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WELCOME

vicsport is pleased to deliver the 2011 March/April Edition of WISe-news.

The last two months have been full of news about women's issues, sport & achievements and what you find here is just a small selection of what has been on offer.

We would also like to ensure that we include more information on our Victorian athletes, administrators and volunteers. If you have news and stories that you feel may be of interest to us, please send it through at least a week prior to publication.

The next WISe-news is scheduled to come out on Friday 1 July, 2011.

In the mean time, you can keep up with all the latest from vicsport via our social media streams!



[@vicsportAU](#)



[Victorian Sports Industry](#)



[vicsporttv](#)

Regards,

Fiona

Fiona Kuilboer | Women in Sport Project Officer | E: fionak@vicsport.asn.au | P: 03 99261373

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

4-Mar	Bowls	Australia loses Trans-Tasman Trophy to New Zealand	Link
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13-Mar	Cycling	Susan Powell secures silver in the C4 – 500m Time Trial	Link
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20-Mar	Cycling	Ruby Grieg-Hurtig wins bronze in U17 Scratch Race	Link
20-Mar	Cycling	Courtney Field wins gold in U15 Scratch Race	Link
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28-Mar	Cycling	Anna Meares wins Gold in the Individual Sprint at the World Championships	Link
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5-Apr	Basketball	3 Victorians in WNBL All-Star Five	Link
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23-Apr	Lacrosse	Victoria defeat South Australia to take out U21 Women's National Title	Link
23-Apr	Lacrosse	Rebecca Lane named U17 Girls Best & Fairest at National Titles	Link
23-Apr	Lacrosse	Danelle Mollison named U21 Women Best & Fairest at National Titles	Link
23-Apr	Lacrosse	9 Victorians selected in U17 & U21 Women's All Star Teams	Link
23-Apr	Para-sport	Kelly Cartwright named Athletics Australia Female Athlete of the Year with a Disability	Link
23-Apr	Hockey	Victoria wins U18 Women's Championships in penalty shootout!	Link
23-Apr	Swimming	Victorian girls bring home 14 Gold, 6 Silver & 19 Bronze from Australian Age Championships	Link
24-Apr	Surfing	Sally Fitzgibbons wins 2011 Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach	Link
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29-Apr	BMX	Caroline Buchanan wins National Title	Link
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Have women in your sport achieved success at the elite level? Let us know! Email fionak@vicsport.asn.au

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CURRENT ISSUES

Wonder Women

29 March 2011 | Alana Schetzer | Banyule and Nillumbik Weekly

Girls don't just want to have fun – they want to be taken seriously as athletes as well. But a lack of support, media coverage and sponsorship means female athletes are often not given the attention they deserve.

Picture two cricket teams – one men's, one women's. Both play in the most prestigious international competition. But the men's team bombs, losing in spectacular fashion. The women's team, however, emerges victorious, smashing the competition. But despite their Ashes victory, the Southern Stars receive no mainstream media attention. On the other hand, the Australian men's cricket team receives saturation coverage across television, radio, newspapers and the internet, detailing its loss to England blow by blow.



For Di Day, Cricket Victoria's female project officer, the media snub, although expected, was the perfect example of the inequity between men's and women's sport. "It was really sad that the men lost the Ashes this year but the women didn't and there was no major coverage of it," she says. "It's very frustrating that we're making all these achievements and we've got great role models and just nothing: no coverage at all."

Day is not alone in her frustration. And lack of media coverage is not the only barrier to equality – lower or zero pay, lack of support and exploitation also discourage women not only from elite sport, but grassroots participation too. AFL Victoria female football development manager Chyloe Kurdas knows all too well the battle to have women's football seen as a viable and interesting sport in its own right. Kurdas is responsible for developing and nurturing women's and girls' football, increasing participation, and more often than not, fighting stereotypes that claim "girls can't play footy".

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Change Gender Mix or Face Quota

23 April 2011 | Margot Shave | The Australian



As the deadline approaches for S&P/ASX 200 companies to report on how they have helped promote diversity on their boards and in their workplace, the debate continues about gender equality in the workplace and whether quotas mandating a minimum number of women on boards may be what's needed.

Having introduced the parameters of reporting on the number of women on the boards of the S&P/ASX 200 companies last year, Australia's leading companies have until July 1 to increase the number of senior women within the organisation and on their boards or face the questions, "if not, why not" by the Corporate Governance Council.

