and is fairly unique in that she plays with a pacemaker, protected by a padded vest.
- ✚ Australian Ann Maree Putney, who won the QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup in St Petersburg, in a thrilling grand final that included a record-breaking 280 game. She defeated Korea's Lee Sun Hee 280-201 and 247-226 in the best two of three game match. Putney, a 37 year-old mother of two from Newcastle, has finally secured the title that has eluded her in five previous attempts in a distinguished career of representing Australia at international level for 16 years. Putney's success elevates her to the ranks of other talented Australian women bowlers who have won this illustrious tournament, now in its 43rd year – (Jeanette Baker back to back in 82, 83), Cara Honeychurch (96), Maxine Nable (98), and fellow Novocastrian, Amanda Bradley (99).
- ✚ Stephanie Gilmore (only 19), the world number 1 surfer in her rookie year
- ✚ Sue Taylor AM from Perth, who has been voted onto the board of World Netball as an independent board member – Sue is on the Board of Netball Australia (and a former President) and on the Board of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association.
- ✚ Rachael Grinham defeated her younger sister Natalie to win gold at the World Open Squash final in Madrid. It was the first time the sisters had met in the World Open final, but for Natalie it was the third time she had to settle for silver.

Brickbats to:

- Our political parties for promising the majority of their pre-election sports funding to professional male sports and ad-hoc facility development (such as grandstands for spectators) with little going to grass-roots development or to women, girls and boys.
- Sprinter Marion Jones, for cheating the public and her sport by admitting she took anabolic steroids. She was one of the stars of the Sydney Olympics winning three gold medals and two bronze but she was a drug cheat that has been found out 7 years too late. It is very disturbing that she was not caught by any drug testing controls in her sport or through the USA Olympic Committee but by her own admission. And along the way she has made millions of dollars in sponsorship and prize money - but maybe a lot of this money will now go on legal fees as she tries to keep out of gaol.
- Martina Hingis, for testing positive to cocaine this year at Wimbledon, and retiring immediately, protesting her innocence and not wishing to clear her name fighting against doping officials. She leaves the sport winning US \$20 million in prize money alone.

A warm welcome to Helen Nichols, Senior Solicitor, Administrative & Environment Section, South Australian Crown Solicitor's Office, who joins the Board of AWRA. Helen has a wide range of experience as a social worker, (her first profession) and as a lawyer over the past 19 years. She is on her local Council where she chairs the Campbelltown Leisure Centre. She hopes to expand the activities for residents, in particular women (who are currently under-represented) at that centre.

ALP Sport Spending Announcements

While the Coalition announced at least \$129 million worth of sport spending since the start of 2007, Labor was more modest, promising at least \$63 million. Almost half of the promised money goes to one sport! Now in government, it is expected that the following election announcements (taken from the ALP website, listed under Sport and Recreation) will come into fruition:

- ✓ \$32 m to the Football Federation of Australia – one of the promises is for a televised national women's league
- ✓ \$14 m for Skilled Stadium, (Geelong Football Club) and on the same day it was announced \$70,000 to South Barwon Football and Netball Club for a lighting upgrade
- ✓ \$5m to Penrith Football Stadium upgrade and Howell oval
- ✓ \$3m to upgrade Leichhardt Oval, home of the Balmain Tigers Rugby League
- ✓ \$3m to supply every surf life saving club with a rainwater tank and Port Sorell Life Saving Club (Tas) \$200,000 for facilities
- ✓ \$1.5m for the Cairns Multi-Sport Stadium
- ✓ \$1.5 m for the Bryon Bay Community Sport and Rec Facility
- ✓ \$1m to Essendon Football Club for the Windy Hill Green Precinct Project
- ✓ \$500,000 to the Launceston Regional Tennis Centre
- ✓ \$1.6m for 2008-2009 for the Local Sporting Champions Grant program, of \$500 per person and \$3,000 per team, for expenses to travel greater than 250km

Did you know?

