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vicsport is pleased to deliver the 2009 Winter Edition of WISe-news. Just having undertaken a review process, this edition aims to highlight a broad range of articles from elite sportswomen and team achievements to great female initiatives. It also showcases opportunities to get involved at a local and club level.

This new format aims to provide an overview of articles and live links that will allow you access to whole articles and source further information. **vicsport** appreciates your feedback regarding WISe-news and looks forward to receiving contributions, stories and events to include in the Spring Edition due out in September 2009.

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CURRENT ISSUES

FOR EXECUTIVE WOMEN, IT CAN BE LONELY AT THE TOP

May 2009 | Carol Hymowitz <http://money.ninernsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=811034>

Even today, it can be tough for women in the executive ranks. More women are advancing to executive positions, but being at the top doesn't necessarily mean women are heard. "It's no longer about whether we have our own voices; it's about whether the institutions we belong to hear us," Amy Schulman, senior vice president and general counsel of Pfizer said, when she was honoured by Legal Momentum, an organisation that aims to advance women's equality, at its annual Aiming High Luncheon in May 2009.

As one of five honourees, Amy told an audience of 800 that there's still a perception gap between men and women in her workplace. When she and others at Pfizer informally surveyed executives about whether men or women held more leadership roles, the men thought there were many more women in high positions than there actually are. The women thought the inverse...and they were right. Upon accepting her award, Amy credited some of her career success to women who climbed the corporate ladder before her and didn't "leave their personalities at the door."

Other honourees include:

Paula Pretlow: Senior vice president of Capital Guardian Trust. Paula is the second eldest of five children and was by a single mother, she thought her chances for rising significantly within business were slim; however she beat the odds and won scholarships and grants to attend Northwestern University and earn a M.B.A. from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Business.

Paula realised early on in her career that she had to reach out and allow others to get to know her. She was also fortunate to be working for executives who recognised potential and pushed and challenged Paula to succeed. In Paula's role at Capital Guardian, she hasn't forgotten how "lost and helpless" she felt early in her career, and she sets aside time to mentor younger employees and business school students.

Carol Lavin Bernick: Executive chairman of Alberto Culver. Carol thanks her parents for paving the way as after her graduation in 1974 she followed her parents into the consumer products company they founded. Today, she is executive chairman of the company which makes brands such as Nexxus and Static Guard, and places great emphasis on what her employees' value most beyond work-their families and their commitments to their churches and communities. [Index](#)

2008 SPORTSPEOPLE WORKPLACE SURVEY – PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Shifts in salaries, hours worked and education emerged as the hot spots for the sport, fitness and aquatic sector over the past five years according to new research published in May 2009.

Over 1,000 respondents participated in the Survey with data compiled by Dr. Dave Arthur from the Graduate College of Management, Southern Cross University. The preliminary data released by Sportspeople provides direct comparisons with the 2003 Sportspeople Workplace Survey.

Key findings include:

- Just over half (54%) of respondents were aged less than 35 years, with 34% of respondents aged over 40 years. In 2003 54.1% of respondents were aged less than 30 years and only 18.6% over 40 years.
- The majority of respondents had completed a tertiary education course, with 62% (63.5% in 2003) of respondents holding an Undergraduate or Postgraduate degree.
- A similar number of men and women respondents (39%) in 2008 held an Undergraduate Degree as their highest education, more men (31%) than women (24%) held Postgraduate qualifications. In 2003 more women (49%) held an Undergraduate Degree as their highest education compared to men (41%).
- The majority (77%) of respondents were employed on a permanent full-time basis in 2008 down from 80.5% in 2003.
- 55% (73% in 2003) of respondents worked more than 41 hours a week, with 18% (17.7% in 2003) working more than 50 hours a week. 57% of women worked 40 hours or less a week in 2008, compared with 32% of men.
- The majority of salaries in 2008 were in the \$40,000 - \$80,000 range compared to \$30,000 - \$60,000 range in 2003. The mean salary in 2008 for all full-time respondents was between \$65,000 and \$70,000.
- The mean salary for males in 2008 was between \$70,000 and \$75,000 (up from between \$45,000 and \$50,000 in 2003) whilst for females mean salary was between \$55,000 and \$60,000 (up from between \$40,000 and \$45,000 in 2003).
- One third (34.8%) of the respondents in 2008 had worked in the sport, fitness or aquatic industry for 4 years or less, down from almost half of the respondents (47.6%) in 2003. 19.3% of respondents in 2008 had more than 15 years experience in the industry, up from 10.9% in 2003.

The full report of preliminary findings is available at the Library section of Sportspeople's website: [click here](#)

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WOMEN AND WORK SURVEY

Women's Information Services seek females to undertake in a seven minute confidential survey about women and work. The results will form part of a report with recommendations that will be tabled at the National Women's Advisors meeting later this year. The aim is to ensure women are better informed about issues they face entering the paid work and better informed about their conditions once there.

To complete or source more information, phone 03 9921 0870, email wire@wire.org.au or visit the WIRE website: www.wire.org.au/site/about/research_women&work.php

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FRESH FOCUS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

March 2009 | www.health.gov.au

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The Rudd Government hosted a roundtable in Canberra in March, with women's health experts to kick-start development of a new National Women's Health policy. A discussion paper, New National Women's Health Policy: Consultation Discussion Paper 2009 will encourage discussions between the Government, key women's health groups, welfare groups and the Australian public on the make-up of a new National Women's Health policy.

In developing the new policy, the Government is seeking submissions from the roundtable participants and will encourage other organisations such as health service providers or advocacy groups to make submissions. There will be many opportunities to help shape development of the new national policy.

The current women's health policy is now 20 years old. While there have been significant improvements in health outcomes since then, there is much that still needs to be done. Too many women are still at risk of chronic illness, injury or even premature death because of factors like excessive alcohol consumption or smoking.

Australia needs a policy that continues to improve health outcomes for women, encourages the health system itself to be more responsive to women's needs, promotes health equity among women, and gets women participating in health decision-making and management.