The self-regulation was largely responsible for increasing the number of female directors of these top companies up from 8.5 per cent to just below 11 per cent in the 18 months since the idea was introduced, but many think the pace is still too slow.

For Claire Braund, executive director of Women on Boards, an advocacy group for greater gender diversity on Australian boards, this number needs to reach 25 per cent by next year or it will be time to seriously consider quotas.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Female Entrepreneurs Reject Boards for Start-Ups

2 March 2011 | Michelle Hammond | Smart Startup

A new survey, conducted by Executive Women of Australia, highlights the reasons why more women are choosing to start their own businesses rather than climb the corporate ladder.

Melanie Kansil, a member of women's entrepreneurship network Heads over Heels, says the survey comes on the back of recent media reports regarding the lack of women on corporate boards.

According to EWA, which surveyed 1,500 of its members, more than 50% of women aspire to progress to a senior executive role, but 27% remain unconfident in pursuing their career due to gender barriers. According to the survey, 44% of women believe it will take at least 10 years to reverse the current decline in senior appointments.

EWA executive director Tara Cheesman says the survey highlights the huge number of women who aspire to work in senior roles but are held back.

"What we are seeing is a large number of ambitious, very capable women, with the talent and the desire to contribute as senior executives, feeling like they are being restrained and belittled by gender barriers," Cheesman says.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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PM Backs Quotas as Last Resort

10 March 2011 | Phillip Coorey & Kristy Needham | Sydney Morning Herald

Julia Gillard has not ruled out regulating to ensure company boards contain a quota of women, but says it is the last option under consideration and that businesses should act by themselves.

Celebrating International Women's Day in Washington yesterday, the Prime Minister said the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, who called for quotas in an interview this week, was entitled to express her view and to continue doing so.



"The Governor-General has devoted her life to arguing about women's equal opportunity and she was certainly at the forefront of those arguments when our nation was having to work its way through making sure women had an equal

say and an equal role," Ms Gillard said. "I believe it's appropriate for [her] to continue to advocate what's been her lifetime passion."

Ms Gillard was speaking after sharing the stage at the US State Department with the first lady, Michelle Obama, the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, and a group of women activists from around the world who had won International Women of Courage Awards.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Badminton World Federation Defers Implementation of Skirt Rule

22 April 2011 | AFP Correspondents in New Delhi, India | Fox Sports



The Badminton World Federation has deferred the implementation of new rule requiring female players to wear skirts on court in major tournaments after protests from some shuttlers.

The new dresscode was set to be implemented on May 1, but it has been pushed back a month and will now come into force for the first time for the Singapore Open, which begins on June 14.

"BWF have for many years encouraged both badminton clothing manufacturers and players to produce and wear clothing that would enhance the presentation of the game in general," BWF Deputy President Paisan Rangsitkitho said in the statement.

"We are, however, always willing to listen to the players, which is why we have decided to delay the implementation date slightly to June 1 to be able to advise and have a dialogue with the players on the guidelines," he added.

The BWF said it would consider feedback from players, but it underlined that the skirt requirement does not "in any way discriminate against any religious or other beliefs and respects women".

The ruling had evoked mixed reaction from players and fans; with most saying the problem was not so much with wearing skirts but making the dress code mandatory.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Sponsorship Drought Puts Women in Limbo

26 April 2011 | Will Swanton | The Australian

Women's surfing is flirting with high farce. The Association of Surfing Professionals will be forced to decide the world championship over a paltry six events this year because of a lack of sponsorship dollars. Absurdly, Stephanie Gilmore could be dethroned as queen of her sport in less than a fortnight.

The Australian can reveal the tour finale, tentatively booked for San Sebastian in Basque country in August, is about to be shelved in another killer blow. The traditional title-deciding shootout at the Billabong Pro Maui in December has been lost. Of the six surviving events, two have been run and won. In a rush of nonsensical scheduling, the next three are about to be staged in consecutive weeks.

If Wollongong's Sally Fitzgibbons or Hawaii's Carissa Moore win the Subaru Pro, which begins at Taranaki in New Zealand tomorrow and back it up with another victory at the Commonwealth Bank Beachley Classic in Sydney next week, Gilmore's four-year reign will be over in a flash.

