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WELCOME

vicsport is pleased to deliver the 2010 Summer Edition of WISe-news. This edition of WISe-news aims to provide you an overview of what has been happening in women's sport over the last few months, as well as highlight issues that have been affecting women both in and outside the sporting industry.

WISe-news is currently distributed quarterly (Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring) however we require continual feedback on what stories and articles you wish to read and the type of information you as readers wish to submit. Your comments are always appreciated.

With the departure of Amber Bleechmore to Sport & Recreation Victoria, I have taken on the position of Women in Sport Project Officer. I look forward to working with you all in the near future and working together to promote and further advance women's sport within Victoria.

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CURRENT ISSUES

The Best Way to Value Women is to Pay Them Properly

Michael Harvey | Herald Sun | September 17, 2009 | <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion/workplace-equality-debate/story-e6frifo-1225775258070>

Whilst the Rudd Government has combated the work payment exploitation of skilled migrants on temporary visa, women on the other hand are receiving little financial reward for their efforts.

Sadly, the pay gap between women and men is expanding and the average full-time wage of a male is 18 per cent higher than that for females, equating to about \$224 a week and \$900,000 over the next 40 years once working life sets in.

It is immoral for such gaping discrepancies to exist in a modern democracy such as Australia that prides itself on the concept of a "fair go". And it is scarcely believable when you consider how women's workforce participation has sharply increased in the past 20 years along with their pursuit of new and valuable skills. If anything, the pay gap should be narrowing.



Reasons vary, from undervalued and poorly paid jobs, such as child care and aged care, most notably. Women's traditional caring responsibilities work against them - particularly if they can't apply for promotion because the position demands overtime. Then there is plain old-fashioned sexism. Macquarie University researchers attribute up to 70 per cent of the pay gap to discrimination.

Perhaps most tellingly, workplace experts agree that women are simply no good at playing hardball in pay negotiations. Sure, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil. But who wants to be known at work as "that greedy bitch"?

Human resources managers at universities estimate it takes about 10 minutes to negotiate a salary package for a female professor. For a male professor? Three weeks. That's because men drive hard bargains for elaborate packages.

It's no coincidence that the pay gap widened under the Howard era's WorkChoices laws, where the onus was on workers to negotiate individual employment contracts. Women tend not to know their own value. In an era where executive salary packages are negotiated under the table, they don't necessarily have any idea what their professional equivalents earn.

As the pay equity expert Barbara Pocock says: "It's hard to pursue fairness if you don't know something unfair is happening." Greater disclosure of pay rates is a must. Some big companies already do it, but there should be compulsory internal salary audits. Information is power. Bosses often say their firms have no pay equity problems. Only when the true figures are laid before them does the reality dawn.

For decades, Australian laws have given a nod to ideals of "equal pay for equal value" but history shows they have not worked - even in professions such as law.

The Rudd Government has an opportunity to aim high and show leadership with multiple inquiries on the go. But, plainly, legislation is not the sole solution. Businesses must assume greater responsibility for nurturing women. If not, those businesses suffer and, ultimately, so do the nation.

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Treating Women's Sport Like a Trivial Fashion Contest

27 January 2010 | Kate Ellis | The Punch | <http://www.thepunch.com.au/articles/treating-womens-sport-like-a-trivial-fashion-contest/>

I'm going to confess straight up to having little to zero interest in the underwear choices of Venus Williams. Depressing: I know she played well, but what was she wearing?

Yet in recent days her flesh coloured shorts have become a story in sport in themselves and sent twitter abuzz with is she or isn't she wearing underpants debates.



Image from 'The Punch' website

Perhaps this isn't so shocking, Maria Sharapova's green "frocklet" (I kid you not - apparently there is indeed such a thing), got its own press conference launch and then we saw precious column space designated to the diamond earring and necklace choices of Serena Williams, (which she liked "because it had lots of S's in the design", and we can all respect that).

As female athletes' clothing and jewellery choices shifted from the fashion pages into the sports sections in coverage of the Australian Open, it seems that sporting fashion has been a key part of how female athletes are quite literally getting themselves into the picture. And there's no doubt that if you're a female athlete then picture space is limited. It's hotly contested to find ways to get coverage grow your profile and attract much-needed sponsorship dollars.

I'm not adverse to ranting at length about the vicious cycle affecting women's sport. There's the lack of coverage limiting the sponsorship opportunities, which restrict career and training opportunities, which hamper the development and professionalism of sports, which in turn limit the coverage - etcetera, etcetera.

But today I'm going to insert some new research which provides powerful background to the potential motivations to "sex up" or "pretty up" images in women's sport.



The Federal Government recently funded research into the content and quantity of women's sport coverage which found coverage of women in sport makes up 9% of all sports coverage in Australian television news and current affairs.

Let me just repeat that, 9%. Male sport makes up 81%. (In fairness we should note that ABC gives above average representation of women's sport with 11% of television news coverage on ABC1 Sydney and Melbourne).

It further deduced that reports on male sport also have an average duration which is 30 seconds longer than reports on female sport.

All of this is best put in context when one considers that horseracing alone receives more airtime than all women's sport combined in Australian television news, making up the other 10%. Which I think is interesting, to say the least.

The good news is that the coverage of women's sport is overwhelmingly positive - far more so than men's sport - though this is basically attributed to the facts that if you're a woman you pretty much have to win to have any chance of making the news, whereas male sport will often be covered just for taking place. Men receive more negative press for questionable off field behaviour in part because they are higher profile and considered public role models in greater numbers. So it sort of takes the shine off that too.

Of course these are not new phenomena. And it's not new to find ways to "sex up", "provide a hook" or "increase the appeal" of women's sport, far from it.

On the weekend I was heartened by a mate telling me how much he liked women's sport, until he went on to explain that he really just meant women's beach volleyball. And his rationale was, well, not particularly sport related. It brought back memories of the debate when volleyball ruled that men could play in shorts whilst the women on the beach circuit couldn't wear briefs that were any thicker than 6cm at the hip. We saw it in basketball when women adopted tight fitting bodysuits in contrast to the men's knee length oversized shorts and numerous other sports have introduced similar measures.

The thing is, and without ranting about equity issues or sexualisation or body image consequences which you can be sure I desperately want to rant about, we are a nation that prides itself on our great love of all things sport and we're missing some big stories in women's sporting achievements and neglecting some inspiring female role models.