Consultants will be in each state and territory over the course of 2009 and the Government will be delivering the new National Women's Health Policy in 2010. The paper will be available on Department of Health and Ageing website at www.health.gov.au

'MASCULINE' LOOK A NICE LITTLE EARNER

15 July 2009 | Herald Sun | <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25783674-662,00.html>

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Women adopting a "masculine approach" in the office earn up to \$83,000 more in their working lives than "nicer" female colleagues. "Alpha females" earned four per cent more than their "passive" co-workers, while "neurotic" (anxious or moody) women earned three per cent less, a German academic has found. At the same time, "conscientious" women who displayed self-control and persistence on the job generally earned up to five per cent more than their lazier colleagues.

Although the research found personality traits as important as intelligence in determining a woman's salary, it showed they barely affected men's earning potential.

The study Does It Pay to be Nice? was unveiled at a conference in the UK by researcher Guido Heineck. Mr Heineck said it showed that personality traits such as "agreeableness" were not beneficial in the workplace. "Personality traits can have the same impact on earnings as intelligence," he said. "Our statistics show that being nice does not pay for women, whereas working hard does.

"This is probably, in part, because agreeable people are too passive in conflict situations and are poorer wage negotiators."

About 5600 men and women aged 20 to 60 were asked to take a test that highlighted five personality traits - openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness and neuroticism. It found alpha females earned on average four per cent more than their quieter co-workers - or \$83,000 over a lifetime based on a 40-year career with an annual wage of \$52,000.

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are regarded as example of alpha females. Although there was a link between "neuroticism" and lower earnings for women, there was no effect for men. However, men who were agreeable in the workplace had a slight dip in salary.

A woman's openness to new experiences increased her earnings by 2-3 per cent, but extroversion - how outgoing a woman is socially - had almost no effect. Figures published by Britain's Office for National Statistics show the pay gap between men and women in full-time work is 12.8 per cent.

David Yarwood, of the equal pay charity Parity, said personality traits may account for some of the disparity in pay but the biggest factor was family commitments. "Women choose lower-paid jobs that afford them more flexibility so that they can care for their children," he said.

WOMEN IN SPORT ADMINISTRATION & BUSINESS

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AFL WOMEN'S ROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

17 March 2009 | The Victorian Women's Football League (VWFL) appointed Stacey Goad to the position of Football Operations Manager. This position is the result of a funding arrangement between the VWFL, the WRFL and AFL Victoria. Stacey has a wide range of experience in football having been an integral member of Football Victoria running the VFL competition. She will work for both the VWFL and the WRFL.



On yet another occasion, VWFL is going from strength to strength as Premier Mr John Brumby, Minister for Sport Mr James Merlino and Acting Minister for Women's Affairs Lisa Neville hosted a reception on 6 July in the Melbourne room at Number 1 Treasury Place to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the Victorian state team. VWFL life members, executive members, players, coaching & training staff, Melbourne Footy Club partners and AFL Victoria staff joined with staff from the Premier's department, the Sport and recreation department, **vicsport** and the Sport & Rec advisory board.

Mr Brumby congratulated the team and the VWFL on a fantastic result at the championships and on the success of the Big V over 16 years of state football. James Merlino also passed on his congratulations and Debbie Lee thanked the government for hosting the function and recognising the achievements of our fast growing sport. An updates on the teams most recent achievements can be found at www.vwfl.org.au.

2 June, 2009 | <http://www.afl.com.au/tabid/208/default.aspx?newsid=78066>

On a national level, the AFL launched Women's Round with its 11th Women's National Championships. Round 11 of the AFL season recognised the role women play in Australian football at all levels across the country, plus emphasis on further developing female leadership within the football industry.

AFL Community Development Manager Dean Warren said that the involvement of females in Australian football was fundamental to the overall growth and development of the game. "The AFL is committed to providing pathways for women and girls to be involved in Australian football whether it is in participation, umpiring, coaching, volunteering, administering or as a member."

"In 2008 participation in dedicated female football programs and competitions grew by 54 per cent, a fantastic result which we hope to build on in 2009."

The following football statistics demonstrate the need to ensure women's interests are represented at a senior level:

- 43 per cent of the television viewing audience
- 40 per cent of AFL and club members in 2009
- 35 per cent of local club volunteers
- More than 78,000 participants, 13 per cent of overall participation
- 1500 accredited coaches
- More than 700 female umpires

Also coinciding with Women's Round, Chelsea Roffey on 4 June, 2009 reported that the AFL has appointed its first female executive, promoting HR manager Christina Ogg. AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou announced the appointment at an industry lunch in support of Women's Round. Christina joined the AFL just under a year ago and will step up to a General Manager role, becoming the tenth member of the executive. Christina is no stranger to being outnumbered by men at senior management level, but said she was excited to be part of an organisation that was passionate about women's contribution.

"Women are very much recognised as being an integral part of the game over the years in the many, many roles they play, often in a voluntary capacity," Christina said. "I think the AFL is very proud of women's involvement." "The reason you want a diverse workforce is because you want many different points of view," she said. "I have a different point of view and sometimes will look at and think about things a little bit differently from the men. "I can't speak for all women – no one can do that – but it's nice to be able to have the opportunity to be able to represent women at a senior level within the organisation, and hopefully be a role model for some as well."

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GIVE WOMEN A VOICE AND LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY

17 May 2009 | Kimberley Crow | www.theage.com.au/news/sport/give-women-a-voice-and-listen-to-what-they-say/2009/05/16/1242335938289.html

There is something sinister stewing in the world of sporting stereotypes. Male sport is all about burly blokes and female sport is dominated by WAG's frolicking with their men at the Brownlow. The male domination / female submission dichotomy rages supreme. And it's a dichotomy that is not only fundamentally flawed, but inherently dangerous.

When Newcastle player Simon Williams was shown on *Four Corners* suggesting "it's not during the act, it's the way you treat them after it," he displayed an underlying perception of the "female" as a commodity. As far as coverage of the football codes goes, men are the Hercules, the heroes, the gladiators, women are the support staff. Outside of the Olympic Games, media coverage of our self-determining, independent and autonomous female sports stars is disturbingly absent.

Increasing an awareness of female sport could go a long way towards creating mutual respect among the sexes. What we need is a willingness to accept the "grey area" – the intelligent rugby player or the gutsy, high-achieving female – because from my experience most ball-kicking males actually *do* respect women.