Her frustration will be extreme. Kelly Slater's quest to retain his No 1 men's status will last another seven months. Gilmore is only just recovering from the broken wrist sustained in an assault outside her home at Tweed Heads in December. The ASP is working morning, noon and night to bring the women's tour on par with the men's 11-event championship race but corporate support is vanishing.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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WOMEN IN SPORT ADMINISTRATION & BUSINESS

Hockey Victoria Announces Changes to the Board of Directors

20 April 2011 | Hockey Victoria

At the Hockey Victoria Board Meeting held last night, the Board elected Robert Dalton as the Chair and Adam Barty as the Vice Chair of Hockey Victoria for 2011.

The Board Meeting was also the first official meeting for newly elected Director, Tracey Drake.

Robert Dalton joined the Hockey Victoria Board on Wednesday 16th June 2010 following the resignation of Hockey Victoria Director, Kim Westley and he was re-elected at the Hockey Victoria 2010 Annual General Meeting for a three year term.

Robert replaces Bob Esselmont as Chair after Bob retired from the Hockey Victoria Board at the 2010 Annual General Meeting following 11 years of outstanding contribution to the Board's of the Victorian Hockey Association and Hockey Victoria where he served as Chair for the last six years. Bob's significant achievements were recognised by Hockey Victoria's CEO, Ben Hartung, and Hockey Victoria Directors, Glenda Wilson, Shaun Dooley and Chris Chittick at the Annual General Meeting and Bob was presented with a framed Victorian playing shirt to acknowledge the significant contribution he has made to Victorian Hockey.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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New Football Federation Victoria President Announced

18 March 2011 | Football Federation Victoria

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) announced last night, during the FFV 2010 Annual General Meeting, that Mr Nick Monteleone has taken the helm as the new FFV President.

Mr Monteleone, who has been a FFV Director since 2007, succeeds Mr Tony Dunkerley who recently announced his decision not to re-stand as President.

Mr Monteleone said he was particularly delighted that the football family had elected, for the first time, a female board member, Ms. Lynne Jordan, CEO Family Planning Victoria, and lawyer, Mr Steve Milicevic.

Ms Jordan and Mr Milicevic will join current FFV Directors Ms Bridget Marcou, Ms Annette Hughes, Mr Bart Harrold and Mr Ian Eman-Ammachie.

"The new Board will soon embark on a strategic plan for 2012 to 2015," Mr Monteleone said.

"The strategic plan for 2012 to 2015 represents a wonderful opportunity for us all to work together and harness the knowledge and experience of the whole football family" he said.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Australia's Top Female Entrepreneurs for 2011

8 March 2011 | James Thomson | Smart Company.com.au

There's a strong argument that the past year has been a landmark one for Australia's female leaders.

There's a woman (Julia Gillard) in the Prime Minister's office. A woman (Gina Rinehart) has become Australia's richest person. Two women (Kristina Keneally and Lara Giddings) have become State Premiers, a female chief executive (Westpac's Gail Kelly) was named the eighth most powerful woman in the world and the number of woman on ASX 200 boards is finally ticking up, to 10.6% at last count.

And the 40 women on *SmartCompany's* second annual list of Australia's Top Female Entrepreneurs now control companies with annual revenue of \$4.1 billion, up from \$3.1 billion last year. ([To go to the full list, click here.](#))

NAME	COMPANY	REVENUE (\$m)
Jan Cameron	Retail Adventures	1000*
Lesley Gillespie	Baker's Delight	566
Naomi Milgrom	Sussan Group	498*
Maxine Horne	Vita Group	296.5
Gina Rinehart	Hancock Prospecting	292.7
Charlotte Vidor	Toga Group	280*
Iris Lustig-Moar	Lustig & Moar	157
Therese Rein	Igneus	145*
Janine Allis	Boost Juice	135*
Sarina Russo	Sarina Russo Job Access	100

It's an impressive list of achievements, but the question remains: Will 2009-10 be remembered as the year that cements the rise of the female entrepreneur?

[Read the entire story here](#)

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Are You Supporting The Women In Your Organisation?

21 April 2011 | Pollyanna Lenkic | Smart Company.com.au

Are you supporting the women in your organisation to reach their potential so your company can reach its full potential?

In Australia today, women make up just over half of Australia's total population. More women than men are now educated at secondary schools and universities, and more women than men graduate from university with bachelor degrees ([The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)).

