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WELCOME

Welcome to another Special Edition of **vicsport's** WISe-news for 2010. I have compiled this Edition of WISe-news in an attempt to highlight the success of our female athletes that attended the Commonwealth Games this month in Delhi, India.

Included in this edition are articles relating to issues from the Games, general stories about our performance, and a complete list of all Australian female athletes that medalled at the games. Unlike the Winter Olympic & Paralympic Games, due to the number of female athletes participating in the games, I was unable to provide an article on each of them. However they are all listed below.

Kind Regards,

Fiona

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THE TEAM

2010 Australian Commonwealth Games Team

Australian Sports Commission Website | 18 October 2010

http://www.ausport.gov.au/information/finding_sport_information/topic/commonwealth_games/commonwealth_games_2010/australian_team

A total of 369 Australian athletes made the trip to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games. All competing athletes are listed on the following pages:

Archery (12)

Women

- Fiona Hyde
- Cassie McCall
- Rebecca Darby
- Deonne Bridger
- Dawn Nelson
- Alexandra (Lexie) Feeney

Men

- Robert Timms
- Patrick Coghlan
- Clint Freeman
- Taylor Worth
- Mathew Masonwells
- Matthew Gray

Athletics (67)

Women

- Amanda Bisk
- Lauren Boden
- Alana Boyd
- Melissa Breen
- Hayley Butler
- Karyn di Marco
- Bronwyn Eagles
- Jodi Elkington
- Louise Ellery
- Lisa Flint
- Jody Henry
- Kaila McKnight
- Kimberley Mickle
- Joanne Mirtschin
- Kathryn Mitchell
- Brydee Moore

- Gabrielle Neighbour
- Liz Parnov
- Sally Pearson
- Ellen Pettitt
- Pirrenee Steinert
- Claire Tallent
- Olivia Tauro
- Cheryl Webb
- Lisa Weightman
- Eloise Wellings

Men

- Youcef Abdi
- Luke Adams
- Jarrod Bannister
- Collis Birmingham
- Damien Bowen
- Brendan Cole



- Gabriel Cole
- Richard Colman
- Matt Davies
- Martin Dent
- Chris Erickson
- Tim Driesen
- Kurt Fearnley
- Heath Francis
- Jacob Groth
- Benn Harradine
- Steve Hooker
- Jeff Hunt
- Patrick Johnson
- Mitchell Kealey
- Fabrice Lapierre
- Jake Lappin
- Hamish MacDonald
- David McNeill
- Joel Milburn
- Kevin Moore
- Chris Noffke
- Isaac Ntiamoah
- Ben Offereins
- Simon Patmore
- Lachlan Renshaw
- Jeremy Roff
- Aaron Rouge-Serret
- Michael Shelley
- Dale Stevenson
- Ben St Lawrence
- Jared Tallent
- Simon Wardhaugh
- Sean Wroe
- Julian Wruck
- Liam Zamel-Paez

Badminton (10)

Women

- Chia Chi Huang
- Leanne Choo
- He Tian Tang (Rosy)
- Renuga Veeran
- Kate Wilson-Smith

Men

- Nicholas Kidd
- Ross Smith
- Jeff Tho
- Raj Veeran
- Glenn Warfe

Boxing (10)

Men

- Andrew Moloney
- Jason Moloney
- Ibrahim Balla
- Luke Jackson
- Luke Woods

- Cameron Hammond
- Damien Hooper
- Dane Mulivai
- Giancarlo (John) Squillace
- Alexey Mukhin

Cycling (26)

Women

- Kaarle McCulloch
- Anna Meares
- Emily Rosemond
- Ashlee Ankudinoff
- Megan Dunn
- Belinda Goss
- Josephine Tomic
- Ruth Corset
- Rochelle Gilmore
- Chloe Hosking
- Alexis Rhodes
- Vicki Whitlaw

Men

- Daniel Ellis
- Jason Niblett
- Shane Perkins
- Scott Sunderland
- Jack Bobridge
- Michael Freiberg
- Michael Hepburn
- Cameron Meyer
- Dale Parker
- Allan Davis
- Rohan Denis
- Mathew Hayman
- Michael Matthews
- Chris Sutton

Diving (12)

Women

- Briony Cole
- Alexandra Croak
- Anabelle Smith
- Olivia Wright
- Jaele Patrick
- Sharleen Stratton
- Melissa Wu

Men

- James Connor
- Matthew Mitcham
- Grant Nel
- Scott Robertson
- Ethan Warren

Gymnastics (13)

Women

- Georgia Bonora
- Ashleigh Brennan
- Emily Little
- Lauren Mitchell
- Georgina Wheeler

- Naazmi Johnston
- Janine Murray
- Danielle Prince

Men

- Joshua Jefferis
- Sam Offord
- Thomas Pichler
- Prashanth Sellathurai
- Luke Wiwatowski

Hockey (32)

Women

- Nicole Arrol
- Madonna Blyth
- Fiona Boyce
- Alison Bruce
- Toni Cronk
- Casey Eastham
- Anna Flanagan
- Kate Hollywood
- Emily Hurtz
- Kate Jenner
- Fiona Johnson
- Shelly Liddel
- Rachael Lynch
- Ashleigh Nelson
- Megan Rivers
- Jayde Taylor

Men

- Desmond Abbott
- Nathan Burgers
- Joel Carroll
- Christopher Ciriello
- Liam De Young
- Luke Doerner
- Jamie Dwyer
- Robert Hammond
- Fergus Kavanagh
- Mark Knowles
- Trent Mitton
- Edward Ockenden
- Simon Orchard
- Matthew Swann
- Glenn Turner
- Jason Wilson

Lawn Bowls (12)

Women

- Kelsey Cottrell
- Lynsey Armitage
- Natasha Van Eldik
- Sharyn Renshaw
- Claire Duke
- Julie Keegan

Men

- Leif Selby
- Mark Berghofer



- Aron Sherriff
- Brett Wilkie
- Wayne Turley
- Mark Casey

Netball (12)

Women

- Sharelle McMahon
- Rebecca Bulley
- Catherine Cox
- Susan Fuhrmann
- Laura Geitz
- Renae Hallinan
- Mo'onia Gerrard
- Kimberlee Green
- Natalie Medhurst
- Lauren Nourse
- Susan Pratley
- Natalie von Bertouch

Rugby 7's (12)

