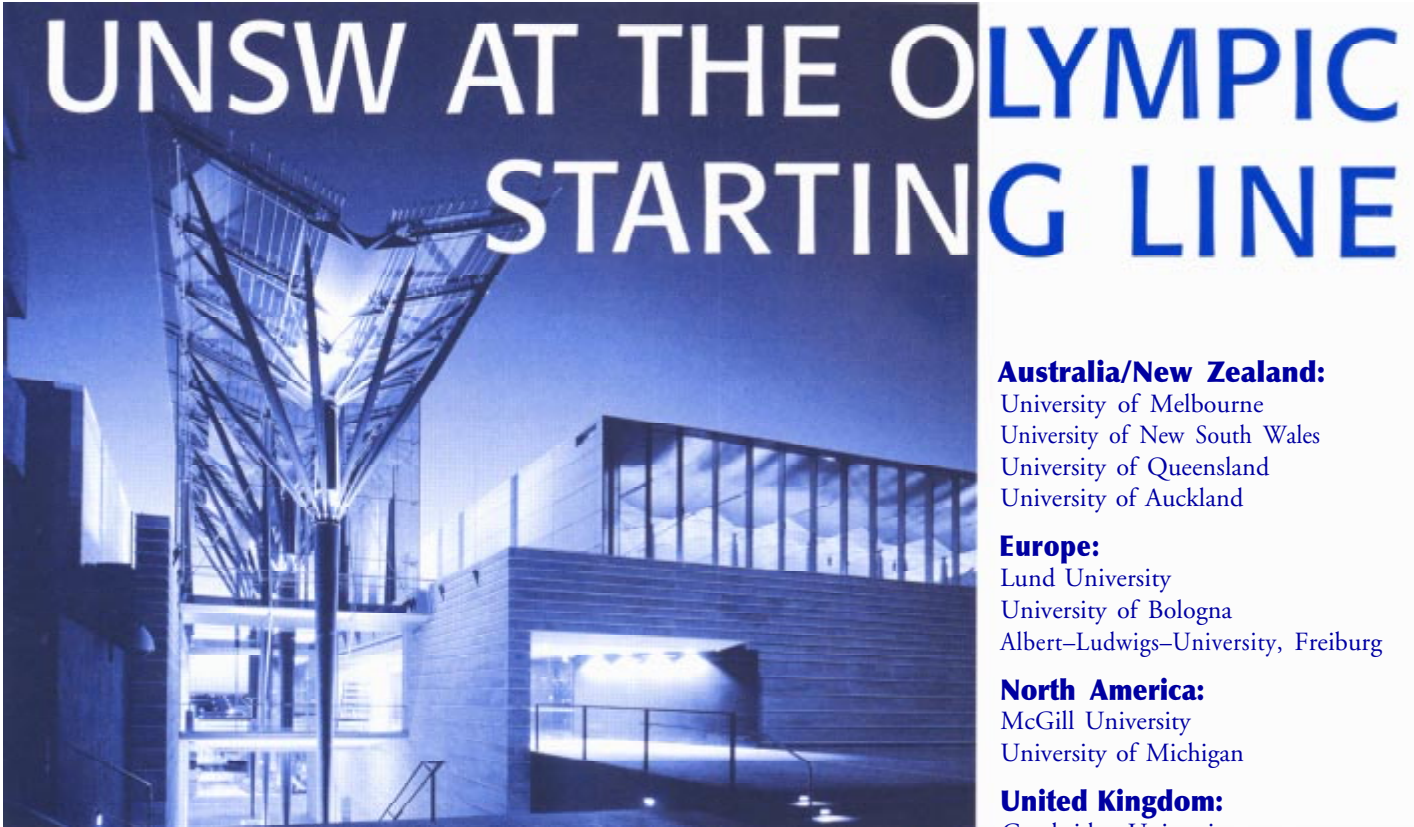


# Olympic IMPACT

Occasional magazine of the  
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The Sciencia will be the venue for the UNSW Roundtable taking place during the Sydney Olympic Games

Inspired by his involvement in the International Forum for Higher Education Leaders held at the time of the Hong Kong handover, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Niland, is using the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games to further UNSW's ties with leading international universities.

'With Sydney hosting the 2000 Olympic Games, there is a unique opportunity to gather together a highly distinguished group of university leaders at that time, along with a number of world corporate leaders who will be in Sydney for the occasion', said Niland.

CEOs from approximately twenty universities will gather at The Sciencia, UNSW to exchange ideas and explore a range of issues with a powerful bearing on the future of research-intensive universities. The UNSW Roundtable, the name given to this historic gathering, will provide a truly global approach to the critical issues facing universities.