Over 50% of your clients are women.

Globally, companies are beginning to understand the importance of having a gender balance in teams. However women are still not supported (enough) to reach senior positions and business is missing out on the opportunities that come with having a balance of gender on senior leadership teams.

Importantly on the senior leadership teams that report directly to the CEO's of organisations. Women need to be supported to develop leadership capabilities in profit and loss roles, and roles that report directly to the CEO's where they are able to contribute to and influence the business.

"Over and over again, studies have shown significant improvements in decision-making quality in more gender balanced leadership teams (usually at least one third each from both genders). Women clearly bring new perspectives and skills to the table." – [Avivah Whittenberg-Cox](#).

Why is this important to your organisation?

The biggest social change over the past three decades is the large scale entry of women into the workforce ([Women Work and Success](#)).

[Read the entire article here.](#)

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WOMEN IN ELITE SPORT

Australia to Host 2015 World Netball Championships

20 March 2011 | Netball Australia

Netball Australia will stage the World Netball Championships following the announcement by the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) that Sydney has beaten rival bid city Manchester for the right to host the 2015 World Netball Championships (WNC 2015).

The milestone event occurs every four years and features the top 16 teams from around the globe. The last World Championship held in Australia was in 1991, also in Sydney, when coach Joyce Brown led her Diamonds team to a world title, defeating New Zealand 53-52 in a thrilling grand final.



Netball Australia CEO Kate Palmer said that support from the NSW Government through Events NSW, Sydney's proven experience as a major international event city and a thriving netball community meant Australia was in great position to deliver an event that would have a significant beneficial impact on netball globally.

"We aimed high when we set out to win the right to host the event and our goal now is to deliver the best and most commercially successful World Netball Championships ever, thereby ensuring that IFNA has the resources to deliver the sport's strategic priorities.

Stay up to date with all the news and information regarding with 2015 World Netball Championships at www.wnc2015.com.au.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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Six New Events Added To the Olympic Winter Games Programme in Sochi

6 April 2011 | International Olympic Committee | Olympic.org



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today confirmed the inclusion of six new events on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi in 2014. They are ski half-pipe (men and women), women's ski jumping, biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event and luge team relay.

The decision to include the new events was based on a report presented by the Olympic Programme Commission (OPC) to the [IOC Executive Board \(EB\)](#) in Acapulco in October last year. The OPC studied the proposal of the individual International Sports Federations and, at the request of the EB, compiled a detailed analysis of all candidate events at their respective world championships this winter. In addition, the OPC looked at an operational feasibility study conducted by the organisers of the [Sochi 2014 Olympic Games](#).

The key positive factors included whether the changes would increase universality, gender equity and youth appeal, and, in general, add value to the Games. Other considerations included the cost of infrastructure, and the impact on the overall quota and the number of events.

[Read the entire article here](#)

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IOC To Adopt Rules in Gender Cases

5 April 2011 | Associated Press | Google.com

The International Olympic Committee agreed Tuesday to adopt rules for dealing with cases of female athletes who have excessive levels of male hormones. IOC medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist said the committee will enact rules for determining the eligibility of women athletes with "hyperandrogenism" — a condition involving overproduction of male sex hormones.

The ruling IOC executive board agreed to put rules in place in time for the 2012 London Olympics. The IOC will also ask other sports federations to adopt similar measures.

The issue of gender verification gained global attention after South African runner Caster Semenya was ordered to undergo sex tests after winning the 800 meters at the 2009 world championships.

Ljungqvist insisted the IOC initiative had "nothing to do" with the Semenya case and that Olympic and medical experts have been debating the issues for years.

At the heart of the matter is whether a female athlete derives a competitive advantage over other women because of higher than normal levels of hormones such as testosterone. Some women with the condition develop male-like body characteristics, Ljungqvist said.

[Read the entire article here.](#)

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GETTING INVOLVED

vicsport Regional Female Administrator Network Sessions

vicsport

vicsport in conjunction with Sports Focus and Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly are holding Female Administrator Network (FAN) sessions in coming weeks.

An initiative since 2008, the Female Administrators Network (FAN) is part of the Women in Sport Program providing networking and professional development opportunities while assisting women to establish links in the sports sector.

Female administrators from sport & recreation clubs are encouraged to attend.