Men

- Robert Coleman
- Nicholas Cummins
- Bernard Foley
- Shaun Foley
- Ed Jenkins
- Liam Gill
- Patrick McCutcheon
- Luke Morahan
- Nick Phipps
- Kimami Sitauti
- James Stannard
- Lachie Turner

Shooting (30)

Women

- Stacy Roiall
- Laetisha Scanlan
- Deborah Lowe
- Alethea Sedgman
- Susannah Smith
- Robyn Van Nus
- Dina Aspandiyarova
- Pamela Mckenzie
- Linda Ryan
- Lalita Yauhleuskaya

Men

- Clive Barton
- Michael Diamond
- Nicholas Kirley
- Russell Mark
- Anthony Sottosanti
- Adam Vella
- Ben Burge
- David Clifton
- William Godward

- Edwin Gouw
- Warren Potent
- Tyren Vitler
- David Chapman
- Michelangelo Giustiniano
- David Moore
- Bruce Quick
- Daniel Repacholi
- Christopher Roberts
- James Corbett
- Geoff Grenfell

Squash (10)

Women

- Kasey Brown
- Lisa Camilleri
- Melody Francis
- Amelia Pittock
- Donna Urquhart

Men

- Stewart Boswell
- Ryan Cuskelly
- Aaron Frankcomb
- David Palmer
- Cameron Pilley

Swimming (52)

Women

- Bronte Barratt
- Ellie Cole
- Alicia Coutts
- Sophie Edington
- Blair Evans
- Felicity Galvez
- Katie Goldman
- Melissa Gorman
- Marieke Guehrer
- Samantha Hamill
- Belinda Hocking
- Leisel Jones
- Sarah Katsoulis
- Yolane Kukla
- Grace Loh
- Samantha Marshall
- Alice Mills
- Meagen Nay
- Leiston Pickett
- Kylie Palmer
- Jessicah Schipper
- Emily Seebohm
- Tessa Wallace
- Annabelle Williams

Men

- Daniel Arnarnart
- Ben Austin
- Leith Brodie
- Craig Calder
- Ashley Callus

- Blake Cochrane
- Matthew Cowdrey
- Nick D'Arcy
- Ashley Delaney
- Tommaso D'Orsogna
- Nick Frost
- Thomas Fraser-Holmes
- Jayden Hadler
- Geoff Huegill
- Robert Hurley
- Andrew Lauterstein
- James Magnussen
- Kenrick Monk
- Ryan Napoleon
- Andrew Pasterfield
- Mitchell Patterson
- Cameron Prosser
- Kyle Richardson
- Brenton Rickard
- Christian Sprenger
- Hayden Stoeckel
- Eamon Sullivan
- Chris Wright

Synchronised Swimming (3)

Women

- Eloise Amberger
- Sarah Bombell
- Tarren Otte

Table Tennis (10)

Women

- Peri Campbell-Innes
- Jian Fang Lay
- Miao Miao
- Zhenhua (Vivian) Tan
- Catherine Morrow

Men

- Robert Frank
- Simon Gerada
- Jiapeng (Justin) Han
- William Henzell
- Nam Ho Oh

Tennis (8)

Women

- Jessica Moore
- Sally Peers
- Anastasia Rodionova
- Olivia Rogowska

Men

- Matt Ebden
- Paul Hanley
- Greg Jones
- Peter Luczak

Weightlifting & Powerlifting) (19)

Women

- Vivian Lee
- Erika Yamasaki
- Seen Lee
- Belinda van Tienen
- Amanda Phillips
- Jenna Myers
- Deborah Acason
- Deahnne McIntyre
- Leigh Skinner

Men

- Vannara Be
- Daniel Koum
- Francois Etoundi

- Ben Turner
- Simplicie Ribouem
- Rob Galsworthy
- Damon Kelly
- Corran Hocking
- Darren Gardiner
- Abebe Fekadu

Wrestling (19)

Women

- Kyla Bremner
- Emily Bensted
- Carli Renzi
- Louise Randle
- Emma Chalmers
- Cassie Fields

Men

- Shane Parker
- Masoud Sadeghpour
- Cory O'Brien
- Hassan Shahsavan
- Gene Kapauks
- Hassene Fkiri
- Ivan Popov
- Justin Holland
- Farzad Tarash
- Mehrdad Tarash
- Kostya Ermakovich
- Bilal Abdo
- Denis Roberts

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THE MEDALLISTS

The Australian Commonwealth Games Team returned from Delhi with a total of 177 medals.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Female	38	28	25	91
Male	35	26	23	84
Mixed	1	1	0	2
Total	74	55	48	177

Below is a table of all female medal winners. Most of their names are linked to a news article about their success.

Sport	Team/Individual	Result	Division	Team Members
Athletics	Alana Boyd	Gold	Pole Vault	
Athletics	Louise Ellery	Gold	Shot Put - F32-34/52/53	
Athletics	Sally Pearson	Gold	100m Hurdles	
Cycling - Road	Rochelle Gilmore	Gold	Road Race	
Cycling - Track	Anna Meares	Gold	500m Time Trial	
Cycling - Track	Anna Meares	Gold	Sprint	
Cycling - Track	Australia	Gold	Team Sprint	Anna Mears & Kaarle McCulloch
Cycling - Track	Megan Dunn	Gold	25km Points Race	
Cycling - Track	Megan Dunn	Gold	10km Scratch Race	
Diving	Australia	Gold	10m Synchro Platform	Melissa Wu & Alexandra Croak
Diving	Sharleen Stratton	Gold	3m Springboard	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Australia	Gold	Teams Final	Georgia Bonora, Ashleigh Brennan, Emily Little, Lauren Mitchell & Georgia Wheeler
Gymnastics - Artistic	Lauren Mitchell	Gold	Individual All-Round	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Lauren Mitchell	Gold	Uneven Bars	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Lauren Mitchell	Gold	Beam	
Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Australia	Gold	Teams Final	Naazmi Johnstone, Janine Murray & Danielle Prince
Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Naazmi Johnston	Gold	Individual All-Around	



Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Naazmi Johnston	Gold	Individual - Ball	
Hockey	Australia	Gold		Nicole Arrod, Madonna Blyth, Fiona Boyce, Alison Bruce, Toni Cronk, Casey Eastham, Anna Flanagan, Kate Hollywood, Emily Hurtz, Kate Jenner, Fiona Johnson, Shelley Liddelow, Rachel Lynch, Ashleigh Nelson, Megan River & Jayde Taylor
Shooting	Alethea Sedgman	Gold	50m Rifle (3 Positions)	
Shooting	Australia	Gold	Pairs Trap	Laetisha Scanlan, Stacy Roiall
Squash	Australia	Gold	Mixed Doubles	Kasey Brown & Cameron Pilley
Swimming	Alicia Coutts	Gold	200m Individual Medley	
Swimming	Alicia Coutts	Gold	100m Freestyle	
Swimming	Alicia Coutts	Gold	100m Butterfly	
Swimming	Australia	Gold	4x200m Freestyle Relay	Kylie Palmer, Blair Evans, Bronte Barratt & Meagen Nay
Swimming	Australia	Gold	4x100m Freestyle Relay	Alicia Coutts, Marieke Guehrer, Felicity Galvez & Emily Seebohm
Swimming	Australia	Gold	4x100m Medley Relay	Emily Seebohm, Leisel Jones, Jessicah Shipper & Alicia Coutts
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Gold	100m Backstroke	
Swimming	Jessicah Schipper	Gold	200m Butterfly	
Swimming	Kylie Palmer	Gold	200m Freestyle	
Swimming	Leisel Jones	Gold	200m Breaststroke	
Swimming	Leisel Jones	Gold	100m Breaststroke	
Swimming	Leiston Pickett	Gold	50m Breaststroke	
Swimming	Meagen Nay	Gold	200m Backstroke	
Swimming	Sophie Eddington	Gold	50m Backstroke	
Swimming	Yolane Kukla	Gold	50m Freestyle	
Tennis	Anastasia Rodionova	Gold	Singles	
Tennis	Australia	Gold	Doubles	Sally Peers & Anastasia Rodionova
Athletics	Claire Tallent	Silver	20km Walk	
Athletics	Kim Mickle	Silver	Javelin	
Cycling - Track	Kaarle McCulloch	Silver	500m Time Trial	
Diving	Australia	Silver	3m Synchro Springboard	Briony Cole & Sharleen Stratton
Diving	Melissa Wu	Silver	10m Platform	
Diving	Sharleen Stratton	Silver	1m Springboard	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Emily Little	Silver	Individual All-Round	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Georgia Bonora	Silver	Uneven Bars	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Lauren Mitchell	Silver	Floor	
Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Naazmi Johnston	Silver	Individual - Rope	
Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Naazmi Johnston	Silver	Individual - Ribbon	
Lawn Bowls	Australia	Silver	Womens Triples	Claire Duke, Julie Keegan & Sharyn Renshaw



Netball	Australia	Silver		Rebecca Bulley, Catherine Cox, Susan Furhmann, Laura Geitz, Mo'onia Gerrard, Kimberlee Green, Renae Hallinan, Sharelle McMahon, Natalie Medhurst, Lauren Nourse, Susan Pratley & Natalie von Burtouch
Shooting	Australia	Silver	Pairs 25m Pistol	Lalita Yauhleuskaya, Linda Ryan
Shooting	Australia	Silver	Pairs 10m Air Pistol	Dina Aspandiyarova & Pamela McKenzie
Swimming	Annabelle Williams	Silver	50m Freestyle - S9	
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Silver	200m Individual Medley	
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Silver	100m Freestyle	
Swimming	Kylie Palmer	Silver	400m Freestyle	
Swimming	Leisel Jones	Silver	50m Breaststroke	
Swimming	Marieke Guehrer	Silver	50m Butterfly	
Swimming	Samantha Hamill	Silver	400m Individual Medley	
Swimming	Samantha Marshall	Silver	100m Breaststroke	
Swimming	Tessa Wallace	Silver	200m Breaststroke	
Table Tennis	Catherine Morrow	Silver	Wheelchair Singles	
Tennis	Australia	Silver	Doubles	Jessica Moore & Olivia Rogowska
Tennis	Australia	Silver	Mixed Doubles	Anastasia Rodionova & Paul Hanley
Weightlifting	Seen Lee	Silver	58kg Division	
Wrestling	Emily Bensted	Silver	Freestyle 55kg	
Archery	Cassie McCall	Bronze	Individual Compound	
Badminton	Australia	Bronze	Doubles	He Tian Tang & Kate Wilson-Smith
Cycling - Road	Chloe Hosking	Bronze	Road Race	
Cycling - Track	Emily Rosemond	Bronze	Sprint	
Diving	Alexandra Croak	Bronze	10m Platform	
Diving	Australia	Bronze	3m Synchro Springboard	Jaele Patrick & Olivia Wright
Diving	Australia	Bronze	10m Synchro Platform	Briony Cole & Anabelle Smith
Diving	Jaele Patrick	Bronze	3m Springboard	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Ashleigh Brennan	Bronze	Floor	
Gymnastics - Artistic	Georgia Bonora	Bronze	Individual All-Round	
Lawn Bowls	Kelsey Cottrell	Bronze	Singles	
Marathon	Lisa Weightman	Bronze		
Shooting	Dina Aspandiyarova	Bronze	10m Air Pistol	
Squash	Australia	Bronze	Doubles	Kasey Brown & Donna Urquhart
Squash	Kasey Brown	Bronze	Singles	
Swimming	Ellie Cole	Bronze	100m Freestyle - S9	
Swimming	Ellie Cole	Bronze	100m Butterfly - S9	
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Bronze	50m Butterfly	
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Bronze	50m Backstroke	
Swimming	Emily Seebohm	Bronze	200m Backstroke	
Swimming	Melissa Gorman	Bronze	800m Freestyle	
Swimming	Sarah Katsoulis	Bronze	200m Breaststroke	



Synchronised Swimming	Australia	Bronze	Duet - Free Routine	Eloise Amberger & Sarah Bombell
Tennis	Sally Peers	Bronze	Singles	
Weightlifting	Deborah Acason	Bronze	75kg+ Division	

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Delhi Puts Us On Track: Meares

9 October 2010 | Guy Hand | The Sydney Morning Herald

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-sport/delhi-puts-us-on-track-meares-20101009-16cu8.html>

Commonwealth Games golden girl Anna Meares is confident the Australian cycling team's overwhelming Delhi dominance will prove a launch pad for London 2012.

Meares, who along with West Australian Cameron Meyer was Australia's most successful individual rider with three gold medals, believes the team's superb performance to win 12 of 14 gold medals on the track in Delhi can translate into success against powerhouse Britain on their home soil at the Olympics in less than two years.

Britain's best track riders dodged the Commonwealth Games virtually en masse, leaving the Australians to win nearly everything on offer.