As a member of the Australian women's rowing team, we had the privilege of sharing training facilities with the Penrith Panthers Rugby League team for six weeks leading up to the Beijing Olympics. I entered expecting a throng of dim-witted boofheads. I left with an innate respect for the warm, nurturing club that welcomed us. I encountered a diverse mix of intelligent and culturally diverse young men. And I'm sure the experience was mutually educational.

The vibe of the Panthers squad was one of subtle awe. They were genuinely surprised at our determination and application to training. We shared their motto "pain is only weakness leaving the body", with tenacity. Above all I noticed a group of guys with a passion for their sport and their team, just as we were a group of girls with a passion for *our* sport and *our* team.

It is for this reason that I strongly dispute that male sport inherently *cultivates* disrespect. Instead, I believe stores of sexual assault reflect and expose a disturbing societal trend. So how do we solve the NRL sexual abuse problem? I'm not sure it's education sessions. I'm not sure it's alcohol bans. What we need is an attitude shift that casts the "female" as a thinking, feeling being with an opinion, goals and desires; a being capable of consenting or not consenting.

It's about embracing the "grey" area of a Barbie doll that likes politics and sport, as well as shopping. And it is the responsibility of all of us to not only let Barbie have a voice, but to listen to what she has to say.

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GOLF - FORMER TOUR STAR CLAIMS TOP PGA HONOUR

1 May 2009 | [PGA Regions' News](#) | [WPGA](#)

Former LET star Alison Munt was awarded the PGA Female Assistant of the Year award, alongside her three tour titles. The 43-year-old Australian, who played 160 tournaments in 18 years on tour and had career earnings of almost €400,000, won the LET-sponsored award after completing the PGA's three-year foundation degree. Alison, who resides in Melbourne and is the Women's Development Officer for Golf Australia, admitted her shock at passing the degree let alone winning the Beverly Lewis Trophy when she attended the PGA's graduation ceremony at the University of Birmingham on 1 May 2009.



"I am tremendously proud of passing this course let alone winning any of the awards!" said Alison, who is mentor to a number of Australia's leading women players. It is particularly ironic that LET sponsor this award as I was a member of LET for many years and served on their Players Council so the synergy with LET is nice. But to win this award knowing the very high level of assistants throughout the three years is hard to believe and something I am very proud of.

Alison finished fourth overall in the Titlist PGA Assistant of the Year standings, which won her a cheque for £1,250 in addition to the £1,250 for being the top female. She was joined in the top 10 by Ireland's Michelle Carroll (fifth) and fellow LET ace Nicola Moulton (eighth), who also lives in Melbourne.

The two Australian-based women did the course in tandem, having both decided that their time on the LET was in transition, and Alison revealed that her colleague was a great source of inspiration. Training and education remains an integral part of the PGA with the foundation degree in professional golf studies, while the PGA also runs an honours degree in association with the University of Birmingham. Once qualified, PGA members also undergo a process of continual professional development to keep them up to speed with all the latest developments in the sport.

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WOMEN TO SCORE POINTS IN SPORTING GRANTS

14 July 2009 | PS News | www.psnews.com.au/Page_psn17715.html

One-hundred and thirty-two recipients have been awarded Sport Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women. They will share in \$500,000 worth of grants as part of an initiative of the Office for Women and the Australian Sports Commission, aiming to help promote women in sports leadership.

Grants in 2009 went to 74 individuals who received up to \$5,000, 45 organisations allocated up to \$10,000 and 13 scholarships of up to \$30,000 over three years. Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek was delighted to see such an increase in applications this year. "The response was fantastic and the grants will develop skills for a variety of leadership roles," Tanya said. "For the first time, the funding includes scholarships for women to gain management and other qualifications to help advance them in the upper levels of sports administration."

Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis said the grants would accelerate the careers of women in sport, saying that more women in senior positions were needed. "These grants will equip and empower women to fill more decision-making roles and exert greater influence in the culture of sport," Ms Ellis said.

She said the grants would support women from a variety of backgrounds, including 23 projects involving Indigenous women, 17 for women with disabilities and 24 for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In the eight years it has been running, the initiative has provided approximately \$3 million in grants to almost 16,000 women.

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NRL TO REVIEW CLUB CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

24 June 2009 | Australian Leisure Management | www.ausleisure.com.au/default.asp?PageID=1&ReleaseID=1169&Display=True

The National Rugby League Board has requested all NRL clubs provide detailed summaries of their corporate governance procedures. At the same time the Board has called for clubs to actively promote women into more senior roles including Board positions.

The calls came from a scheduled June Board meeting at the NRL which had the opportunity to review a number of recent events in the game. According to NRL Chief Executive David Gallop "there was clearly a concern over the recent issues at Cronulla and

while we would expect that this was very much a 'one-off' episode, the Board felt that we should seek reassurance from all clubs as to the corporate governance procedures in place at each organisation.

"We have a wide range of corporate structures from public to community and private ownership". "We are confident about the way those businesses represent the game but certainly feel that our sponsors and fans would expect that some reassurance of the clubs' business practices is appropriate."

The Board also said that the success of the Harvey Norman Women in League Round was a reminder to the game of the need to ensure qualified women executives were being encouraged into senior roles and in particular Board positions at all clubs.

"The Board is strongly of the view that there are a large number of women in corporate life who could add real value to Rugby League clubs at a Board level as well as in administrative roles.

"It is important going forward that the make-up of Boards in some way reflects the fact that almost half the game's fans are women and that an increasing the number of women are involved in administration and game participation."

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WOMEN ADD BITE TO SHARKS

29 July 2009 | Media Release | www.womenonboards.org.au

The appointment of two members from the Women on Boards network to the Cronulla Sharks Football and League Clubs is a milestone in the role of women in sport. Women on Boards Executive Director, Claire Braund, said Jenny Reynolds and Denise Aldous were exceptional candidates, whose appointment as the first female directors in the Shark's history heralded a new era at the club.

"The impact of improved gender balance on the dynamics, culture and governance of the Sharks will be significant," she said. "More qualified and professional female role models at the top level can only impact positively on player conduct and behaviour."