- Sport Canada is reviewing its *1986 Sport Canada Women in Sport Policy*, starting with an issue identification phase as well as a consultation process with a variety of stakeholders: AWRA was pleased to be part of an international teleconference call to assist with Australian research, best practices and lessons learned.
- Few on Manly beach realized that the tall woman emerging from the water with her board had just finished her 16 year career, and was 5 months pregnant. Melanie Redman-Carr, 32, from Dunsborough in WA, retired after competing in the Beachley Classic at Manly.
- More 'pregnancy' news – British runner Paula Radcliffe won the New York marathon last month, only 10 months after the birth of a daughter. And tennis player, Laura Davenport has successfully returned to the pro-circuit after having her first baby.
- ANZ bank are the naming rights sponsor for the trans tasman netball competition to start next April. All 69 matches are to be shown live on pay TV in Australia and NZ and will result in professional paying contracts for the players. Its worth noting that the ANZ bank has discontinued its sponsorship of the AFL club, West Coast Eagles.
- *Play by the Rules* resource material is available for your club or association. The material encourages fair and safe behaviour in sport and recreation, complementing the ASC's harassment-free sport strategy. www.playbytherules.net.au provides information and online training on equal

opportunity and other relevant legislation to address inappropriate behavior in sport.

- The above resource was launched in Melbourne by the Victorian Minister for Sport, Joe Merlino, prior to the WNBL 2007-2008 season launch, Bullen versus Dandenong game at the Dandenong Stadium. Pat Mickan, a former Opal from Adelaide, was the MC and did a great job, particularly when questioning Lindsay and Andrew Gaze on their parent-child -coach attitudes and behaviours.
- The first *peacethroughsport camp* (branded equal opportunities for all) was held in Amman, Jordan from October 21-31 2007. It was supported by the HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan who aims to seek peaceful solutions to the region's conflicts.
- *Raising the Game: The Future for Women's Sport* Conference was held in London 15 November. Based on themes of Participation, Branding and the Media and with speakers such as the Prime Minister, the conference was aiming to change the under representation of women in sport in Britain.
- You can nominate women for *Who's Who Australian Women*: email your nominations on line via link <http://www.crowncontent.com.au/nomination.html>
- Glasgow beat Abuja (Nigeria) 47-24 votes, to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- Singapore beat Melbourne to host the 2011 World Netball Championships. This is a win for the international development of the sport, as netball needs to spread and grow stronger in Asia, and other world regions, than be hosted in Australia after New Zealand have just had the Worlds.
- Farewell and best wishes to Liz Ellis, a legend in her lifetime, on her retirement from all netball and the same to Selina Gilsenan and Laura Von Bertouch, who are retiring from international netball
- Received from the Women's Sports Foundation (USA), the following news:

"In celebration of the 35th anniversary of Title IX, the Women's Sports Foundation has released the first of three reports to mark the progress of gender equity in intercollegiate sports participation. The study was conducted by Dr. John Cheslock from the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. The first report, *Who's Playing College Sports? Trends in Participation*, provides the most accurate and comprehensive examination of collegiate participation trends to date. Data was collected from nearly every college in the United States, including both two-year and four-year institutions, and with that, many preexisting holes in the research have been filled.

This report comes at an important time, as Title IX continues to be criticized by those who feel that women are gaining participation opportunities at the expense of their male counterparts. The results clearly demonstrate that women continue to be underrepresented among college athletes and that as a whole, men's participation has not decreased.

You can take a look at the full report and the grades assigned to individual colleges and universities by visiting www.WomensSportsFoundation.org/WhosPlaying. The web site also includes a searchable database so you may see how each individual school performed."

Upcoming Events:

5-13 April 2008; Pura Light Start Masters Games, Port Pirie; www.portpiriemastersgames.com.au

1-9 November 2008; **Pan Pacific Masters Games**, Gold Coast; www.mastersgames.com.au

20 Feb-1 March 2008, 12th **Australian Masters Games**, Geelong;
www.AustralianMastersGames.com

2-10 Feb **New Zealand Masters Games at Dunedin and then 30 Jan-8 Feb 2009, New Zealand Masters Games, Wanganui**; www.nzmg.com

10-18 October 2009, **Sydney World Masters Games**; www.2009worldmasters.com

28 - 29 May 2008, Sydney, **National Diversity in Leadership Conference**; the inaugural Women On Boards National Diversity in Leadership Conference. It will a terrific opportunity to bring together many of the elements of WOB events and for network members across Australia to meet and interact with each other. More information next newsletter.

First weekend in February and second weekend in July, 2008 to 2009, Newcastle University, **Continence and Pelvic Floor Workshop**: www.womenswaterworks.com

23-26 July 2008: **The 16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport (ISCPES)** will be held in Macao, China.

1 to 5 August 2008: the **International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport (ICSEMIS)** in Guangzhou, China. ICSEMIS is the successor of the Pre-Olympic Congresses and the Paralympic Congress.

2009 **Start of a new USA women's professional soccer league** with teams in Washington DC, St Louis, New York, Dallas, Chicago and Boston, at this stage.

AWRA Board:

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

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