This week in women's cricket alone, one of Australia's greatest cricketers Karen Rolton announced her retirement after 141 one-day internationals, 14 Tests, 15 Twenty20 Internationals and winning the ICC's Inaugural Female Player of the Year Award in 2006. She's set a standard for women's cricket and is a role model we should be holding up proudly to inspire our youngsters.

Just days ago, Betty "the female Bradman" Wilson passed away. Betty was one of the greatest cricketers this nation has ever produced, scoring 90 runs and taking 10 wickets in her debut Test in 1948. She became the first female cricketer to be inducted in the Australian Sports Hall of Fame with a bowling average of 11.80 – compared to Shane Warne's 25.41 and a Test average of 57.46 runs compared to Ponting's.

What were we talking about again though? Oh, that's right - sports outfits.

I like frocks as much as the next person but I reckon dedicating our women's sport coverage to them to stupid and counterproductive. Do we really want to be driving a market based on sex, fashion and drama when we have unsung heroes, great achievements and the sort of sporting accomplishments that we should all be holding up proudly?

Surely in 2010 we as sports lovers can send a message that we appreciate women's sport and abilities irrespective of the darned frocklet. With only 9% of coverage on women's sport I reckon we can do better - and I for one want to know more of what we're missing.



Sports Play Vital Role in Women's Health and Well-Being

18 December 2009 | Source: [Ithaca College](#) |

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/sports-play-vital-role-in-womens-health-and-well-being>

The findings of a Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) research team led by Ithaca College faculty member Ellen Staurowsky are shedding new light on the social and physical benefits that sports programs offer to girls and women. Released December 15 and entitled "Her Life Depends on It II," the study is a more comprehensive edition of WSF's 2004 report "Her Life Depends on It." Founded in 1974 by tennis great Billy Jean King, the WSF is a leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports.

"Compiled from more than 2,000 studies examining the relationship between participation in sport and physical activity on the health of girls and women, 'Her Life Depends on It II' includes hundreds of new studies conducted in the five years since the 2004 report was released," said Staurowsky, professor and graduate chair of Ithaca College's Department of Sport Management and Media. Staurowsky led a research team of seven experts from around the world in compiling the report.

"Healthcare is a central concern in the United States right now, and 'Her Life Depends on It II' sheds fascinating light on how important prevention can be to the health of our nation," said Jessica Mendoza, WSF president and Olympic gold medalist in softball. "Something as simple and fun as regularly playing sports and being physically active from an early age can be a major factor in improving the health and lives of American women."

The key findings in "Her Life Depends II on It" include:

- Even stronger data that physical activity in girls and women is critical for women's health and well-being
- Females participating in sports and fitness programs are at significantly lower risk for developing breast cancer, osteoporosis and depression
- Likewise, girls and women benefit socially from physical activity programs; they are less likely to smoke, do drugs and become teenage mothers
- Minorities and women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds generally participate less in athletics and fitness programs and suffer disproportionate health-related consequences

In addition to documenting the overwhelming evidence regarding the health benefits of sport and physical activity, a section of the report addresses emerging areas of research that deal with female athletes and sport-related injuries. Although more research needs to be done to better understand female athletes and rates of injuries, early findings suggest that coaches and educators should be aware of the different physiological needs of female athletes and tailor training programs accordingly.

"The five years of new studies and data included in this report lead to the conclusion that participation in sports and long-term physical and mental health in women are inextricably linked," Staurowsky said. "The importance of participation in sports for girls, from an early age, and throughout their lives cannot be underestimated."

The executive summary and full study of "Her Life Depends on It II" are available at www.WomensSportsFoundation.org

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Pregnancy Hinders Career Progression: Survey

4 December 2009 | Human Capital Magazine | <http://www.hcamag.com/news/pregnancy-hinders-career-progression-survey/38893>

Women in Australia fear falling pregnant will stymie their career, according to research released by CareerOne.com.au. Almost two thirds of women believe becoming pregnant will have a negative impact on their career.

The research also found three quarters of female respondents believe it is difficult to be in a highly paid executive role and raise a family.

The majority of men (73%) don't think parenthood has any impact on their chance of landing a promotion. In the lead up to a live panel discussion on career issues for women, CareerOne.com.au ran a series of surveys to gauge consumer sentiment on issues such as work/life balance, career progression and mentoring.



Conducted by CoreData for CareerOne.com.au, the research also found:

- 48% of women believe they have been passed over for job opportunities/promotions because of their gender
- When asked why there are more men in senior ranks than women, most respondents stated it was because women weren't perceived as "tough" enough for a senior role
- Women are more likely to value assertiveness training than men
- Men generally don't think they need a mentor whereas women are more likely to want one. More than half of women stated that they wished they had a mentor compared to only 29% of men
- Overall, 37% of men don't think they need a mentor compared to only 16% of women who share the same sentiment

Commenting on the research, Kate Southam, editor of CareerOne.com.au said:

"There is a strong message here for employers who do not champion family friendly policies - 'do more'.

"We saw with the recent EOWA Business Awards that some of Australia's biggest employers are striving for that female-friendly tag yet the perception amongst employees is that parenting is career poison for women.

"A more positive message from the survey is how willing female employees are to develop new skills through training and mentoring compared to most blokes.

"In our rapidly changing world of work it appears from the survey women are most open to developing new skills - another reason for employers to look at their family policies if they want to retain their female employees.

"Employers also need to look at their workplace culture to ensure it is not biased towards male success. Nearly half our female respondents believed they were passed over for promotion because of their gender. That might not be the case but perception is everything when it comes to developing a strong employer brand.

"For women, the message is also clear: develop skills around positioning yourself for promotion. It is up to each individual to make career development a priority."

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Women No Less Ambitious Than Men, Dutch Study Finds

12 November 2009 | www.earthtimes.org |

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/294308.women-no-less-ambitious-than-men-dutch-study-finds.html#ixzz0iDfMD3z4>

Women are not less ambitious than men, according to study in the Netherlands. The study, carried out by a team of researchers from the Radboud University in Nijmegen and Research en Beleid, a public policy research bureau, said women find it just as important as men to develop themselves personally and professionally.

However, the study found, women are more focused on content and depth, while men concentrate on "hierarchical growth" and salary.

Women are also more prepared than men to give up professional ambition if it jeopardises family life. The researchers said this could possibly be explained because Dutch women also want to perform well within the family context.

Around 75 per cent of Dutch women work; 70 per cent of working women do so in part-time positions, one of the highest percentages in Europe.

The first academic study about women's professional ambitions was commissioned by the Taskforce Part Time Plus, a government- established committee founded in April 2008 and aimed at stimulating women to increase the number of work hours.