"Research shows that gender balance on boards leads to improved financial performance, stakeholder value, staff retention, marketability and public perception for organisations." "The great thing for the NRL is that there are plenty more aspirant female directors with the qualifications, experience and passion for sport that Jenny and Denise have," Braund said.

To read Jenny's and Denise's comments about their board appointments: www.womenonboards.org.au/news/media090729.htm

Women on Boards is a national network of 6,500 professional women, with its primary goal to improve the gender balance on Australian boards. It provides a range of professional development programs, run networking and mentoring events and offer brokering and other specialist services to government, corporate and community organisations across Australia. Many in the network are keenly interested in sport and on sports boards.

For Interviews contact Claire Braund 0409 981 781 | Denise Aldous 0412 484 404 | Jenny Reynolds 0411 657 162

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WHEELCHAIR SPORTS VICTORIA - AWD ATHLETE BREAKS WORLD RECORD



Victorian AWD sprinter Kelly Cartwright broke the world record for the Women's 200m Ambulant at the Arafura Games 2009 in Darwin.

The irony of the win was not lost on this super athlete since she had to beat her running mate Michelle Errichiello, who had broken the same record just ten minutes earlier. Michelle broke the record of 37.79 in the first heat of the Women's 200m Ambulant so Kelly knew she had to raise the bar. She successfully replied in the second heat, screaming across the line in 36.48. The previous record set in the USA stood at 40.20 in 1998.

"I ran better than I thought I would," said Michelle after the first heat. "I don't think I will do as well in the final as I did in the heat but I will try and hold on and do my best." Her sentiments were echoed by Kelly who said "I am not sure about the finals we just ran the 200 faster than we have ever done before. "It takes time to recover but hopefully I will be able to run it out a bit more."

As it turned out, Kelly was correct but still managed a 36.65 in the final to take the gold ahead of Michelle, who won the silver. "It was a PB obviously it's what I came out here to do tonight and I ran better than I thought I would so I am rapt."

The Arafura Games has incorporated the Oceania Paralympic Championships since 2007.

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TENNIS - AUSSIES FINISH AT TOP OF POOL

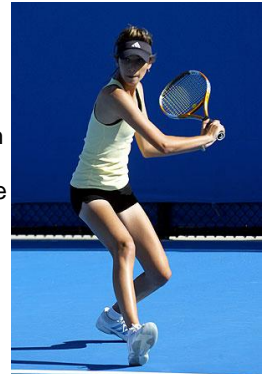
Tennis Australia| No.3 seeded Optus Australian World Junior Tennis Competition girls' team finished top of their pool and are through to the quarterfinals of the Asia/Oceania qualifying event in Kuching, Malaysia.

The team of Kassandra Dunser (NT), Stefani Stojic (VIC) and Teiwa Casey (WA) got off to a rocky start against Thailand when Stefani was defeated by Nahathai Khuntaket. In extreme humidity Stenfani fought hard to the end, going down 7-5 6-4 however Kassandra won the tie and kept her unbeaten record intact with a convincing 6-4 6-3 victory over Gornganok Tiraganok.

With an even rubber, the Aussies teamed up in the doubles against Thailand's Khuntaket and Tiraganok. The Aussies trailed 3-0 in the first set but clawed their way back dominating at the net, eventually winning the match 7-6 6-3.

The victory saw Australia remain undefeated in its pool, finishing 1st in Group B of the Round Robin Pool.

The Optus Australian World Junior Tennis Competition girls' team will meet the unseeded team of Kazakhstan in the quarterfinal match that will decide if they will join the Optus Australian World Junior Tennis Competition boys' team in the World Final, to be held in Prostějov, Czech Republic, in August.



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WOMEN PUSH FOR OLYMPIC SEVENS

17 June 2009 | Bret Harris | [The Australian](#)

The growing popularity of women's rugby could be the catalyst for the sport's readmission to the Olympic Games. Rugby sevens is one of seven sports that will be voted on by the IOC in Copenhagen in October 2009 for inclusion in the Olympic program from 2016 onwards.

The IOC prefers sports that cater for both men and women, which has previously hurt rugby's attempts to rejoin the Olympic family. In saying this, the International Rugby Board (IRB) has worked hard to bridge the gender gap and women's rugby is now a major growth sport, taking significant steps over the past five years.

The IRB showed the importance of women's rugby when it included Cheryl Soon (Australia's World Cup-winning captain) and Kazakhstan player Anastassiya Khamova in a six-person delegation to lobby for rugby's return to the Olympics in Lausanne. Previously when the IRB took its case to the IOC in Singapore, one of the main reasons it was declined was that women were not involved in the sport, nor involved in the bid.

Cheryl explained how the IRB had gone away and rectified this problem of not having women included in the campaign. 'Involving women is very important and our success (at the World Cup in Dubai last March) demonstrated just this.

"They had two executive board members at the World Cup in Dubai and they were so impressed with the whole tournament, especially with the skill level of the women's game and how entertaining they were. It's vital, I think."

Cheryl played a leading role in delivering the IRB's "Rugby is right" pitch to the IOC. "It was basically that rugby sevens is exciting, it's fast, it's entertaining, it has a huge fan base," she said. "Playing at the Olympics, on the world stage, would provide another massive boost for rugby and for women's rugby."

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MELBOURNE VICTORY WOMEN SECURE MAJOR SPONSOR

10 June 2009 | <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/development/elite>

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) and Melbourne Victory FC announced a new and exciting sponsorship deal for the Melbourne Victory Women's team, with Clear Solar coming on board as the team's inaugural major sponsor.

"We're very pleased to announce that Clear Solar will be the major sponsor of Melbourne Victory Women for the upcoming season," Melbourne Victory CEO Geoff Miles said.

FFV CEO Mark Rendell said the new partnership with Clear Solar highlights the importance of women's football in Victoria. "The partnership will help to strengthen the Melbourne Victory Women's team by increasing awareness of the team and the Clear Solar brand through the many sponsorship promotion activities planned. This is the beginning of great things for the Melbourne Victory Women. We are looking forward to a successful second season and it will be wonderful to run out for our first game in October with Clear Solar's support."

Clear Solar Managing Director Paul Wilson, said he is excited about the new grant scheme. Being associated with the Melbourne Victory Women's team will give Clear Solar an opportunity to get the important environmental message out to even more people. We wish the Melbourne Victory Women's team good luck in their season this year and will be there supporting them every step of the way.