BENDIGO – Work/Life Balance

Date: Sunday 15 May 2011

Time: 10am – 1pm

Venue: Federation Room, The Hotel Shamrock
Cnr. Williamson Street & Pall Mall, Bendigo

Cost: **FREE!** Light refreshments will be provided

RSVP: Wednesday 11 May 2011

Zita Waldron-Brown – 03 5442 3101 or
admin@sportsfocus.com.au

HORSHAM – Leadership

Date: Tuesday 24th May 2011

Time: 7pm – 10pm

Venue: Horsham Sports & Community Club
177 Baillie Street, Horsham

Cost: **FREE!** Light refreshments will be provided

RSVP: Friday 20th May 2011

David Berry - 03 5382 4599 or eo@wrsa.org.au

Further information can be found online at the [vicsport website](#)

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vicsport Job Board

vicsport

As Victoria's Peak body for sport and active recreation **vicsport** represents the needs and concerns of over 150 member groups to Government, associated statutory authorities, relevant business and private enterprises and other stakeholders with an interest in promoting sport and active recreation.

vicsport and Sportspeople are working together to provide the industry with a comprehensive listing of current positions available in Victoria.

The **vicsport** Job Board can now be viewed here: <http://www.sportspeople.com.au/?ID=19033>

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Women In Sport Leadership Register

Australian Sports Commission

To complement the education and development of female leaders, the Australian Sports Commission has established the Women in Sport Leadership Register to assist the placement of women on boards and in executive positions where they can apply their training and experience to benefit Australia's sporting system.

The Women in Sport Leadership Register has been designed to provide that opportunity by connecting sport with potential female board and administration candidates. This register has been developed to support the unique sports industry and is a free service. Women with the qualifications, experience and interest in gaining a leadership role in sports organisations may enter their details online for consideration for inclusion in the Women in Sport Leadership Register.

This register is aimed at improving the number of women on Australia's sporting boards and to help promote inclusive cultures that support women in sport.

For further information or to register, visit the [Australian Sports Commission website](#)

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Outstanding Women's Series

Australian Institute of Management (Vic)

In 2011, the Outstanding Women's Breakfast Series is full of diversity with five unique and highly successful business women sharing their career highlights, inspirations and challenges in both life and business.

From each of these women a fascinating account of achievement, ingenuity and sometimes adversity can be found. Join AIM for these breakfast events to be inspired by these captivating women who have reached the pinnacle of success in their fields. Don't miss your opportunity to be inspired.

Dates:

Friday 20th May – Maggie Beer
Friday 29th July – Nadia Rosenthal
Friday 2nd Sept – Deborah Cheetham
Friday 25th Nov – Bettina Arndt

Venue: Grand Hyatt, 123 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000

Cost: Varies – check the website

To Book: [Visit the AIM website](#)

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Women Achieving and Flourishing

Our Community.com

Our Community, Women's Leadership Institute Australia and Christine Nixon APM have joined forces to offer a half-day workshop designed for women in supervisory, management or leadership positions, and those who aspire to those roles.

The workshop will allow you an opportunity to:

- Share your experiences in leadership and talk about ways of leading
- Learn how to implement change
- Learn ways to achieve goals, develop resilience and flourish.

Date: 29 May 2011

Venue: Moonee Valley Racing Club (Members Gate 1), McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne VIC

Price: \$145 (GST inclusive)

To Book or Further Information: 03 9320 6800 or the [Our Community Website](#)

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Communities in Control Conference

Our Community.com

The Our Community Conference is being held again in 2011 with this year's topic "Our Changing Communities and Community Organisations"

Registrations for the conference are now open. Details are below.

Date: 30-31 May 2011

Venue: Moonee Valley Racing Club (Members Gate 1), McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne VIC

Price: Varies – check the website

To Book or Further Information: 03 9320 6800 or the [Our Community Website](#)

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Our Community Courses & Workshops

Our Community.com

Our Community offers a range of courses and workshops for your personal and professional development. The following currently are on offer:

Course/Workshop	Date
Diploma of Management	9 - 13 May
Secrets of Successful Boards	17-May
Advanced Grants Writing Seminar	19-May
Certificate IV in Governance - for Community Boards	20 - 23 June
Introduction to Writing Winning Grants	30-June
Strategies for Sustainable Funding Seminar	30-June

For further information on times and prices, visit the [Our Community Website](#).