A report by the Social and Cultural Planning Bureau (SCP) said two out of 10 women would be prepared to work more, but no more than two hours extra. The SCP advises the government on public policy.

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WOMEN IN SPORT ADMINISTRATION & BUSINESS

Women's Surfing Gets Place at Top Table

12 October 2009 | Duncan Johnstone | <http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/2955157/Womens-surfing-gets-place-at-top-table>

The news just gets better for Kiwi surfer Paige Hareb - the top tier of women's surfing has been granted more prize money for next year and also a voice on the sport's governing board.

The Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) have moved to head off the threat of a rebel tour that appeared likely to take the leading men away from their official circuit and leave the women in limbo. Now it looks like there will be more money all round.

The total prize pool on the women's Dream Tour will increase from US\$630,000 to \$800,000 in 2010. There is also an incentive to finish top with an additional US\$30,000 bonus being announced for the year-end world champion.

The developments were another boost to a good weekend for Hareb, the Taranaki teenager making all the right moves on the world scene.

Hareb yesterday confirmed her place on next year's Dream Tour when she gained a fifth place in the final WQS qualifying event in Brazil to place her fourth overall in that backup series that sees the top six guaranteed to surf on the biggest stage.

Hareb was surfing the WQS as insurance and to keep competitive game intact. She looked certain of requalifying automatically as she lies seventh on the Dream Tour with four events left.

She can now concentrate all her energies in that area for the rest of the year and then look forward to even bigger things in 2010.

Hareb's home city of New Plymouth will host a Dream Tour event next year, looking to maximise her popularity and growing status at the top of the sport.

The growing importance of the women's scene was perhaps best measured by the ASP's move to restructure their board.

Transitioning from the current five-person (one chairman, two event and two surfer) model, the new ASP board structure will consist of three independents, two events and two surfers - including a women's representative.

"It's fantastic that the women will become voting members of the ASP Board of Directors," Jessi Miley-Dyer, ASP Women Surfers' Representative, said as the move was announced.

"The current board has done an incredible job in directing the tour and has been instrumental in providing career pathways and tours for both male and female surfers. Having a female representative on the board dovetails perfectly into the positive, global response we're receiving on the ASP Women's World Tour right now, and I look forward to seeing the benefits of such a shift in focus."

"We remain open to enhancements to our tours that reflect our core principles. Our primary focus is in doing what is best for professional surfing."

The ASP announced even bigger gains for the men's surfers as the rebel tour threatened to run off with the top talent who were being lured by a rich, new format.



Base prize money for the men's world tour events will increase from the current US\$340,000 to US\$400,000, taking the total prize pool on 10 events from \$US3.4m to \$US4m per annum. The men's world champion will receive a \$US100,000 bonus.

They are also concentrating their talent, reducing the current 45-man plus three wildcards men's tour format to a 32-man plus four wildcards field for next year.

A better global ratings system will be introduced to cover all surfers rather than the current format that has separate ratings for the Dream Tours and World Qualifying Series.

The sport's administrators also announced a full insurance coverage and pension plan for their competitors.

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Mentors to Support Women Increasing Sports Leadership Skills

17 September 2009 | http://www.ausport.gov.au/media/asc_news/mentors_to_support_women_increasing_sports_leadership_skills

Mentors will be the guiding force of the Australian Sports Commission's 2009/10 Sports Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women program.

The 13 scholarship recipients of the Sport Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women program — a scheme designed to assist women to develop and build their leadership skills — will be paired with skilled and experienced professionals, managers or advisors, who will play a key role in coaching, encouraging and helping these women to succeed and excel in sports leadership.

Director of the Australian Sports Commission's Community Sport program, Judy Flanagan, says mentors play an important role in supporting and guiding women through the sports leadership process.

'Mentors bring a wealth of skills, experience and expertise to the scholarship scheme in supporting, encouraging and advising women through the sports leadership process,' Flanagan said.

'We recognise the importance of good mentors; they play a dynamic role as coaches, teachers and advisors in championing the values and qualities of women in sports leadership.

'The Australian Sports Commission is committed to improving the involvement and professional development of women across many levels of Australia sport, particularly in leadership and decision-making roles.'

Participants will also benefit from the introduction of the 'Pathway Plan', an individual personal development initiative to help identify development needs and set goals for ongoing professional training and work experience.

Women in the Sport Leadership Scholarships scheme will also gain practical, hands-on experience through work placements at the Australian Sports Commission, and in Australian Institute of Sport programs.

Sports Leadership Grants and Scholarships are available in coaching, officiating, governance, management, administration, communications, and media and marketing.

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Top Female Chief Executives Lacking in Developed Nations

Mon, 26 Oct 2009 | www.earthtimes.org

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/291859,top-female-chief-executives-lacking-in-developed-nations.html#ixzz0iDTaJ1Yk>

Over 46 per cent of big corporations in the 30 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have no women at the top decision-making levels, a UN survey said Monday. The OECD, which answered to the survey, also said only 23 per cent of large firms have one or more women on their boards of directors, according to the survey presented at UN headquarters in New York.

The report stressed the serious lack of women's control over the economy and access to financial resources.

Several examples demonstrated the lack of representation by women in the corporate world.

In the US finance industry, for example, women made up 75 per cent of all employees. But when it came to the executive positions currently occupied in the top 50 US commercial banks, women held only 12.6 per cent of those jobs.

One US bank has a female chief executive officer and seven banks have female chief financial officers.

The survey said only eight women are among the chief executive officers of the 100 largest credit unions in the United States, and women make up only 8.6 per cent of venture capital decision-makers.

In Canada, women held 11 per cent of the board seats of large firms.

In the European Union, where men head all the central banks, women hold only 17 per cent of the board seats of all the major banks.

The situation is even worse for women in developed countries. In Uganda, only 9 per cent of women have access to credit in big cities and 1 per cent in rural areas.

In Bangladesh, women were responsible for 27 per cent of bank deposits, but their share in formal credit was 1.8 per cent.

"A substantial re-ordering of women's place in the economic world is long overdue and is made more urgent in the context of the current financial and economic crisis," the survey said.

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Aerial Skier Alisa Camplin joins Collingwood Magpies Board of Directors

9 December 2009 | Georgie Pilcher | Herald Sun

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/sport/af/aerial-skier-alisa-camplin-joins-collingwood-magpies-board-of-directors/story-e6frf9kx-1225808417148>

She's overcome a smashed shoulder, broken both ankles and cracked 12 ribs to win Olympic gold. But Alisa Camplin is now chasing premiership silver as a Collingwood Football Club board member. The aerial skier will replace the Magpies' first female board member, Sally Capp.