For further information please contact FFV Media and Communications Coordinator Mia Hayes on 9474 1823 or mhayes@footballfedvic.com.au.

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2010 TO BE BIGGEST YEAR ON RECORD FOR CYCLING VICTORIA

22 July 2009 | Amy McCann | www.vic.cycling.org.au

2010 will be the biggest year on record for cycling in Victoria with a flood of national and international cycling events to be held this summer. Commencing on the track at the 2010 Australian Madison Championships at DISC in December is an event in which Australia has claimed two of the three gold medals in Olympic competition since its introduction in 2000.

In January 2010, all eyes will be on the hills of Mt Buninyong as the nation's best cyclists contest the Australian Open Road Championships. The Ballarat region attracts tens of thousands of spectators each year and has successfully secured the event for a further six years.

In March, the future of Victorian and Australian cycling will be on show on both the road and track with the Australian Junior (U17/U15) Track Championships at DISC, and the Australasian Schools Cycling Cup to be held in Shepparton. The Australian BMX titles, an event with strong junior roots, will also be held in May.

In April, it will be the Victorian Masters cyclist's turn to shine on home soil when the Australian track championships are held, followed also by the Road championships in September. Whilst the venue for these championships is still to be determined, over 1000 competitors are expected from all over the world.

The international spotlight will be well and truly on Victoria in late 2010, when 400 of the world's best cyclists converge on Melbourne and Geelong for the 2010 UCI Road World Championships which begin September 29. This event is second only to the legendary Tour de France in terms of importance and prestige in international cycling and it will bring the best riders in the world to Australia. Held over five days of competition, the championship features Time Trial and Road Race events for Elite Men, Elite Women and Under 23 Men's.

Late November brings the world's best track cyclists descending on HiSense Arena for the UCI Track World Cup. The UCI Track World Cup Classics are a series of five International races conducted as qualifying rounds for World Championships and Olympic Games rank only behind these in importance.

"2010 is going to be a very exciting year for cycling in Victoria with the various national and international events schedule to be held in our state," said CycleSport Victoria General Manager David Code. "Rest assured that CycleSport Victoria will be working hard to take advantage of the interest generated by the events to increase participation in competitive cycling in years to come."

Like the General Manager, President Klaus Mueller is also looking forward to the busy period for Victorian cycling. "In 2010 we will have the World Road Championships plus a full calendar of outstanding road and track events which cater for the best riders from under 15 to over 65," said Mueller, adding, "Then in 2012 we have the World Track Championships, so for cycling enthusiasts it can't get much better than this."

WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

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EXCITING EXPANSION FOR WOMEN'S INTERSTATE CRICKET

Matthew Slade | CA Public Affairs | 03 9653 8803

Cricket Australia (CA) announced an exciting expansion of its women's interstate cricket program, with ACT and Tasmania invited to join its senior competitions next summer. After reviewing their respective applications, the CA Board admitted ACT into an expanded Women's National Cricket League (WNCL) and inaugural Women's Twenty20 competition for 2009-10, while Tasmania will compete in the new Twenty20 competition only. ACT has competed strongly in all underage female national championships in previous years and their entry into the senior interstate competitions is a reward for their development of junior talent.

Tasmania will initially compete in the Women's Twenty20 competition, with their entry into the WNCL in 2010-11 subject to the Tasmanian Cricket Association meeting the required minimum standards set out by CA. "The expansion of the WNCL and introduction of a Women's Twenty20 competition highlights the continued growth of women's cricket in Australia," CA General Manager, Cricket, Michael Brown, said.

"Female cricket participation has flourished in recent years and the inclusion of both ACT and Tasmania in national competitions in 2009-10 is another positive sign that we are moving in the right direction".

"Importantly, the expansion of interstate competitions will increase the pool of female elite cricketers in Australia and provide more pathway opportunities for the next generation of Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars."

In previous years, women's teams played a selection of independent Twenty20 matches throughout the season, but 2009-10 will be the first time that a formal 20-over national competition will be held. The new competition will provide more opportunities for Australia's elite women's cricketers to play Twenty20 cricket, an important consideration given the Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars' participation in the current ICC World Twenty20 tournament in England and next year's event in the West Indies.

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FOOTBALL – AFL VICTORIA'S YOUTH GIRLS PROGRAM

8 May 2009 | AFL Victoria

The new four-team Eastern suburbs competition has been established at Wantirna South and is the newest edition to AFL Victoria's Youth Girls program. This sees competitions available to girls all across Melbourne with the Southern and Western leagues established in 2003 and the Northern league last year. Country leagues also are run at Bendigo and Geelong.



The season commenced May 2009 and continues for 12 weeks. AFL Victoria Female Football Development Manager Chyloe Kurdas said the competition had received great support from the City of Knox including Councillors Peter Cole and Sue McMillan, as well as the Eastern Football League. The EFL is providing umpires for the competition.

"A lot of hard work has been undertaken by local people in these clubs," Kurdas said. "Having the competition up and running is a great reward for all of their work and belief in making it happen. "We hope to expand the competition to include eight teams over the next few years."

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AMY GILLETT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



The Amy Gillett Foundation (AGF) awards scholarships as part of its work to support the development of young female athletes. Amy had a great love for life, sport and education so the Amy Gillett Scholarship seeks to honour her memory by supporting the young women who aspire to the same pursuit of sporting and educational excellence Amy did.

Amber Halliday, a three time World Champion and two times Olympic rower, is the proud AGF sporting scholarship winner for 2009 and takes on her new role as ambassador for the foundation. Her journey as ambassador can be viewed via www.amygillett.org.au/amber-halliday-amy-gillett-scholarship-2009.

For more information on the Amy Gillett Foundation or these scholarships go to: www.amygillett.org.au/scholarships

ANTI-VIOLENCE CLASSES IN SPORTS CLUBS

11 May 2009 | Jason Dowling | <http://www.theage.com.au/national/antiviolence-classes-in-sports-clubs-20090511-azbr.html>

Suburban sporting clubs will host classes on appropriate behaviour towards women in a bid to reduce the high number of violent attacks. VicHealth has given Maribyrnong Council \$270,000 to work with sport and community clubs as part of its \$1.8 million campaign to prevent violence against women.