But while Meares warned they would not be quaking in their boots at the Delhi results considering the quality of riders they will add for London, Australia could take a lot of heart from their achievements.

"There's no way we can walk out of this championships, successful as we are, thinking the Brits are going to be chewing their fingernails in fear," said Meares, who left Delhi on Saturday to return home to Adelaide.

"It's been a wonderful championship for the entire Cyclones team, and it is a young team.

"Not only can they take away something from their wins and performances, but the experience of a multi-sport competition.

"That's priceless going into London against a powerhouse British team on home turf. The lessons that have been learnt will give an incredible amount of confidence. It builds morale."

Meares won gold in the women's sprint, team sprint with NSW rider Kaarle McCulloch and the time trial in Delhi.

And the times the 27-year-old set - albeit on a lightning quick Indira Gandhi Sports Complex track - were the most exciting part for coaching staff.

It was a Games packed with breakout Australian performances on the track.

Meyer's three gold medals, and Dubbo teenager Megan Dunn's dual gold medal success in the women's points and scratch races lifted the profiles of two riders destined for huge things.

And sprinter Scott Sunderland - also a dual gold medallist - was another to please coaches with his ability to step up a level at the Games with his 1000m time trial win.

"Scott's really stepped up incredibly to world class, Megan Dunn was fantastic to come from juniors and step up, Anna Meares is always consistent and had world-class times," head coach Shayne Bannan said.

"More important were the times than the medals.

"Our progression of development is there, and we're going to be close in London.

"In some areas we're exceeding expectations. In other areas, we still have a little bit more work to do than we originally thought."

Attention turns to the road on Sunday for men's and women's road races, before the two time trials on Tuesday end the cycling program.

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McCall Claims Priceless Archery Bronze

10 October 2010 | AAP | The Sydney Morning Herald

<http://www.smh.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/mccall-claims-priceless-archery-bronze-20101010-16dav.html>

Australian archer Cassie McCall took a \$30,000 pay cut to pursue her dreams of Commonwealth Games glory, and with a priceless bronze medal now hanging around her neck she says the gamble paid off.

McCall beat compatriot Fiona Hyde 140 points to 135 to claim third spot on the podium in the women's individual compound event at the Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi on Saturday.

Second ranked Englishwoman Nicky Hunt took gold, while No.1 Canadian Doris Jones bagged the silver medal.



McCall, ranked 13th in the competition, was described as a revelation by archery's national controlling body coming into the Games, having only started the sport two-and-a-half years ago.

The 28-year-old was overwhelmed by her achievement.

"It's complete shock but on the other hand I just feel so vindicated for what I've done this year, the sacrifices, the work, the everything," she told AAP. "I went part-time at work, I gave up \$30,000 to do it this year, I stopped everything else I was doing ... all that time funnelled into archery. I've worked bloody hard for this, it's worth every penny."

McCall picked up a bow and arrow after already tasting success in the women's national soccer league and becoming an Australian judo champion in 2001.

The Canberran public servant, originally from the NSW south coast, said those experiences helped her come to grips with archery so quickly.

"But moving it from gaining (Games) selection to actually achieving something in the sport is quite different to anything I've done before," she said.

"The other sports are such big energy ones where you can run out your nerves but in this you have to learn how to control that."

McCall said although it was hard to play her good friend Hyde, 47, for a medal, the pair supported each other the whole way through and hugged it out at the end.

"I would have felt gutted if I hadn't have won," she said.

"But by the same taken, if someone was going to take it off me I would have preferred it to be no other person."

It's Australia's second archery medal at the Games, after the men's recurve team took gold on Friday.

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McCann Gone But Far From Forgotten By The New Crop

12 October 2010 | Samantha Lane | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/mccann-gone-but-far-from-forgotten-by-the-new-crop-20101011-16fzs.html>

Lisa Flint first met Kerryn McCann through a television screen in 2006, on the day she completed her second Commonwealth Games marathon win with an unforgettable lap of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Four years later those pictures have delivered the 25-year-old pharmacist from Newcastle, who won her first national marathon title last October, to Delhi where she will strive to defend the crown of her sporting inspiration in two days time.

Lisa Weightman is the other Australian woman taking on the 42.2 kilometre marathon course through the heart of India's capital city on Thursday. She knew Australia's champion distance runner well before the Melbourne Games where McCann won back-to-back Commonwealth titles but also raced for the last race before breast cancer claimed her in 2008.



Within thirty seconds of talking about her former mentor yesterday, which she did sitting alongside Flint in the Commonwealth Games athletes' village, Weightman was in tears.

"This is pretty special to be part of this next marathon," the 31-year-old said with a faltering voice. "It's something you can't help but get emotional about because she was such an amazing athlete, and such an amazing mum, a fantastic Australian. And if we can do our best then hopefully her family will be proud as well."

Weightman, who completed her first marathon in London in April 2008 and went on to finish 33rd at the Beijing Olympics later that year, remembers meeting McCann for the first time at a 10-kilometre race in Burnie, Tasmania.

"I think it would have been 2004," she said, "For two years I was assigned to her as part of a mentoring program through the Prime Minister's marathon squad. We would email occasionally, and if I had questions about anything I could ask her questions."

McCann's defining characteristic, in Weightman's mind, was being a good mum.

"She was a real nurturer. That was probably the thing that made everyone relate to her so well," she said, smiling at the thought.

"I remember one of my good friends, a runner also, told me that when he was with her in London, away from home, she baked him all these cupcakes and muffins, and other food and put it in the freezer for him."

Where Weightman's connection with McCann developed from personal encounters, Flint's sense of kinship is spiritual. The 2006 Commonwealth Games were an introduction of sorts, but after that Flint didn't ever get more than an awe-struck look at the woman who became her hero.

"When Kerryn won her gold medal in Melbourne I was just starting to do triathlons, just starting to try to get fit. Previously I didn't do any sport," she said yesterday.

"Dad had been doing marathons and half-marathons socially all the time and he said 'hey Lis, come check out this'. I just remember watching that marathon on TV and thinking 'that's crazy, how does an Australian girl beat Kenyans?' In that particular race Kerryn out-ran a Kenyan runner and it was just a massive eye-opener for me. I remember thinking that's insane, and if an Australian girl can do it anyone can do it. It made me more determined to start running a bit more seriously and train a bit harder.