Capp stood down after five years on the board when appointed Victoria's agent-general in London. Collingwood president Eddie McGuire said the club wanted to replace Capp with another woman, and Camplin was the best candidate.

"Alisa was the person I wanted. We want people with an international perspective on sport and business," McGuire said.

Camplin, 35, is also the deputy chair of the Australian Sports Commission, serves on the board of the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, and has worked at IBM for 15 years.

"She understands the corporate world better than any sportsperson I have met. She is the ideal candidate," McGuire said.



Camplin said she was born a Magpie and would bring sporting, business and corporate success to the club.

"I am not one to sit around. I am very results-driven," she said. "Our last two grand finals we didn't get over the line but, geez, it has made me all the more determined to work with the board to make sure we do get that premiership in the next three years."

She is not intimidated by the male-dominated AFL: "I am not a boy so I couldn't play football, but I swear to God I can rough and tumble."

Camplin said childhood memories of kicking a footy at the Apollo Bay caravan park with former Collingwood captain Gavin Brown made her feel a part of the Pies family. She said she also admired Nathan Buckley.

"We've talked sport and success and what it takes to win," Camplin said.

Despite fractures in both ankles, Camplin won Australia's first female winter Olympic gold in 2002. Again plagued by injury, she won bronze in 2006.

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WOMEN IN ELITE SPORT

Canberra defeat Bulleen in WNBL Grand Final

7 March 2010 | Grantley Bernard (Herald Sun) |

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/sport/canberra-takes-wnbl-championship/story-e6frf9if-1225837670660>

Canberra defeated Bulleen in a WNBL grand final thriller for the second year running to claim a seventh championship.

With the grand final on the line, the understated power forward stepped up and made the biggest shot of her career to win the WNBL championship for the Capitals in an amazing come-from-behind 75-70 win at The Cage yesterday.

Some of the Boomers, having lost just once going into the grand final, broke down at the buzzer distraught. It was the second year running they have lost a grand final to the Caps, who claimed a record seventh championship.

The minor premiers, yet to win a championship in their 27-season history, saw their dream evaporate with Bishop's big three-pointer with 2min 20sec left in the game before Jackson iced the title with two free-throws with 3.7 seconds left.

While Jackson (18 points, 13 rebounds) gets all the headlines and guard Nat Hurst (21 points) played a great game, Bishop (10 points, 12 rebounds) drained the biggest shot of her life from the right corner for the last of 23 lead changes through the game.

"I couldn't hit a shot all day and to hit that one was awesome," Bishop said. "It didn't look that good. I was lucky for it to go in. It scraped in and it helped us. Bulleen was great, but we were just better on the day. Everybody didn't believe we could win it except ourselves and we did it."

After losing to the Boomers a fortnight ago to close the regular season, Jackson predicted the Caps would be back and the result would be different. She was right and paid due credit to her teammates for another championship.

"I was slow the whole game, but we were never going to win if I scored 40 points," Jackson said. "I can't say enough of my teammates."



Image from www.wnbl.com.au



Just as the Caps wanted to get Jackson established on offence, so did the Boomers with Cambage (16 points, 11 rebounds) and Bulleen drew an early edge when Jackson had to go to the bench inside three minutes with her second foul.

The Boomers held a narrow 14-12 quarter-time lead, as Bishop blew a wide open lay-up on the quarter-time buzzer, underlining the scrappiness of a first half that went through nine ties, 12 lead changes and three significant moments involving Jackson.

The first was when Jackson made her first basket with 8min 39sec to play in the quarter, the second was when she turned a three-point play for a 26-25 lead with 3min 43sec left and the third was when she picked up her third foul and went to the bench with 1min 6sec left in the half.

By then the Boomers were on an 8-0 run, a scoring landslide in the context of such a close game, as Sharin Milner (eight points) hit a three and made a coast-to-coast lay-up for the lead before O'Hea hit her ninth point of the period to make it a 33-30 game at the half.

The player of the finals, O'Hea (26 points, seven rebounds, five assists) was brilliant with her relentless persistence, overcoming the Caps' increased defensive intensity to start moving momentum the Boomers' way.

"Superb," Boomers coach Tom Maher said of O'Hea. "But we needed her too much. You can only go to that well so many times."

Early in the third quarter Jackson slipped her pistol out of its holster to shoot the Caps back ahead, asserting herself at the scoring end, hitting a short jumper, a three-pointer, another jumper, followed by a steal and basket as she fell to the floor.

It was Jackson at her finest, willing her team to win with the diminutive Hurst hitting shot after shot, but it was not enough to fend off the Boomers, who took a 56-53 edge into the final quarter after Desi Glaubitz hit a jumper at the buzzer.

Carly Wilson (12 points) then nailed a pair of game-breakers and Bishop's game-winner made it a grand final that lived up to all expectations.

"They deserved to win," Maher said. "They had the best three bigs out there and they pursued it to a level we couldn't handle."

Final Score:

Canberra TransACT Capitals 75 (*N Hurst 21, L Jackson 18, C Wilson 12*)

def

Global Metals Bulleen Boomers 70 (*J O'Hea 26, E Cambage 16, S Milner 8*)

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Honda Hybrid Women's Tour – Whitelaw Wins Overall

17 October 2009 | Cycling News | <http://www.cyclingnews.com/races/honda-hybrid-womens-tour-ne/stage-3/results>



Image from Cycling Victoria

Rochelle Gilmore (HP Pinarello) won the final stage in the Honda Hybrid Women's Tour, in a tough final sprint to the line, ahead of Kirsty Broun (MB Cycles) and Davina Summers (Cycle City/Felt).

The high speed criterium around the Melbourne city streets was exactly what Gilmore had wanted for the final stage, to cement her own and her team's position as the leading women in the tour. Gilmore herself has won two stages, Vicki Whitelaw secured the overall and Lauren Kitchen the U19 competition.

Gilmore was very happy as the team celebrated their win "That last stage was



unbelievable, we had our work cut out," said Gilmore. "We were going for three things, the leader's jersey, the young rider's and the stage. We only had three riders and MB Cycles more. They were fighting for the Sprint jersey and the stage two with Amber Halliday so we are pretty pleased we came off with our objectives."

Team work was key for the team today. "If Amber [Halliday] moved we had to cover it for Vicki, if Kirsty Broun moved Vicki had to cover it for me," said Gilmore.