The following universities have confirmed that they will be represented at the Roundtable

## Asia:

Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Fudan University  
National University of Singapore  
University of Hong Kong

## Australia/New Zealand:

University of Melbourne  
University of New South Wales  
University of Queensland  
University of Auckland

## Europe:

Lund University  
University of Bologna  
Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg

## North America:

McGill University  
University of Michigan

## United Kingdom:

Cambridge University  
Imperial College of  
Science, Technology and Medicine  
Oxford University  
University of Glasgow  
University of Nottingham

The Roundtable will include a special open session on the 'Challenges Facing University Science' on Saturday 23 September. Contributing to this public forum will be the visiting university leaders, together with other academics from throughout Australia, and a number of Nobel Laureates who will be at UNSW participating in specialist research seminars.

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# EXTENDING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS...

## Message from the Vice-Chancellor

### Objectives of the UNSW Olympic Program

Some may consider it opportunistic, but I'm of the view that you take your chances when they arise. So with that in mind, I intend to make the most of the unique opportunity of the Olympics being held in Sydney to advance the interests of UNSW. In developing a UNSW Olympic Program I am focussed on three major outcomes: enhancing the profile of UNSW internationally, extending external support to UNSW and facilitating Olympic opportunities for UNSW students and staff. Already the Program is returning dividends. Through the Roundtable and the associated research workshops, UNSW has attracted visitors of eminence to our campus, including a number of Nobel Laureates, university, government and corporate leaders.

By investing in a box at the main stadium we are in a position to recognise our major donors and enhance opportunities for future donor development. Already external support for the University's approach has resulted in significant donations which are being used to increase the pool of scholarships available for students.

Staff and students have secured paid and voluntary work with Olympic or associated organisations, largely facilitated through UNSW's Centre for Olympic Studies. Other staff, and again some students, have contributed their expert advice to the Olympics, and a selected group of students and staff will have the opportunity to access the University's corporate box.

In what promises to be a busy, somewhat disrupted, but undoubtedly exciting year, UNSW will be hosting a range of Olympic and Paralympic-related events. Just as the UNSW community came together to celebrate our 50th anniversary last year, I encourage you to get involved in this year's activities.

### EDITORIAL

#### Associate Professor Richard Cashman

##### Director, Centre for Olympic Studies

We are pleased to present a second issue of *Olympic Impact* to publicise a wide range of initiatives and opportunities at and involving UNSW staff and students.

The university community will be surprised to discover how much Olympic-related activity is taking place on campus and this and future issues will focus on various programs and initiatives relating to UNSW and the Games. UNSW, for instance, has many Olympians and Paralympians training for the Games, athletes from other countries will use UNSW facilities, student volunteers and paid workers who will be involved at Games time. There are also UNSW torchbearers, conferences, forums, panels and even a Marathon breakfast.

We will be pleased to receive Olympic information from staff and students to be published in future issues of *Olympic Impact*.



## UNSW TO HOST A PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC SCHOLARS

The Olympics in 2000 will not only attract the world's leading athletes but also the leading scholars. The Centre for Olympic Studies has facilitated a meeting of such Olympic scholars during the time of the Games in Sydney. The scholars represent nations as diverse as Mexico, Korea and Switzerland. This will be the first time that a meeting such as this will take place in Australia.

The Panel has been set up to facilitate the research of international Olympic scholars and to promote academic interchange. They will engage in joint projects that will analyse and reflect on the Games. The process of staging the Games will produce a wealth of research material and topics.

Members of the Panel will participate in two studies that will be published after the Olympics, 'Images of the Sydney Games - Some International Perspectives' and 'An Evaluation of the Sydney Games'. These will examine the success of the Sydney Games and develop a foundation for further success in the future.

### The Panel includes:

- Professor Bob Barney, University of Western Ontario, Canada
- Professor Jean-Loup Chappelet, Institut De Hautes Études en Administration Publique, Switzerland
- Professor Lamartine DaCosta, University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Professor John Daly, University of South Australia
- Mr Harry Gordon, Official historian of the Australian Olympic Committee
- Professor Carmen Gomez, Mexico City
- Professor William K. Guegold, University of Akron, USA
- Professor Shin-pyo Kang, Inje University, Korea
- Professor Bruce Kidd, University of Toronto, Canada
- Professor John Lucas, Pennsylvania State University, USA
- Professor John J. MacAloon, The University of Chicago, USA
- Professor Bill Mallon, University of North Carolina, USA
- Associate Professor Nao Masumoto, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
- Professor Messing, University of Mainz, Germany
- Professor Miquel de Moragas, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
- Professor Norbert Muller, University of Mainz, Germany
- Assistant Professor Roy Panagiotopoulou, University of Athens, Greece
- Professor Sergio Quiroga, Centre for Olympic Studies, Argentina
- Professor Nancy Rivenburgh, University of Washington, USA
- Associate Professor Otto J. Schantz, Université Des Sciences Humaines de Strasbourg, France
- Professor Otavio Tavares, Brazil
- Dr Kristine Toohey, SOCOG and the University of Technology Sydney

## OLYMPIC VISION

During the staging of the Olympic Games UNSW Professors Brien Holden, Martin Green and Mike Archer. will be hosting three Global Workshops in areas of important scientific and community endeavour, which will bring together world leaders to explore new ideas and plans for the future. In this issue of Olympic Impact, we focus on Professor Holden's Olympic Vision.