"I saw Kerryn at a fun run a couple of months after she won in Melbourne. I couldn't believe she was just a normal person because I'd seen her on TV and she became an idol, but she was there just talking to everyone and just hanging around. Very normal, very mum-like and homely."

McCann had passed away by the time Flint discovered she had a talent for running marathons herself and was invited to her first training camp at Falls Creek. It was there that her coach Scott Westcott, who used to run with McCann, brought the person and competitor alive.

"It was just little things he said like 'when I was running with Kerryn she used to fly over this bluestone, she was just so light on her feet'. After that I'd think 'I've got to be light on my feet over this'. He'd say 'she used to sprint this hill' and I'd be like - 'well if she sprinted this hill I'm going to sprint this hill'," Flint recalled.

"I guess it's a different sort of influence. Everyone around me who I run with either knew her or have trained with her and spoken about her. She was such an influence on them, so I guess she's a secondary influence on me."

That influence, even if it cannot be seen, is alive and well. Late last year Flint won the inaugural Kerryn McCann trophy after finishing first in the Melbourne marathon. Two hours 34 minutes and eight seconds after McCann's son, Benton, fired the starting gun that also finished with a lap of the MCG.

In the anxious wait for their event this week, Weightman and Flint said they had not sat together to discuss the profound sense of connection they both share with McCann until yesterday. Most of the time it is unspoken. But one of the mutual feelings they can put into words is a conviction that there will be a third Australian woman travelling every step of the way with them on Thursday.

"There's a tradition that we need to uphold," Flint said.

"You can only run the race and do the best you can, but the last Commonwealth Games marathon was Kerry's last race so something needs to be done about it I guess."

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Another tight India-Australia contest, this time on court

5 October 2010 | Matt Wade | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/another-tight-indiaaustralia-contest-this-time-on-court-20101004-164hn.html>

As Australia and India faced off in the Test cricket match in the north Indian city of Mohali yesterday, another tight duel between the two nations, this time on the tennis court, took place 250 kilometres south in Delhi.

Australian pairing Paul Hanley and Anastasia Rodionova took on India's Rohan Bopanna and Nirupama Sanjeev on centre court at the R. K Khanna stadium in the first round of the mixed doubles. The Australians overcame the home-ground advantage of their opponents to take the closely fought match 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Australian Greg Jones had earlier given Australia a winning start to the tournament when he beat Gavin Manders of Bermuda 6-1, 6-2.

Tennis, which has a significant following in India, made its debut as a medal sport at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. Five events are being contested - singles for men and women, doubles for men and women, and mixed doubles.

Yesterday's evening session at the newly refurbished tennis stadium was spiced up with local star power when the Indian mixed-doubles pairing of Sania Mirza and Leander Paes played Richelieu Alberton and Roheman Stacey Nykita of St Lucia on centre court. Mirza caused a stir across the subcontinent earlier this year when she married former Pakistani cricket captain Shoaib Malik.



The union of sporting stars from the rival nations was controversial enough but days before the wedding another Indian woman claimed she was already married to Malik. The Pakistani cricketer was forced to divorce her before nuptials with Mirza could go ahead.

Paes, 37, is a popular sporting figure in India, having won six mixed-doubles grand-slam titles and a bronze medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He has received India's highest sports award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. The Paes-Mirza pairing has been touted as a medal contender in India.

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ISSUES & OPINIONS

Athletes Behaving Badly

16 October 2010 | AAP | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/athletes-behaving-badly-20101015-16nll.html>

An Australian athlete was sent home from the Commonwealth Games for bad behaviour this week and a washing machine was dropped from a balcony in Australia's section of the athlete's village after the closing ceremony.

No one was injured by the washing machine but Perry Crosswhite, the Australian Commonwealth Games Association chief executive, said he was disappointed by the incident on Thursday night.

"We don't know who did that," he said. "Delhi police came around and they've done a report and an investigation, and we'll hear about that."

Mr Crosswhite was not sure from which level of the 10-storey building the machine was dropped.

Indian media reported the incident was sparked by the Australian cricket team losing its second Test match against India.

Mr Crosswhite also said that one athlete was sent home this week for bad behaviour but would not reveal the person's identity.

"At the end of the games these things happen," he said. "When everybody is finished, they are letting their hair down, they do all sorts of things. We just sort of manage it and get on with it."

About 300 athletes were due to leave Delhi on a chartered Qantas flight yesterday.

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Diamonds Still Sparkle Despite Empty Stands

5 October 2010 | Alex Brown | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/diamonds-still-sparkle-despite-empty-stands-20101004-164c4.html>

In a country of 1.1 billion, a gathering of 74 people would ordinarily not rate a mention. But when those 74 account for the entire crowd figure at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex for the Commonwealth Games' opening game between Australia and Samoa, discussion about the event's popularity is inevitable.

It was, by any standard, an embarrassing turnout for Games organisers. The game, won by Australia 76-39, was played at impressive intensity, but the atmosphere was more akin to a training session as volunteers and security personnel comfortably outnumbered the paid spectators. The only audible noise came from the players on the court and A. R. Rehman's Jai Ho being pumped through the PA system. This was the day Delhi stayed home.

Concerns about security and the state of the court were unfounded yesterday, but recent media reports of poor tickets sales proved prophetic. Of the 74 non-accredited spectators counted in the stands of the Thyagaraj Sports Complex, a good percentage were friends and relatives of the players. Seldom has a 4500-capacity complex felt so cavernous on a game day.

Organisers have sought to convince the world that these Games, calamitous as they have been in the preparation phase, would be embraced by the people of Delhi. The local media, however, warned of a vastly different scenario - hordes of Delhiites leaving the city in protest of a Games dogged by scandal, bureaucracy and allegations of corruption. Presumably, the likes of hockey can expect a better turnout than yesterday's netball opener - still a relatively foreign sport to Indian audiences - but early signs suggest a Games with limited local support.

Those few adventurous souls who made the trek to the Thyagaraj Sports Complex were treated to a dominant display from an Australian team desperate to atone for its defeat to New Zealand in the Commonwealth Games gold medal game four years ago. After an attritional opening quarter, in which the Samoans managed to stay within three points of the Australians, the reigning world champions found their rhythm and surged to a commanding victory.

"We had heard there weren't a lot of ticket sales so we weren't expecting much atmosphere here," said captain Sharelle McMahon who, barely 12 hours earlier, had carried the Australian flag into the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in front of 60,000 spectators at the opening ceremony. "That's just something we'll have to get our heads around ... It's another one of the challenges we've got here at the Games.