The pace was on right from the whistle. With 73 riders still remaining in the tour, the tight corners of the T-shaped course meant that bike handling and positioning would be key in the final stage.

The 2.2km circuit tested the riders immediately with an attack on the back of the course, led by Jessie Maclean (Cycle City/Felt). This attack string the bunch out for 500m and already the less experienced riders had to fight to stay in touch. With speeds reaching 65km/h the top riders needed to ensure they were well placed at the front to keep in touch.

With only five minutes of racing completed, Chloe McConville (SASI/QAS/NTID) attacked. She held the field at 100m for a full lap before Vicki Whitelaw took control of the chase and closed the gap.

Whitelaw could not have been happier with her own and the team's performance, gaining overall in the tour. "We did not plan to win all of the jerseys, but to come away with two is really great."

As McConville was caught by Whitelaw, another attack was immediately launched by Zoe Appel (SASI/QAS/NTID). She put her head down and gave it her all, gaining a maximum 14-second advantage before team MB Cycles took control of the chase just ahead of the first intermediate sprint.

MB Cycles' pace as they set up Kirsty Broun for the sprint was brutal and splintered the bunch down to 43 riders. At the sprint Broun was the clear winner ahead of Kitchen and Whitelaw. "I came into this event with not too much expectation, MB Cycles asked us to try to take the overall in the end we could not get Amber into the lead but we secured the sprinters jersey so we are very pleased."

After 40 minutes of racing, the leading bunch had reduced to 38 being controlled at the front by MB Cycles and HP Pinarello as they approached the second of the intermediate sprints. Again it was Broun, who crossed the line first, ahead of Nicole Whiteburn (Prime Estate Buyers Agents) and Whitelaw. The leaders were covering the course in 3:33 by the time the three laps to go sign was shown.

After 46 minutes of racing everything rested on position and final place in the sprint to determine the overall leader in the tour. Amber Halliday (MB Cycles) had started the final stage just four seconds down on Whitelaw. With important extra seconds gained by Whitelaw in the sprints, Halliday needed to finish second on the stage to take the overall from Whitelaw.

As the sprint opened up 500m out, it was Gilmore who got the better of Broun. Halliday missed out on any extra seconds, finishing fifth.

"I am learning fast about race tactics, I tried to position myself for the first sprint," said Halliday. "Bearing in mind I am not a sprinter. I was on Rochelle [Gilmore's] wheel and she looked back and saw me there and blocked me. I am learning every day. They tell me cycling is a game of chess on wheels. "

Halliday was pleased with how the tour had gone. "I am pretty happy with second to someone like Vicki Whitelaw." Amber Halliday wanted to make sure the sponsors knew how much the riders appreciated them. "In rowing things are pretty balanced and I was surprised when I started cycling how unequal things are. It is companies like Honda coming on board that really help."

Lauren Kitchen, at only 18 years of age, showed she is a talent of the future. She worked hard all tour to protect the Honda Hybrid lead jersey and deserved to win the overall in the U19 competition. Kitchen was very happy as she crossed the line. "It was a really great final stage. It is always good to have a tough criterium circuit where it is just flat out the whole way. It makes sure the toughest girls are there at the finish. It was a real race of strength and tactics."



Mark Higgins, Honda Australia PR manager, was pleased with the way the tour has gone for them. "We have been totally blown away by the Tour, the riders and the conditions they have ridden in and the professionalism of the organisation. It has been an outstanding event for Honda. To have all of these people in Lygon St today, I have never seen so many people here. There has to be 25 thousand people here today.

"It just shows you positive people are towards cycling, what a great sport it is and mode of transport. That is what Honda is all about. We are very, very pleased with our first involvement in the sport and I am sure you will see a lot more of Honda involved in women's cycling in the future."

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Stephanie Gilmore crowned the World Action Sportsperson of the Year

11 March 2010 | Scott Murdoch | The Australian

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/sport/surfer-stephanie-gilmore-crowned-the-world-action-sportsperson-of-the-year-at-laureus-awards/story-e6frq7mf-1225839398810>

Surfing golden girl Stephanie Gilmore has become the first Australian in six years to win a prestigious Laureus World Sports award, elevating her to among the world's elite athletes.

The victory put Gilmore, 22, alongside the likes of superstar sprinter Usain Bolt, tennis ace Serena Williams and comeback star Kim Clijsters, who were also recognised by the Laureus World Sports academy.



Image from The Australian

In a star-studded red carpet ceremony for the "Oscars of Sport" at the seven-star Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi last night, Gilmore beat a field of five, including fellow Australian surfer Mick Fanning, to be crowned the World Action Sportsperson of the year.

The win capped off a remarkable 2009 for Gilmore as she secured her third world championship win in a year when Australia ruled the waves.

Gilmore kicked off the current season in fine style on the weekend when she took out the first round of the 2010 ASP Women's World series on her home beach of Snapper Rocks, on the Gold Coast.

The previous Australian winner of a category was women's surfing pioneer Layne Beachley in 2006. Gilmore received her award from Hugh Grant and Steve Waugh.

"This is unbelievable, not in my wildest dreams I thought I would be up here," she said. "I just go surfing and have so much fun. I had so much fun last year."

Gilmore, who lives on the Gold Coast in Queensland, said she was keen to see surfing develop as a professional sport and attract more new participants to the waves.

Beachley, the seven-time world champion, earlier told The Australian it was a positive move that surfing was losing the derogatory tag of being "a sport for bums".

"It proves that as a surfer we are right up there," Beachley said. "It's about sharing the sport, that healthy lifestyle and inspiring people and inspiring young kids."

The Laureus Award winners are selected by an academy of 46 former sporting stars, including Australia's Dawn Fraser, Cathy Freeman and Steve Waugh.

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IOC Approve Changes to Cycling & Tennis Mixed Doubles

11 December 2009 | Stephen Wilson & Tim Reynolds | Associated Press

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hqkqFFuxUw110oNw3NOkZUrF6tsgD9CGM9AO3>

Olympic leaders made two roster changes Thursday for the 2012 London Games: Track cycling's signature endurance race is out and tennis mixed doubles is in.

The International Olympic Committee executive board agreed to a program of five men's and five women's track cycling events as part of a plan proposed by cycling's governing body. As a result, the Olympics will lose track cycling's 4,000-meter individual pursuit for men and 3,000-meter pursuit for women.

Cycling had seven track events for men and three for women at the 2008 Beijing Games. Thursday's changes were designed to make sure male and females compete in an equal number of events in London.