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Women, Management and Work Conference

Macquarie University

Discover how to use your strengths to become an influential leader at the Macquarie University's annual Women, Management and Work Conference.

In its 23rd year, this two day conference will inspire and inform women who are looking for insights and key tips to develop their leadership skills.

Date: 28 and 29 July 2011

Venue: Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 61-101 Phillip Street, Sydney

Price: Varies – check the website

For further information: [Contact the event organisers.](#)
[Download the Conference brochure \(PDF\)](#)

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AFL Victoria Seeking Players For New Junior Girls Competition

AFL Victoria

AFL Victoria is seeking over 400 girls aged 9-12 to play in one of five new junior girls competitions around Melbourne in 2011.

The new competitions will be established in local leagues as per regular community junior football, with matches operating under the AFL's Junior Match Policy. Girls with no experience are more than encouraged to get involved in the new concept, as well as those who have played Auskick or junior football alongside the boys.

AFL Victoria and local Victorian junior football leagues decided to establish junior girls football competitions to cater for those girls who are keen to play regular football matches, but not alongside boys.

Any girls who wish to play or parents who are interested in assisting with these new competitions can register their interest online.

[Register to participate here](#) or for further information visit the [AFL Victoria Youth Girls website](#)

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PROFILES

Allie Pepper: Everest Ambition Wins Sponsorship

8 March 2011 | Australian Geographic Society

Adventure is often seen as a man's domain, but Allie Pepper is out to prove that wrong.

The winner of the 2011 Nancy-Bird Walton sponsorship for female adventurers has been awarded – on International Women's Day – to Allie Pepper for her ambition to be the first Australian woman to scale Mount Everest without the aid of bottled oxygen.

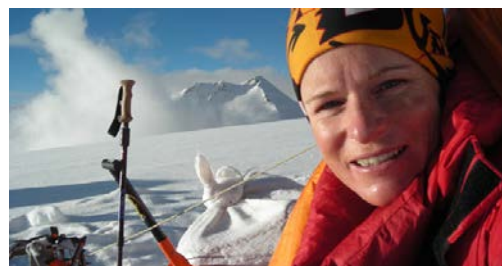
"Women should take on adventures because the spirit of adventure is just as alive in women as it is in men," says Allie. "Furthermore, women are just as capable of success in their adventurous endeavours as men."

Since 1999, Allie has worked as a mountain and adventure guide in Australia, Nepal and South America, summiting some of the world's most challenging peaks including Cho Oyu in the Himalayas and Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Americas. In late March this year, Allie will travel to Nepal to begin her biggest adventure yet, an ascent of Mt Everest.

"To me adventure is an activity or journey that is challenging. It pushes you beyond your comfort zones. An adventure starts as a dream, is carefully planned, then once undertaken not everything may go according to the plan! The greatest challenges and adventures most often give the highest rewards," she says.

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Sam Mostyn: Footy's First Female Still Making Her Mark

2 April 2011 | Damon Kitney | The Australian



Few sports can exercise the emotions quite like football, whatever the code. And in the case of Australian football, Sam Mostyn knows that more than most.

As the first female to be appointed to the AFL Commission, in 2005, Mostyn was viewed by some as an unwelcome intruder in a man's world. And it was personal.

"When I was appointed I got a significant amount of hate mail. Quite a lot of it was anonymous. Some of it was identified. It was about upsetting old norms about who has a right to be involved in the game," she tells *The Weekend Australian*.

"Some said 'This game doesn't need women, it doesn't need you, this is the domain of men'. The implication in some was that I was being watched. Some used the term 'feminist'. They were quite pointed."

For decades it was the same in the nation's public company boardrooms, albeit the hate messages never made it into print and the language was far more polite. But behind closed doors the message was the same.

Now the 45-year-old Mostyn is part of a new breed of female company directors who have broken the mould.

Her appointments to the Virgin Blue and Transurban boards last year were two of the 59 new directorships in ASX top 200 companies taken by women in 2010, compared with only 10 in 2009. To Mostyn, it is just a start. She wants to see a much broader discussion about diversity.