"But the facilities are fantastic here. We had our first training session here a few days ago and we walked in thinking, 'I wonder how the surface is going to be?' We also got every player out on the court which was the idea at the start of the game. It was great we were able to do that and let everyone get any nerves out of the way."

That Australia and Samoa made it on the court at all was no small feat, given the threats by Commonwealth Games officials to suspend the netball competition. A day before competition was due to begin, disgruntled referees and technical staff made public their complaints that uniforms and food allowances had not been provided by Delhi organisers.

An 11th hour deal was struck to save the netball schedule.

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Track Coach's Warning After Delhi 'Wake-Up Call'

17 October 2010 Daniel Lane | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/track-coachs-warning-after-delhi-wakeup-call-20101016-16o96.html>

Respected track coach John Quinn has warned unless Athletics Australia competes with the football codes to recruit young athletes it will take years for the sport to regain what's becoming lost ground.

Quinn, a sprint coach for Australia's 2000 Olympic team and now a member of AFL franchise GWS's coaching staff, said it was too early to hit the panic button after the track and field team's showing at Delhi.

Despite competing against weakened English, Canadian and Jamaican teams, Australia's track and field medal haul was the worst since 1954. However, Quinn said it would take the world championships - if not the London Olympics - to highlight where Australia ranked internationally.

It was vital that Athletics Australia find ways to give young athletes the opportunities rugby league, union, AFL and football provided for talented youngsters.

"It's a bit of a wake-up call," he said. "We're not getting now the significant funding in the development programs. The United Kingdom is outspending us two-to-one on development and if we don't arrest that decline it'll take a decade to get it back. Other sports are pumping money into their development and taking the best athletes available. Why wouldn't they go? "

Quinn was concerned Australia was in danger of having a generation of teenagers who do not fulfil their potential because they are not pursued by the sport's governing body.

"At the end of the day we have some potential world champions who are choosing not to play sport," he said. "You classify that under opportunity lost. How many superstars does the Third World have that they never recognise because they're beggars on the street and begged since they were five years of age with a bowl in their hands and scrounging for money? They'll sadly never know if they could be an elite athlete or a doctor or lawyer because they don't get the opportunities. Australia is not the Third World and our kids should have the opportunities to be anything and everything they want to be. There should not be opportunity lost in a country like this."

Quinn said athletics had a wonderful opportunity to capitalise on the success in Delhi of athletes such as hurdler Sally Pearson to encourage children to join local athletics clubs.

"In terms of the Commonwealth Games I don't think there are too many people sitting in their lounge rooms across Sydney thinking, 'Oh gee, our medal [tally] is down on four years ago'," he said. "What they'd be saying to their kids is, 'Isn't Sally Pearson fantastic? If you join an athletics club you might be like her.'

"I go to the local shops around Essendon and there's a number of African migrants walking around and you think, 'Look at the athleticism of that guy.'

"They're hanging around shopping centres but to get them into athletics we have to capture their imagination and give those kids opportunity."

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Weak Fields Undermine Gold Rush

17 October 2010 | Adrian Proszenko | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/weak-fields-undermine-gold-rush-20101016-16o95.html>

Seven gold medals. That's all Australia would end up with at the London Olympics if the all-conquering Commonwealth Games team repeated its Delhi performance in 2012.

The Sun-Herald's detailed analysis of Australia's Commonwealth Games squad puts the achievements in a global context.

Of the 74 gold medals won in India, only seven were world class, given the opposition or benchmarked against marquee events such as recent world



championships. The research on Delhi form shows only the following seven individuals or teams would guarantee top spot on the podium at the London games:

- Alicia Coutts - recorded the fastest time of 2010 in her 200m individual medley victory.
- Steve Hooker - the pole-vaulter is the reigning world champion.
- Men's 4x100m medley relay - Australia's swimming team is the top-ranked nation for 2010.
- Kookaburras - the men's hockey team are the world champions.
- Cameron Meyer - a genuinely world-class cycling performance in the 40km points race.
- Men's 4000m team pursuit - a genuinely world-class time from the cycling team.
- Lauren Mitchell - her score in the individual all-round gymnastics would have earned her first place at last year's world championships.

Many of the gold medals were won against mediocre opposition. In fairness to Australia's athletes, they could only beat what was put in front of them. In every case, *The Sun-Herald* has compared their performances with their most recent outings on the world stage and credited them with their best effort.

For example, Simplicie Ribouem's gold medal score in the 85kg weightlifting would have earned him 24th place in the recent world championships. Anastasia Rodionova, the world No.63, romped home in the women's tennis but she has not won a WTA event in her 13 years on the professional circuit and would still be at long odds to prevail at London.

Even Sally Pearson would have to improve markedly to turn Commonwealth gold into the Olympic variety. The 100m hurdler posted a better time in the difficult Indian conditions than she did at the world titles, where she only managed fifth.

Some Australian gold came in disciplines that will not be contested at the Olympics, such as squash.

Australian Commonwealth Games Association chief executive Perry Crosswhite praised Australia's athletes for producing fine performances in trying conditions. "My pessimistic forecast was about 148 medals overall," he said, "and around 40 gold medals, and we easily exceeded that."

Some of Australia's highest-profile athletes, such as world discus champion Dani Samuels, hurdler Jana Rawlinson and distance runner Craig Mottram skipped Delhi but are hopeful of medals in London.

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Why I Loved Delhi

20 October 2010 | Tim Lane | Back Page Lead | <http://www.backpagelead.com.au/other-sports/2865-why-i-loved-delhi-lane>

Having been home a few days now from Delhi it strikes me that opinion about the recent Commonwealth Games has ranged from total indifference to rapt enjoyment, with many shades in between. Those who view it from the less favourable end would have you believe that Delhi represented the last rites to a dated concept. The optimists, on the other hand, would argue that these Games provided plenty of worthy spectator sport and brought a spicy variation to the modern formula of international, multi-sport competition.

We all form a judgement of these things from our own distinctive vantage point and when it comes to an off-shore event, involving a range of sports, there are many positions from which to develop a picture. Ultimately, there is usually a convergence of opinion. Media coverage, whatever its overall flaws, manages to convey the particular spirit, and success or otherwise, of any Games. Delhi, though, seems to have been quite different in that regard. It's interesting to ponder why this may have been so.