The number of women track cyclists in London will rise to 84, up from 35 in Beijing in 2008. Women will make up 45 percent of the total number of Olympic track cyclists, compared with 19 percent in Beijing.

Mixed doubles was played at several Olympics from 1900 to 1924. The last gold medallists were Americans Richard Williams and Hazel Wightman in Paris in 1924. Tennis was dropped from the Olympics after 1924 but returned as a medal event in 1988 without mixed doubles.

The IOC said mixed doubles "will bring an added value to the Olympic program by providing another opportunity for men and women to compete together on the same field of play."

Dozens of current and former cyclists, including Lance Armstrong, have spoken out against dropping the individual pursuit. Among those affected are reigning 19-year-old world champion Taylor Phinney of the United States and two-time Olympic champion Bradley Wiggins of Britain.

IOC president Jacques Rogge said the committee was following the recommendations of the sport's ruling body.

"It is the advice of the UCI that the new format would be more appealing," he said at a news conference. "Of course, the concerned riders regret that. This is perfectly understandable but the executive board of UCI considered the new format would be far more appealing."

"There is a general shift as you know from endurance events more to sprint events," he added. "That is a consideration being made by the experts of cycling, not the IOC."

Also eliminated are the men's and women's points races, and men's madison.

The new Olympic program includes men's and women's competition in individual sprint, team sprint, keirin, team pursuit and the five-race omnium event. The omnium combines performances in a 3-kilometer individual pursuit, 200-meter sprint, 1-kilometer time trial, 15-kilometer points race and 5-kilometer scratch race.

"The thing about today is, fortunately it wasn't a surprise," Phinney told The Associated Press. "We've had ample time to think about this decision and fight this decision. ... I'm not waiting for this day to come anymore. It's passed. I can move on."

Wiggins, who won the men's pursuit in Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008, will miss the chance to go for a third gold in the event in his home city.

"It's disappointing, but it's not something I can control or have an effect on," he said. "It would have been nice to have been back there and going for No. 3 in the individual. It's a bit drastic losing three endurance events and replacing it with something like the omnium which, in my opinion, is a poor event to watch. But it doesn't matter what we think. We're just the riders."



Reigning women's pursuit champion Rebecca Romero of Britain added: "I'm disappointed that the chance for me to defend my Olympic title has been taken away, especially at this late stage in the Olympiad only two years before Olympic qualification."

Rogge said the UCI had conducted "extensive" surveys that supported the changes.

"They are adamant that the new program is an improvement for cycling and especially that it will improve the audience and the popularity of the track events," he said. "You can always argue about one individual event. The individual event might be very popular in some countries where medals are won, but not necessarily in other countries where there are no riders of high quality."

"You have always to distinguish the big picture from any particular country where some heroes win a lot of medals," he said. "That does not reflect necessarily on the world view."

On the final day of a two-day meeting, the IOC board also ratified a proposal by the International Tennis Federation for inclusion of a 16-team mixed doubles competition in London, where the tournament will be played on grass at Wimbledon.

In August, the IOC said it wanted guarantees that top players in singles would be able to participate in mixed doubles. Outside of the Olympics, the top singles players rarely play doubles or mixed doubles. Thursday's decision was welcomed by ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti.

"We believe that this addition will make Olympic tennis a truly unique event, with top players having the opportunity to compete for their countries and the honor of an Olympic Medal in three distinct disciplines: singles, doubles and mixed doubles," he said.

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Port Power sign an Opal

24 November 2009 | Caroline Wilson | The Age

Port Adelaide has signed Australia's most successful basketball coach to oversee the club's new leadership program.

Former Olympic Opals basketball coach Jan Stirling has become the first woman to take the position at an AFL club after returning from Russia, where she worked briefly as a consultant to the national junior teams.

Stirling met the Power players yesterday and will play a part in the cultivation of a new-look leadership group under captain Domenic Cassisi over the coming months. Although she has only signed with the club for one year, Port is hoping for a longer-term relationship beyond the 2010 season. Stirling will work for Port one and a half days a week. Before being head-hunted by the Russian basketball body, Stirling had coached the Opals from 2000 until the end of the 2008 Olympics. In 2002 the Australian team won bronze at the world championship before achieving silver at the Athens Olympics two years later and then gold in 2006 at the world titles in Brazil. In the 2008 Olympics in Beijing Australia finished with another silver medal.

Port Adelaide, which had something of a leadership crisis 12 months ago when the board and executive were at odds with coach Mark Williams over the choice of the club's new captain, identified its leadership program as being in need of an overhaul at the club's recent end-of-season review.

Stirling was the unanimous choice of Williams, his football lieutenant Peter Rohde and chief executive Mark Haysman.

Stirling will work at Port alongside Jenny Williams, sister of coach Mark, who has now achieved a masters in psychology. Mark Williams said last night: "It's about going for the best person for the job and these two people combine expertise both in sport and their education. The feminine touch is not a bad thing either."

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WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Sport Leadership Grants & Scholarships for Women

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and Australian Government Office for Women (OfW) are looking to develop more Australian women in leadership and decision making roles in sport.



Applications are now open for the 2010–11 round of the ASC and OfW's Sports Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women.

These Australian Government grants and scholarships are offered to inspire and assist women in the sports industry to reach their full potential in leadership, through education and development opportunities.

The ASC invites women from all areas and levels of the Australian sports community to apply, including women involved in sport as managers, administrators, media and communication officers, coaches, officials, and women in sport governance.

Women from culturally diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women in rural and regional areas and women with disability are encouraged to apply.

The grants include scholarships for women in upper sports management of up to \$10,000 a year for three years, one-off grants of up to \$5,000 for individuals and up to \$10,000 for approved organisations.

Last year's grants supported 132 projects across the country in developing women's leadership skills in their sport. Now in its ninth year, these grants have supported more than 16,000 women around Australia.

Applications close on Friday 30 April 2010. Terms and conditions apply. For more information, visit www.ausport.gov.au/women or call 1800 224 412.

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Surfing Australia & ASP Host Forum on Women's Surfing

2 October, 2009 | Surfersvillage Global Surf News | http://www.globalsurfnews.com/news.asp?id_news=43296

Surfing Australia, in conjunction with Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) International and the Australian Sport Commission recently hosted an open forum to assess the needs of women participating in surf riding.

Surfing Australia's Sports Development Manager Chris Symington said, "Surfing Australia is committed to providing the best possible athlete pathways for male and female surfers. The best way to start generating those opportunities is to listen to the athletes, how they view their sport now and what they would like to see improved for the future."