Maribyrnong Mayor Michael Clarke said he hoped the anti-violence program would include all sporting clubs — "footy, soccer, baseball, hockey, cricket, everything". "We understand, that the issue of violence, family violence and violence against women is something that is out there and is something that needs to be attended to," he said.

VicHealth chief executive Todd Harper said violence is a leading cause of death, illness and disability for females aged 15 to 44. He said male-dominated sporting clubs were an obvious target as "they can be the sort of environment where you see the sorts of attitudes that can be conducive to condone violence against women".

Women's Affairs Minister Maxine Morand said the State Government was "supportive of initiatives and projects promoting cultural and attitudinal change about family violence and that get the message through that family violence is never acceptable and will not be tolerated in Victoria". She said "sporting clubs play an important role in forming attitudes and reflecting community standards".

Mr Harper hoped the three-year program at Maribyrnong could be copied at councils across Victoria. Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) president Bill McArthur said dealing with violence against women was an important issue and Maribyrnong Council's approach was to be commended.

"The MAV is encouraging other Victorian councils to look at adopting a similar approach, as local government can play an active role in helping to reduce violence against women," Mr McArthur said.

For more information about family violence and support services, visit www.familyviolence.vic.gov.au.

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COMMUNITY SPORT TAKES OFF IN YAREN, NAURU

7 Apr 2009 | http://www.ausport.gov.au/about/international/news/community_sport_program_takes_off_in_nauru

The Epon Keramen (EK) community sport program (aka people gather together to play games) is making waves in Yaren, a small Pacific nation of Nauru, with a women's basketball competition that has nearly half the women in the whole community participating.

EK is a program specially designed for Nauru to increase the opportunities for communities to be active and involved in sport. EK coordinator for Yaren, Godwyn Debaos said that the program has been very successful, providing the women of the community with

the chance to play group sport for the first time in years: 'I'm very proud of the women's basketball competition because of the huge turnout and the overall spirit of the women.'

Community member Claudia Edwards was thrilled with the competition: 'This was the first time in many years a tournament was organised for our community.' The program is successful because organisers listened closely to the women of the community and responded to their needs. This process of consultation led to the provision of child minding and transport to games, in addition to coaches, officials and organised teams. Together, these elements have produced an easy-to-access and quality sport experience that provides ongoing motivation for the women of Yaren to get together and enjoy sport.



At the same time as organising regular sport for women, EK has provided members of the Yaren community with the opportunity to become community sport leaders and gain sport-specific training.

The neighbouring Nauru community of Denig have been hearing about the positive outcomes in Yaren and are also keen to start an EK community sport program in their community. EK is part of the Australian Sports Outreach Program, which is managed by the Australian Sports Commission's International Relations program.

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CITY OF CASEY – ENERGISE PROGRAM

9 July 2009 | Media Release | Energise Program provides female fun, activity and friendship

The City of Casey, in partnership with the Melbourne Football Club, recently hosted the Cranbourne Active Girls Breakfast, a morning of fun, activity and friendship, at Ranfurly Golf Club. The breakfast was part of the Energise Program, formerly known as the Women's Sport and Recreation Initiative Cranbourne, and was attended by 60 female students and teachers from Cranbourne Secondary School, St Peters Secondary School, Lyndhurst Secondary College, Marnebek School and Casey Grammar School.

The Energise Program, developed through a partnership initiative between the City of Casey and Sport and Recreation Victoria, provides teenage girls and young mothers with the opportunity to become involved in sport, active recreation and leadership programs in a fun and friendly environment at low or no cost.

City of Casey Mayor Cr Geoff Ablett is thrilled young women in the area have access to such a positive program. 'The Energise Program provides fantastic opportunities for teenage girls and young mums to have fun, interact socially and meet new people', said Cr Ablett.

Students were given the opportunity to interact with attendees from other schools and hear from a number of guest speakers about their experiences in sport and life. Mentors were seated at each table, and included females from Cricket Victoria, **vicsport**, the Youth Girls Football League and Reach Foundation, and they provided support and facilitated discussion about self-esteem, body image and the positive impact of being involved in sport, active recreation and other activities.

Melbourne Football Club Community Manager Debbie Lee was MC, and introduced a variety of guest speakers including 800-metre Olympic runner Madeleine Pope, Trisha Broadbridge from the Reach Foundation and Belinda Ear a Cranbourne Secondary School student recognised by the UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Trisha Broadbridge said 'The Energise Cranbourne Active Girls Breakfast was a great opportunity for young females from the Cranbourne community to come together and be inspired to be active. The key message from the breakfast was that participating in physical activity is a great way to build feelings of self-worth and social networks'.

To express your interest in activities, contact Casey's Energise Project Officers: Ph: 9705 5200 or E:leisure@casey.vic.gov.au

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BULLEEN BOOMERS BUSINESS BREAKFAST

The Bulleen Boomers have been able to secure a leader in their field, both nationally and internationally as a guest speaker. Carrie Graf, recently appointed Head Coach of the Opals Australian World Champion Team has accepted our invitation to speak at our next Business Breakfast. Carrie is Australia's most successful female coach and an inspiring and entertaining speaker.

The Boomers invite you to join them for breakfast on Wednesday 19th August at the Veneto Club to hear Carrie's secrets to success and especially how she plans to build on the success of the past to make the Opals the world's number one team. We especially invite all women and girls to attend and be motivated by her words of wisdom.

Carrie is a role model, not only for female basketballers but for all people in all walks of life. Michele Timms will once again facilitate the morning and ensure the discussion is provocative.

Please find [FLYER](#) and registration form here. Feel free to invite a guest(s) or business associates. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited | Bulleen Templestowe Basketball Club • PO Box 55 | Bulleen VIC 3105
W: www.bulleenboomers.com.au | T: 03 9850 6222 (Mon—Fri 10am—5pm) | F: 03 9852 0403 | E: office@bulleenboomers.com.au

WOMEN'S SPORT: INSPIRE, LEAD SUCCEED – VICSPOrt CONFERENCE

Stimulate your thinking about women's sport via presentations from leaders in sport and business.