It may reflect, more than anything else, the diversity of Delhi's own response to its Games. For a start, within a city of more than half the population of Australia are many who had little interest in the fact that The Games were even on. Sporting competitions such as this are not for India's poor. A pre-Games trip to Old Delhi, for a cycle-rickshaw ride through the avenues and alleyways of the bottom end of town, revealed life a world-apart from the indulgence offered by sport. I'm sure many there would not have even heard of the Commonwealth Games. That's not the fault of the Organising Committee or anyone else associated with the event; it is merely a fact of Indian life.

Then there were the Games-related issues of disorganisation, alleged corruption, and the threat of terrorism. If these created cynicism and tension among Delhi-ites, it's hardly surprising. All three may have contributed to poor crowds in the early days of competition. The last of them, the concern at possible terrorism, was undoubtedly responsible for the limitation placed on crowds for the road events, both cycling and athletic, which usually take a Games to the people. Had normal access to marathons, walks and road cycling been permitted, control over security would have been

seriously compromised. These events lost some of their soul as a result, but who could argue with such a safety-first policy being implemented?

There were also serious problems, it seems, with ticketing. People didn't know how to get their hands on them and, if and when they did, they weren't well placed to get to their preferred venue. For those of us from a country like ours, involving an event of stature that had years of lead-up time, this is impossible to comprehend. Yet much of India is, to us, difficult to understand.

For all of this, however, it was hard not to feel that as the days wore on Delhi grew to love and feel proud of its Commonwealth Games. The media there gave them comprehensive coverage, both in sporting and news terms. By the end the crowds had grown appreciably.

As a visitor with a particular and privileged role, it is impossible not to be subjective and biased. Just being at such an event, in an unfamiliar and vibrant environment, is an enormous buzz. Working with a team in the electronic media brings a sense of fraternity rare in life. Yet, for all these caveats, I can say this: having covered a total of 12 Commonwealth and Olympic Games, I haven't enjoyed one more than Delhi's.

India is a unique experience. It assaults the senses. Its heat, humidity, smog, and smells take their toll. Its food, for better or worse, quickly makes its mark. Its heaving masses of people both delight and infuriate. In a country with 60-times Australia's population you see the very best and the absolute worst of life.

It was a wonderful thing that such an event was taken to such a country. If the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi inspire some of the young, within the second most populous nation on earth, to broaden their sporting interests beyond India's almost unilateral fixation with cricket, they will have served a worthy purpose. Perhaps it might even one day be said that not only did 2010 not mark the end of the Commonwealth Games, but that the event marked a watershed in the history of a mighty sporting nation.

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Games Investigations Years Away

14 October 2010 | Vincent Morello | The Sydney Morning Herald

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-sport/games-investigations-years-away-20101014-16l23.html>

Details of alleged corrupt behaviour, lacklustre planning and billion dollar budget blowouts that have plagued the Delhi Commonwealth Games may not emerge until sports fans start gearing up for Glasgow in 2014.

The end of the Games in New Delhi on Thursday marked the beginning of audits and investigations by a number of Indian government agencies that could take years to complete.

India's corruption watchdog will follow up on a controversial report it released in July, which alleged dodgy building practices plagued the sporting venues and that most vendors contracted to the Games had inflated their prices.

K.S. Ramasubban, secretary the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), says the process to unearth the details will be long and arduous.

"These were all our preliminary comments," Ramasubban told AAP. "They have all gone to the concerned agencies. It is for them to give us a reply. No time limit can be given. This may go for two or three years."

Following the CVC's report in July, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) demanded building certificates proving all 13 sporting venues were safe to occupy.

At the time, the federation said it had no way to reconcile the CVC's report with the certificates that various government authorities produced in early September.

Ashok Mattoo is treasurer for the Organising Committee (OC), the Delhi-based agency created to deliver the Games. Mattoo manages a \$600 million budget to deliver the sporting events, which pales in comparison to what was been spent on building the infrastructure for the Games.

Revenue from sponsorships, ticket sales and domestic and international broadcasting rights only brought in \$200 million, well short of the OC's "revenue neutral" expectation, Mattoo told AAP.



He admits that an audit of the Games could reveal other failings.

"There could be errors," Mattoo told AAP. "If we are at fault, punish us, don't punish the Games."

Two OC executives were sacked in August over "irregularities" relating to payments made to UK-based company AM Film, which supplied services when the Queen's Baton Relay kicked off in London in 2009.

Also in August, Mattoo's predecessor Anil Khanna quit his post over allegations that his son received the contract to lay the synthetic surfaces at the Games' tennis venue.

Mattoo had no less than five people in his office at a time on Wednesday, simultaneously seeking verbal approvals from him, and admits he cannot keep watch over everything.

"If I may not have been consulted, that's a different chapter, he said. "Anything unethical, I would not subscribe to."

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009 ordered an interim audit of the Games' when it became clear Delhi would not be ready in time to host the international event.

As of May 2009, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India found that \$2.4 billion in total had been spent on the Games - more than 32 times the original amount allocated when Delhi bid for the Games in 2003.

That amount will soar again once the CAG begins its audit in late October - some 17 months after it last tallied Games' spending and when the majority of venue, road and other infrastructure projects were built.

"This will be a full audit of the expenditures," CAG spokesman B.S Chauhan told AAP.

A report by accounting consultancy firm KPMG determined that the Melbourne 2006 Games cost \$2.9 billion but injected \$1.6 billion into the city's economy.

What's the defining difference between Melbourne and Delhi?

The average monthly salary in India is \$75.

The CAG preliminary report states that up to 21 government agencies were involved in delivering the Games, and that crucial planning and construction milestones were up to four years behind schedule.

"There is a need to rethink the governance model for the Games' project as well as similar mega-events in the future," the report states.

CGF president Mike Fennell acknowledged that by the time the problems with the Games' preparations emerged it was too late to cancel Delhi's licence to host the event or move it to another location.

"That should not be on our agenda," Fennell told AAP.

"From a CGF point of view, we have to see what we can do to ensure that the work and the planning takes place on a more progressive basis."

Indian authorities have made no secret that the Commonwealth Games could be a stepping stone to one day bidding for the Olympics.

Mattoo, who is 65, may have the best barometer when that hope could become a reality.

"I don't think I'll be alive to see the Olympics in this country," he said.

Is This The Beginning Of The End For The Commonwealth Games?

10 October 2010 | Jon Ralph | News Limited newspapers

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/sport/commonwealth-games/jon-ralph/story-fn66fst6-1225936817901>

If you thought Delhi's Commonwealth Games might have plunged the future of this event into doubt, you ain't seen nothing yet.