The forum assessed the current issues that are restricting women from participating in surf riding and looked at developing strategies to address those issues. The participants involved in the forum were given an opportunity to highlight the issues that could be acting as a barrier to further participation in surf riding.

"Being involved with the Commonwealth Bank Layne Beachley Classic was a great fit for this forum giving us a fantastic opportunity to tap into views of the best female surfers in the world", Symington said.

The forum will allow for an assessment of the women's competitive pathway from club involvement through to possibly competing on the world professional tour and eventually lead to strategies to improve the support services associated with female participation in surfing.

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GETTING INVOLVED

2010 World Conference on Women and Sport

15 March 2010 | www.iwg-gti.org

The 5th World Conference on Women and Sport will be held from 20 to 23 May 2010 in Sydney, Australia.

The main conference venue will be the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre located in Darling Harbour, a deepwater cove of Sydney Harbour. The Darling Harbour area is Sydney's most exciting tourism precinct, located on the waterfront within walking distance of the heart of the city.

The final day of the conference will be held in Sydney Olympic Park, home to the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This final day also features a Women's Sports Festival celebrating women's participation and achievement in sport.

The 5th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport is organised under the auspices of the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) with the support of NSW Sport and Recreation, the University of Technology, Sydney the Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing and Sydney Olympic Park Authority. The Sydney conference follows those conferences held in Brighton, U.K. (1994); Windhoek, Namibia (1998), Montreal, Canada (2002) and Kumamoto, Japan (2006).

To keep up to date with all the latest conference information and other news, make sure you subscribe to our e-newsletter by [clicking here](#).

The upcoming IWG World Conference in Sydney will offer a unique opportunity for participants to share experiences, strengthen international connections and find ways to stimulate action at local, national and international levels. The Conference program will be designed to promote interaction, emphasise practical experience and explore ways to support positive change.

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Girls Sport Victoria Cycling Program

25 September 2009 | Rhys Walczak

CycleSport Victoria (CSV), in partnership with Girls Sport Victoria, recently hosted a specialised *Girls Track Cycling* program at the Darebin International Sports Centre Velodrome.

The five week skills program was designed to give the girls their first experience of track cycling in a fun and safe environment.

DISC Coordinator Rhys Walczak, along with Level 1 Nationally Accredited Cycling Coaches David James, Emy Huntsman and Louise Coldham, coordinated up to 20 students each Monday for one and a half hour sessions.

Using custom elite track bikes provided by CSV, the students covered a number of skills including mastering 42 degree banks, rolling turns, time trials, flying 200m, team sprints, handicap racing and a number of other skills.

At the conclusion of the event, students participated in a small track carnival to display all disciplines learned during the program and each student was presented with a certificate.

All students also received a 12 month CSV membership and are reportedly very keen to continue cycling with their nearest cycling club.

If you are interested in organising a school track clinic, please contact Rhys Walczak on 03 8480 3000 or email Rhys.Walczak@cycling.org.au.



**CycleSkills Coaching Course for PE Teachers**

Due to the success of the GSV program, CSV has announced a CycleSkills Coaching Course for PE Teachers on Monday October 5 at DISC.

This free course has already received a number of registrations from GSV Schools, but CSV would like to extend this opportunity to all PE Teachers across Victoria.

To register your place in the course, please email Luke Mason on 03 8480 3077 or email Luke.Mason@cyclimg.org.au.

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ATHLETE PROFILES**Michelle Payne (Horse Racing)**

30 September 2009 | Andrew Eddy | Payne gets EI of a birthday surprise | The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/sport/horse-racing/payne-gets-el-of-a-birthday-surprise/2009/09/29/1253989912334.html>

Michelle Payne turned 24 yesterday and could not have wished for a better birthday surprise with the news that she will be the stand-in rider for El Segundo in Saturday's group 1 Turnbull Stakes at Flemington.

Payne said yesterday she could not wait to be reunited with El Segundo, whom she last rode in his maiden win at Cranbourne at his second race start in March, 2005.

"I am just so happy to be given the chance to ride him again and in such a big race," she said. "I remember the first time I galloped him ... I was just blown away. I thought, 'what is this?'"

Payne gained the ride on the eight-year-old 2007 Cox Plate winner following the suspension on Monday of regular rider Luke Nolen.

But for a broken wrist, the record-breaking Payne might have been the five-time group 1 winner's regular jockey.

"I'd been riding him in work [in 2005] and I just drove Colin [Little] mad about riding him in his [second] start at Cranbourne and I was lucky enough that he put me on.

"We ran in a trial first at Cranbourne and then a few weeks later ... he won. I was so excited about riding him again but just before his next start at Geelong I broke my wrist and couldn't ride him."

Much has happened since then. Payne became the first Victorian female to outride her apprentice claim the following season and has since had experience riding in England and France, and for Aidan O'Brien in Ireland.

Seven months after his maiden win, El Segundo took his first group 1 race when he saluted in the Yalumba Stakes at Caulfield, when ridden by Darren Gauci. The following year he won the Underwood before being beaten a centimetre by Fields Of Omagh in the Cox Plate.

He returned in 2007 to win the Cox Plate but has only raced five times since, after bowing a tendon then having soreness in a joint.

Payne said she did not expect to partner El Segundo in his work before Saturday. "He's a straight-forward horse to ride so I don't think I'll be needed," she said. "I just hope I can give him the sort of ride that will give him the best chance."

One achievement to elude Payne so far has been to ride a group 1 winner and she could not think of a better horse on whom to bring up the milestone. "I've never really got that close in the group 1s I have ridden in," she said. "Just a couple of fifth placings, so I'm hoping to better that."

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Elizabeth Cambage (Basketball)

17 August 2009 | Grantley Bernard | Opals dig next big thing with teenage prodigy Elizabeth Cambage | Herald Sun
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/sport/opals-dig-next-big-thing-with-teenage-prodigy-elizabeth-cambage/story-e6frf9if-1225762563943>

For the past decade, the Opals have been blessed with Lauren Jackson, perhaps the best female basketballer on the planet, leading the way to Olympic silver medals and a world championship.

But the next decade and beyond seems just as assured for the Opals, who are entering Jackson's veteran phase and looking forward to the emerging and exciting presence of teenage prodigy Elizabeth Cambage.

Standing an imposing 203cm, Cambage fits the next big thing cliché, having blitzed at this month's under-19 world titles to earn all-tournament selection and go close to winning the event's MVP award.