Topics and interactive workshops include:

- Developing successful cultures in sport
- Managing workforce flexibility in the 21st Century
- Business communication and negotiation
- Managing crisis situations
- Challenging the delivery of sport
- Respect and Responsibility research and initiatives

...and work together with vicsport to help set the agenda for Women's Sport in Victoria for the next 5-10 years.

Registration forms and conference program available soon
For more information on the conference please call Amber on 03 9926 1373
E: Womensport@vicsport.asn.au | W: www.vicsport.asn.au/conference

Save this date!

Tuesday 27 October 2009
Caulfield Racecourse
9am-5pm Conference
5pm-8pm Cocktail party
Price: \$140 (includes Cocktail Party)

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN AND SPORT

27 May 2009 | www.iwg-gti.org | The International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport in May marked less than one year to go until the official opening of the 5th IWG World Conference and are delighted to announce the Australian Federal Government as an official partner contributing AUD 100,000 to support the IWG Secretariat.

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Sport, showed her great passion and engagement for women and sport at the official launch in Sydney. The Government is committed to promoting the role of women in sport and increasing recognition for women's sporting achievements and this funding for the IWG Conference is a practical means of effecting change in this area.

The Chair of the IWG on Women and Sport, Ms Johanna Adriaanse, is thrilled about the support of the Federal Government and expresses the importance of this commitment for women and sport in Australia. "The conference will set a new benchmark in terms of a broad international audience, high profile keynote speakers and will leave a strong legacy for women's sport in Australia", Ms Adriaanse said.

"The objectives of the IWG on Women and Sport align well with the government's policy to boost media presence for women in sport and to further encourage women to take responsibility in leadership positions," added Ms Adriaanse.

The conference aims to foster the promotion of opportunities for girls and women in sport and physical activity throughout the world. The conference will be staged from 20-23 May 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre and Sydney Olympic Park. The program topics and the call for abstracts released in July 2009.

The IWG on Women and Sport is an independent coordinating body consisting of representatives of key government and non-government organisations. It aims to be a catalyst for the advancement and empowerment of women and sport globally.

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VICTORIA RETAIN THEIR TITLE AS AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

2009 Australian Women's Baseball Championships Geelong | Victoria has claimed its third consecutive Australian women's baseball championships after defeating fierce rival NSW in the final at the Geelong Baseball Centre in April 2009. In what was a closely contested three and a half hour marathon, Victoria took the game 15-13; their ninth national championships win in eleven years.

NSW came out hard scoring two runs in the top of the first inning, though Victoria answered back with four runs in the same inning. A combined 12 runs were scored by the bottom of the third inning, Victoria held a narrow 7-5 lead. At the end of the fifth, Victoria took the lead 14-9, a quiet sixth inning only saw one run to Victoria, with NSW making a late comeback scoring four runs in the ninth inning. Whilst it was enough to rattle NSW and intensify the game, it was not enough to secure the win, leaving the final score at 15-13.



On the mound for Victoria was Kathy Welsh (3.0 IP), Vic Brown (1.0 IP), Sinead Flanigan (2.0 IP) and Alisa Davidson (1.0 IP). Standouts at the Plate for Victoria: Amy McCann went 3-for-4 with 3 runs and 3 RBI and a stolen base. Sam Hamilton went 3-for-4 with a double, 2 runs and 2 RBI and stolen base.

To round out the final standings, Western Australia defeated Queensland 12-1, ending the game in the sixth inning and securing third and fourth positions, whilst Country NSW took fifth place 12-1 over Victoria B.

[FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE 2009 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS PLEASE CLICK HERE>>](#)

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

The eighth survey of Mission Australia has recently been announced. Each year, Mission Australia's national survey asks young people aged 11 to 24 about what they value, their issues of concern, where they go for advice and support, and what activities they are involved in. Surveys closed 26 June with the findings to be released later in the year. The annual survey is a great opportunity for young people to have a say about the issues that affect them. Results from previous years are an effective advocacy tool for improving services for young people.

Survey available through Susie: 02 92192098 | scherfs@missionaustralia.com.au | www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey [Index](#)

CRICKET AUSTRALIA THANKS KAREN ROLTON

22 June 2009 | Matthew Slade | CA Public Affairs

Cricket Australia (CA) acknowledges Karen Rolton's outstanding leadership of the Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars over the past three years. Rolton, who announced before the ICC World Twenty20 that she would step down as captain of the Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars at the end of the tournament, finished with an impressive record, including 30 wins from 43 one-day internationals, eight from 13 Twenty20 Internationals and one victory from two Tests.

She retires as Australia's second-longest serving women's captain, with only Belinda Clark leading the Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars on more occasions. "Cricket Australia thanks Karen Rolton for her efforts in guiding a new generation of Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars into international cricket," CA's General Manager, Michael Brown said.

"Karen's decision to step down and allow Jodie Fields to assume the captaincy, while continuing her playing career, demonstrates the leadership and commitment to the team that have made her a legend of Australian cricket."

Rolton is a member of the Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars squad for the upcoming ODI series and Test against England and will help Fields and Vice-captain Alex Blackwell with their transition into the team's formal leadership roles. [Index](#)

WOMEN'S FISHING CLASSIC



The women of Dartmouth Victoria are hosting the Dartmouth Women's Fishing Classic to be held on 20 and 21 November 2009 for women and girls of all ages to increase female participation in a male dominated sport. The inaugural event in 2007 was so successful it was awarded the Towong Shires Australia day award for "Community Event of the Year".

The competition is Australia's largest women's fishing competition with over \$15,000 in prizes to be won and is now recognised nationally, attracting contestants from Melbourne, Gippsland, Coffs Harbour and Darwin.

For information or to register for event head to www.dartmouth.net.au or contact Robyn Scales (02)

60724233.

ATHLETE PROFILES

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TRIATHLON – HOLLY AITKEN

June 2009 #210, pg 28 | Jonathon Horn | Inside Sport

Victorian young gun Holly Aitken is smashing Queensland's dominance of the Aussie Junior Triathlon scene and putting senior national competitors on notice. The 17 year old Victorian certainly ticks all the right boxes when it comes to the gruelling sport of triathlon. She has the mental toughness and her mantra speaks for itself, "pain is just weakness leaving the body".