[Read the entire story here](#)

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Julie Murray: On Paving the Way for Female Footballers

26 April 2011 | Sally Shipard | Girls FC

Julie Murray is one of the most highly regarded female athletes of Australian sporting history—a legendary figure who forged pathways for many Australian female footballers to follow.

She began her international career at the age of 15 and went on to represent Australia for the next 15 years. She was the first female footballer to play overseas professionally. She played in the USA's WPS, going on to win the championship in her first season with the Bay Area CyberRays.

Girls FC's Sally Shipard spoke with Julie to find out a little more about this inspiring footballer ...



Tell us a little bit about your role now as a FIFA ambassador. How did it come about?

My role as an ambassador happened after I retired internationally from playing football in 2002/03. FIFA were looking to establish 16 female ambassadors across the world, and I was fortunate enough to be known by a couple of people within FIFA. There was a big push for female FIFA ambassadors to do some work within their respective confederations, my area being the Oceania region. And you know, I was pretty good looking and had a good personality [laughs].

[Read the entire story here](#)

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Stella & Darcy Justice-Allen: St Kilda Sisters Will Take On the World of Lacrosse

24 March 2011 | Sally Spalding | Port Phillip Leader

As the celebrations peak this week for 50 years of lacrosse in Victoria, Darcy and Stella Justice-Allen will be training hard for the Australian women's U19 lacrosse team.

The sisters have both been selected to represent Australia in Hanover, Germany, for the World Lacrosse Championships in August.



Representing Australia is a dream come true for the St Kilda residents, who made the switch from basketball to lacrosse in 2008.

"The competition will be tough," Stella, 17, said.

In 2008 Darcy, 18, tore her anterior cruciate ligament playing basketball. But her recovery has been strong enough to make the successful move to lacrosse.

Before the games the girls will travel to Baltimore in the US where they will train with two other famous Australian lacrosse sisters, Trish and Jen Adams.

"Jen Adams is the best Australian women's lacrosse player of all time," Darcy said.

[Read the entire story here](#)

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Shannon McFerran: Top Woman Footballer Inspired On and Off the Field

9 March 2011 | Peter Hanlon | The Age

Shannon McFerran spent the morning of International Women's Day with her students, watching the movie *127 Hours*. It was her second viewing, having already been with her St Albans women's footy teammates. Donning her teacher's cap, she says it made her think hard about preparation.

McFerran is 31, and perhaps the best female footballer ever. She doesn't crave the sort of attention bestowed on Collingwood when the AFL premier recently enjoyed a private viewing of the film, even if its content - an adventurer who cuts off his arm to save his life - speaks to a grasp of mortality she knows better than most.

"You can block out so many things to get to where you need to," McFerran says of the 2009 Victorian Women's Football League season, which she played after having been diagnosed with a brain tumour. She ended the season as All-Australian captain, and the year by having the tumour removed; she is now deaf in the left ear and has what she calls "a big dint in my head".

The looming prospect of her return to the field makes her nervous, and the medical verdict that no matter how hard she works she will only ever make a 97-98 per cent recovery doesn't sit comfortably. McFerran wants to be as good as ever, maybe better.

"I put a lot of expectation on myself," she says. "I guess I'll only know when I play."

McFerran first played competitive football at aged nine, one of two girls in a boys team. Most people didn't notice until she took off her helmet (which she won't go back to wearing this year, figuring that drawing attention to her head would have a stubbed toe effect of drawing knocks, too). She says those who took exception were rare.

"You always get your oddballs, your dinosaurs who need to move on, who think footy's not for girls. I can only speak from experience, and the St Albans boys have always treated me quite well and respectfully. [But] I know other clubs where girls haven't been."



[Read the entire story here](#)

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RESEARCH

The following links are to research articles that have appeared throughout the last 2 months which may be of interest to some readers:

[Are women their own worst enemy?](#)

[Retaining Women in the Workforce](#)

[Coaching Urged for Women](#)

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RESOURCES / CONTACTS

Websites

Australian Women's Mentoring Network: [Website](#)
Australian Womensport and Recreation Association: [Website](#)
Office of Women's Policy: [Website](#)
Our Community: [Website](#)
Sport & Recreation Victoria: [Website](#)
VicHealth: [Website](#)
WomenSpeak Information Sheets: [Website](#)
Women's Network Australia: [Website](#)
Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation: [Website](#)
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AWRA PR/Media Relations Strategy Modules: [Modules](#)
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