"She's special," Opals head coach Carrie Graf said. "She's unique. With her size (7cm taller than Jackson), she's just something we've never had before. She's still got a long way to go and she's a work in progress, but she can run and jump and she's exciting."

After making her Opals debut on a recent tour of China, Cambage retained her place for the return series in Australia, which started last week in Canberra with a 77-65 win and continues tonight in Geelong.

Coming off the bench, Cambage (10 points, 5-7 FG, four rebounds) needed little encouragement to get involved, even when China tried to counter with its young rising star, 207cm Wei Wei.

"She has no trouble putting up double-doubles," Graf said. "They didn't have an answer for her in China and they didn't have an answer for her in Canberra."

Recently signed by Bulleen Boomers for the WNBL season, Cambage will come under the excellent coaching of Tom Maher, who was pivotal in Jackson's development when he was Opals head coach, and former national team captain Michele Timms.

As Cambage celebrates her 18th birthday tomorrow, there is much to look forward to.

The Opals have called in Canberra Capitals guard Jess Bibby for tonight's game at the Arena (tip-off 7.30pm) to cover injury and illness.

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Dani Samuels (Discus)

22 August 2009 | Aussie Dani Samuels wins discus gold medal at world championships in Berlin | Scott Gullan
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/sport/aussie-dani-samuels-wins-discus-gold-medal-at-world-championships-in-berlin/story-e6frep5o-1225765047862>



Image courtesy Athletics Australia website

Dani Samuels has won Australia's first medal of the world championships, producing a performance beyond her years to win gold in the women's discus.

The 21-year-old Sydney university student was staring at an early exit from the final before unleashing a personal best throw of 64.76m to stay in the competition and then promptly delivering the gold medal winner of 65.44m with her next throw.

Samuels leapt in the air and saluted to her coach, Denis Knowles, after unleashing her monster throw which was more than two-and-a-half metres further than she'd thrown in her life.



In a nail-biting climax to the competition two of her main rivals both failed on their last attempts to steal the gold.

Cuba's Yarelis Barrios threw 65.31m with her final throw while the early leader Romania's Nicoleta Grasu fouled her last attempt and had to settle for bronze with 65.20m.

"I don't know what to say, that was fantastic," Samuels said. "That was just the comp of my life, I knew I could throw 64 at least and I am just so happy to be able to do that under pressure."

A former world youth and world junior champion, Samuels showed nerves of steel to stare down the best in the world and also handle the very wet conditions which arrived at the Olympic Stadium and delayed the start of her event by more than an hour.

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Margaret Jennings (Cricket)

2009 | Maxine Morand MP

[www.women.vic.gov.au/web12/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Victorian+Honour+Roll+of+Women+2009/\\$file/Honour+Roll+2009+web+update+PDF.pdf](http://www.women.vic.gov.au/web12/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Victorian+Honour+Roll+of+Women+2009/$file/Honour+Roll+2009+web+update+PDF.pdf)

Over her 47 years of being involved with cricket, Marg has represented Victoria and Australia. She was appointed Australian captain in 1977 and achieved a World Cup victory as captain in 1978.

Marg was also the first Australian female wicketkeeper to score a century and she coached the Victorian cricket team to win the Open National Championship in 1990-1991.

She was coach of the Victorian Institute of Sport women's cricket squad, has been national Chairperson of Selectors since 1991 and received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

As well as her on-field exploits, Marg has provided strong leadership and mentoring to encourage women and girls to participate in sport. "One thing I like to get through to the kids is that if you really want it, go for it and opportunity will present itself."

While teaching at Aberfeldie Primary School Marg was annoyed when only the boys would play cricket for the school.

"I took on coaching and got the girls in. We were the only ones to have girls in our school team. With a couple of the other teachers we set up a girls' team."

In the 1981-82 season, Marg established the Brunswick Park Ladies Cricket Club.

"My father got a ground for us, and we tried to get kids down there to play."

Brunswick Park has since become the most successful cricket club in the Victorian Women's Cricket Association.

By example and encouragement Marg has mentored many women to aspire and achieve positions that in the past were only available to men. This includes currently-held positions of manager of the Australian Cricket Centre of Excellence (Belinda Clark) and radio and television commentator (Melanie Jones).

"We are taking little steps but there's still a long way to go. I would love to see women get equal opportunity within Cricket Australia and see Australian women on the stage with the men."

"I have tried to provide opportunities for girls where there were no opportunities and get over to them that the boundaries are limitless provided we keep pushing away."

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Solveig Sorensen (Handball)

26 February 2010 | Violi Calvert | Australian Handball Federation



Australia can be proud of many groups of athletes who are very passionate about their sport and their country. Although team handball as a sport is still in the process of gaining wide recognition in Australia, the Australian Handball Teams have been steadily making a mark in the sporting world arena. It may have escaped the Australians' attention that, in fact in December 2009, the Australian Women's Handball Team represented Australia in the Women's World Championship for the fifth time.

In the 2009 Women's World Championship team, there was one player who originated from Victoria. Solveig Sorensen, currently based in Denmark, has also represented Australia in the 2007 world championship and in the 2009 Pacific Cup. She started playing handball at the age of 13, while most other European children begin at the age of 6.

Over the next 9 years Solveig competed with a number of clubs in Flensburg, Germany before moving to Denmark and playing 3rd, then 1st Division. Now based in Hadersley, Southern Denmark, Solveig plays 2nd Division for Hadersley KFUM.

"The highlight of my handball career has definitely competing in the 2009 World Championships for Australia" said Sorensen "It was a great experience to face the worlds best players and I can only learn from them

"If my body allows it, I will definitely play handball for years to come. I love the game and cannot imagine my life without it."

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RESOURCES / CONTACTS

***NEW* CAAWS Resource Sheets:** The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS) have very kindly provided Australian Womensport & Recreation Association (AWRA) with a large number of their resource sheets for free use on our website. These resources are very useful and also very relevant and appropriate to current issues. You can view the full list of available resources by [clicking here](#).

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, with a vision of 'providing leadership and advocacy for Australian women and girls in sport and active recreation'. For more details and fact sheets: <http://www.australianwomensport.com.au/default.asp?PageID=28>

Women's sport and fitness foundation: <http://www.wsf.org.uk>

Promotion of women in sport: http://www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/missions/women/index_uk.asp



Herald Sun: <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/sport>

The Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/sport>

SEN: <http://www.sen.com.au>

SRV: <http://www.sport.vic.gov.au>

VicHealth website: <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au>

Office of Women's Policy website <http://www.women.vic.gov.au/>

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