Here is the ultimate symbol of all that is wrong with the Commonwealth Games - 24 nations chose Abuju, Nigeria, ahead of successful 2014 hosts Glasgow in the 2007 vote on where the Games should be held.

For those who aren't acquainted with the geo-political scene, Nigeria could be loosely described as a hell-hole.

Just last week three bombs went off in Abuju, killing nine people, with the oil-rich country rife with bombings of the pipe-line, terrorist threats and the kidnapping of foreigners.

The Australian government warns against travel there "due to the high threat of terrorist attack, the high risk of kidnapping, the unpredictable security situation, and the high level of violent crime".

It makes India look like Paradise.

Yet if just 12 more of the 71 countries - many of them third-world - had voted for Nigeria, then that's where the Games would have been held in four years.

With countries like Australia, New Zealand and England no chance to send athletes, it would have killed the Commonwealth Games.

If you ask the public, who are voting with their television remotes as well as feet, they might be already on life support.

India has spent \$10 billion on this event yet allowed such a string of constant controversies they have overshadowed the actual athletes and their competitions.

The question is this: what happens now?

How does a Commonwealth Games often mocked as the school sports recover from this blow?

Or will Delhi's overblown event become in retrospect the beginning of the end?

What is clear is that the Commonwealth Games are now a niche event that must be held only in countries where the elite sporting bodies will attend.

It is a harsh reality, but without the stars this event is nothing.

Had Usain Bolt turned up, he might have saved this entire event.

Is it time for three or four established countries to rotate the hosting of these Games if they are to continue?

Scotland's Glasgow will host a solid, respectable event in 2014, although already the BBC has pulled out of coverage and financial estimates are ballooning.

Only the athletes' village and two more venues will be built new, but the initial budget is still about \$750 million.

One readers' comment on newspaper The Scotsman's website this week said it all.

"One possible way to make the Glasgow games a success is to make them the last Commonwealth Games ever," it said.

"The event is hardly relevant these days. Whatever ties the countries together, it isn't sport."

The Gold Coast is almost certain to host the 2018 version and mayor Ron Clarke believes the Games need his city.

"We could stage a wonderful Commonwealth Games and, if necessary, we could be the saviour of them," he said.

"The Games need resurrection. They need a couple of good Games coming up, and they need a Games on the Gold Coast."

Queensland plans to host a cheap Games featuring existing venues, green themes and community involvement.

Yet, once again, Commonwealth Games and world politics means they are no guarantee to win the bid.

Their sole competition is the tiny Sri Lankan town of Hambantota, backed by Chinese money as it attempts to turn itself into a major shipping port.

It is in a major shipping channel, so the bid has nothing to do with sport and everything to do with politics and building international profile.

There are just 11,000 people living in Hambantota, yet if two dozen countries can vote for Abuju, who knows whether they will favour a county accused of its own recent human rights violations?

"China is supporting them and China has got lots of money to build new facilities and they have provided facilities and financial assistance to a lot of Commonwealth countries, particularly in Africa," Clarke said recently.

"So if they want to call in their charge, then no matter how it appears on the surface, that could have an influence on votes."

The Gold Coast will find out November 11 next year if they are successful but, clearly, awarding the Games to a city of 11,000 would be outright farce.

Then again, would anything surprise after this week?

Big nations such as Australia and England are already seen as international bullies and cannot take control of the bidding procedure.

But if the Commonwealth Games are no longer a priority for star athletes, then this event truly is dead.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Mike Fennell has clearly been a frustrated man this week, pushing India's organising committee to deliver on their promises.

Instead those promises have been emptier than the stadiums.

Now for Fennell and Co comes the task of resuscitating a Games not too far from flat-lining.

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Locals Pay The Price For Shambolic Lead-Up To Games

16 October 2010 | Andy Bull | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/commonwealth-games-2010/comm-games-news/locals-pay-the-price-for-shambolic-leadup-to-games-20101015-16nr9.html>

The rickshaw driver turned back over his shoulder. "You are a writer?" he bellowed. "There is one thing you must tell your readers for me! Tell them that Delhi people very sad that no one came. Where are all the visitors? Why did they all stay at home? I am crying ..."

Last year Sanjay had bought a new taxi, a shiny white hatchback to impress all the fans who were going to descend on the city for the Commonwealth Games. In fact, his business had gone down over the past fortnight, and now he was struggling to meet the instalments he owed at the bank.

It is the same all over Delhi. Shopkeepers, restaurant-owners and taxi drivers all invested in refurbishment and redecoration in anticipation of the extra trade they would get. And all of them have suffered.

The only fans I have met here have come to watch family members or friends compete. With the athletes being advised to stay inside the confines of the Games Village on security grounds and the journalists tending to use the

official hotels (and their restaurants), business has been bad across the board. That complaint, along with the plea to write some positive stories because there has been too much bad press, has been by far the most common reaction I have had when talking to local people.

So much of the English and Australian coverage concentrated on the negative aspects of these Games. Misery became the default mode for media.

There was the press coverage of the troublesome bus system. And the broken website news service. And the gastroenteritis. The dengue fever. The malaria. The often empty venues. Oh, and the aggressive vultures.

It took the 16-year-old British diver Tom Daley to cut through it all. "Obviously I have read all the stories in the newspapers," said Daley, "but once we got here everything was great."

In fact there have only been three major mistakes. The first is that the food hygiene in the Games Village was not rigorous enough, which has meant that many athletes got ill. The second is that the ticketing system has not worked. Too many tickets were given to corporate sponsors who did not use them, and it has been too hard for fans to get into the venues. And the third is that the Games simply were not ready in time.

Instead, what has really marred these Games has been the attitude of the other major Commonwealth countries. The Games were hugely devalued by top athletes who pulled out because they said they were too weary or too wary to come. Some of the competition has been third-rate. In the absence of headline names, media organisations have concentrated on reporting all the horror stories. At the same time, the number of horror stories publicised in the run-up to the competition drove away those same headline names. The serpent has been eating its own tail.

If the athletes and the spectators cannot be bothered to come, then it is time to ask what kind of future the Commonwealth Games has?

India will only prosper. The Olympics will come here in the next two decades. By that time the Commonwealth Games, already a pale and flickering ghost of its former self, may well have ceased to exist altogether. Glasgow has a hell of a job on its hands to prove otherwise in 2014.

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