The teenager really made noise on the triathlon scene with a blistering win at the 2009 Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Penrith in January.

Queensland has a reputation for dominating the junior scene of triathlon, however in Penrith, Aitken took on the Queenslander, including two-time world junior champion Ashleigh Gentle and beat them at their own game. The following day she came out and spearheaded the Australian assault in the team event and the Victorian's won convincingly.

Despite an injury interrupted summer and limited training, January 2009 was kind to Aitken as she claimed the Australian Junior title in a photo finish with a young Queenslander, Emma Jackson. Apart from Year 12 exams, Aitken's primary focus will be on the World Junior Championships held on the Gold Coast in September. Even with the strong Australian team around her, Aitken is still the headline act.

With no free to air coverage and limited print exposure, triathlon can seem like one of those 'once every four years' type of sports, Aitken and her fellow Youth Olympic team-mates will be classed as the torchbearers for bringing triathlon back to the mainstream.



CANOE SLALOM – ROSALYN LAWRENCE AND LEANNE GUINEA

26 March 2009 | International body paves way for equality in sport

Rosalyn Lawrence (NSW) and Leanne Guinea (VIC) will be the first Australians to paddle in the women's C1 class at Canoe Slalom World Cups in 2009 following a decision by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) in March 2009.

Rosalyn and Leanne, who are excelling at the new class being offered to women slalom paddlers, were selected as part of the 2009 Australian Senior Slalom Team following their impressive selection trial form. At the ICF Board of Directors meeting held in Lausanne, a decision was made to include women's C1 in at the 2010 world championships. It was also confirmed that women's C1 will be included at all three World Cups in 2009 with an official demonstration event also to be held at the 2009 world championships.

This decision paves the way for Rosalyn to compete in two classes, after also achieving selection in the women's K1 event. Leanne can now look forward to some competition after taking up the C1 event seriously in 2008.

Leanne said "Its great news, now we have something to aim for and an opportunity to race against the best in the world." Australian Canoeing President, Danielle Woodward, says it is a substantial landmark for slalom racing and a move towards equality for women in canoeing. "The decision to host a demonstration event at this year's worlds ahead of the world championships in 2010 is a great step forward and it means that the ICF is serious in its approach to gender equity."

The Australian slalom team will continue its preparation before travelling to France to compete at World Cup 1 on 27-28 June 2009. Along with Rosalyn and Leanne, Sarah Grant from Victoria is also a member of the Women's Australian Team for C1 Women's K1.

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SOLO SAILOR – JESSICA WATSON

Jessica Watson is setting out to become the youngest person to sail solo non-stop and unassisted around the World.

Since Joshua Slocum first sailed singlehanded around the world in the late 1890's, sailors of all nationalities and ages have been drawn to this ultimate challenge: The Everest of sailing. Slocum's epic tale of his voyage, "*Sailing Alone Round the World*", has captivated a global audience of readers for over a hundred years. Inspired in her turn by *Kay Cottee*, the first woman to sail solo non-stop unassisted around the world and by *Jesse Martin*, the youngest person to do so, Jessica Watson has set her sights on shattering Jesse's record.

In this process, Jessica hopes to inspire young sailors, adventurers and everyone with a dream - <http://youngestround.com/>

For Jessica, it will be a 7-8 month journey over 22000 nautical miles, but she is braced for whatever the sea and weather will throw at her. It is the same quiet determination and commitment that has seen Jessica achieve and maintain a solid academic level through distance education while building her sailing knowledge and experience that will see her reach this goal. In her quest, to reach what is considered the absolute pinnacle of sailing Jessica will pit herself against Mother Nature (the notorious Southern Ocean) as well as the physical and psychological demands whilst alone at sea.

In doing so, Jessica wants to show that even the most gentle among us can achieve great things and with determination and the support of those around us can live our dreams and hopes that her journey can inspire others to take that first step and be all they want to be.

When Australian Jesse Martin set the current record in 1999, he celebrated his 18th birthday during the journey. Jessica plans to set off shortly after her 16th birthday in 2009, returning before she turns 17, taking more than a year off Jesse's record.

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WOMEN'S FOOTBALL – FLORENCE FRANCIS

21 June 2009 | Amelia Harris

Women's football has kicked a huge goal in the recruiting game, unearthing a player born in the Congo. The AFL has had players from Ireland, South Korea, Brazil and Canada, but Florence Francis could be the biggest sensation to play for Braybrook since Western Bulldogs star Doug Hawkins.

Florence is 16 and plays in the centre for the Braybrook Bombers in the northwest division of the Victorian Women's Football League and loves the physicality of the game.

Florence was born in the Congo before her family migrated to Kenya. She came to Melbourne as an eight-year-old and first tried football while in primary school. She only started playing competitively this year and juggles this with basketball and her year ten studies at Braybrook College.



"(Because) I was so used to seeing just soccer, as soon as I saw the ball I thought, 'That's a funny-looking ball. I don't know how you're meant to do anything with it,'" Florence, a Western Bulldogs supporter, said. "Then I saw my friends kicking and I thought, 'Next year I'm definitely doing football.'" "Initially (mum) didn't know what I was talking about; she thought I meant soccer but 'I told her it was Aussie Rules Football and she said OK. Because I didn't come home with any injuries, she wasn't too worried."



Resources / Contacts

Women's Network Australia: WNA Members are busy working women who love the convenience of 24/7 networking and information. WNA began with a few women sharing business contacts, information and ideas. 19 years on, they have become a leading networking organisation for women offering business information, online services, business education and networking events.

Women united in a common goal. Further information: www.womensnetwork.com.au

Women's Sports Foundation—the leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports—advocates for equality, educates the public, conducts research and offers grants to promote sports and physical activity for girls and women.

Further information: <http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org>

Australian Womensport and Recreation Association - AWRA is a volunteer non profit organisation incorporated in 2005. Their Vision is 'to provide leadership and advocacy for Australian women and girls in sport and active recreation'. AWRA have recently released ten very useful fact sheets about Leadership in Australian Sport.

For more details and fact sheets: <http://www.australianwomensport.com.au/default.asp?PageID=28>

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