Professor Brien Holden

'There are three major world problems facing the future of those concerned with vision. One, the staggering number of people who are unnecessarily blind and the doubling of this number over the next 20 years if we don't do something different. The second is the incredible rate at which myopia is increasing, and the third is the ocular consequences of living to a ripe old age', said Professor Holden.

Olympic Vision is a chance to think about society's attitude to solving and/or dealing effectively with these challenges.

'Avoidable blindness and impaired vision has a tragic and unnecessary human cost. Just a few years ago it was proved that 75% of childhood blindness and 50% of infant mortality could be eliminated with 2 capsules of Vitamin A per year. We now find that between 12% and 25% of people are blind and over 50% partially sighted simply because of refractive error. It was recently estimated that half the children in blind institutions in Africa were there simply because they had never had their eyes examined and been given spectacles. In fact, they were found to be reading Braille by seeing the dots up close rather than by feeling them', said Professor Holden.

'The 45 million blind and 150 million partially sighted people worldwide, will double in number if we do not coordinate our attack on avoidable blindness. Four out of five have an eye condition that could be treated to restore their sight - with unoperated cataract accounting for more than half the blindness. By eliminating un-

essay defects of sight, it is possible to dramatically improve the quality of life and access to education for a great many people.'

Olympic Vision will involve ten of the world's key people in the field of vision research, eyecare delivery and industry in examining our options for the future.

The Workshop is being organised by the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE), based at the Cooperative Research Centre for Eye Research and Technology at UNSW. ICEE (pronounced 'I see') is a member of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight - the Global Initiative to Eliminate Avoidable Blindness and Low Vision by the Year 2020, established by an alliance of the World Health Organisation, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, and the Partnership Committee of the International Non-Government Development Organisations. Collaborating organisations include UNSW Ophthalmology and UNSW Optometry, the LV Prasad Eye Institute in India and the University of Waterloo in Canada.



Patients at Lilongwe Hospital, Malawi, Africa

### ICEE is:

- planning the "delivery" of over 100,000 new eyecare professionals and hundreds of millions of affordable glasses to those in need in South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.
- supporting educational institutions with materials, curricula and staff funding in Tanzania, Ghana and India, and is helping to develop self-sustaining infra-structure for effective eye-care delivery.
- cooperating with colleagues in other NGOs such as the Fred Hollows Foundation to implement the Global Vision 2020 Program within Australia and internationally.

'The vision needs of the world requires innovation in attitudes, strategies and technology', said Professor Holden. 'The people that participate in Olympic Vision are capable of making a very important contribution. However we don't see this as a one-off effort. Olympic Vision will help in a small way to accelerate an on-going contribution to innovation in this area.'

## STAFF OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS THE BOX

The university leaders visiting UNSW for the Roundtable and the international researchers that will be here as part of the specially-organised Research Workshops, will have the opportunity to watch a range of Olympic events from the corporate box UNSW has leased in the main stadium. At other times the box will be made available to students and staff.

The Vice-Chancellor has agreed that 40 members of staff will be selected to use the box. The process of selecting staff has not been determined and input from staff welcome. If you are a staff member and have any suggestions on how the staff participants could be selected, please forward your suggestions to Angela Burroughs, Room 213, The Chancellery or e-mail a.burroughs@unsw.edu.au.

## UNSW OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TIMETABLE

9 June	Legends Dinner
1 September-2 October	Centre personnel in the Main Press Centre
8-10 September	Centre for Olympic Studies Conference with the University of Western Ontario
12 September	International Olympic Panel meets at Cliffbrook Campus
20-30 September	UNSW Roundtable
21-24 September	Holden research workshop (Vision 21)
22 September	Marathon Breakfast
23 September	Roundtable open session: 'Challenges Facing University Science'
25-28 September	Archer research workshop (World Heritage)
26-29 September	Green research workshop (3rd Generation Photovoltaics)
14 October	Panel of International Paralympic Scholars meet
16-30 October	Centre personnel in the Main Press Centre

# VOLUNTEERING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ...

## FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF ...

The Olympics will provide opportunities for hundreds of UNSW students to gain paid employment, work experience, internships and voluntary experience. This issue of *Olympic Impact* and later ones will profile opportunities working with the AOC, IBM Surf Shack, NBC, SOBO, SOCOG and the Paralympics.

## PAID EMPLOYMENT

Joanne Evans is one of nearly a hundred UNSW Media and Communication students trained in aspects of media production and working towards a position with the Host Broadcasters, Sydney Olympic Broadcasters Organization (SOBO) during the Olympic Games. She will be paid for her work during the Games.



I am a student at UNSW in the final year of my degree and training to work with the Sydney Olympic Broadcasters Organisation. SOBO is providing a unique opportunity for many university students from around the state to be trained in many different roles through the Host Broadcast Training Program. My position will be as Broadcast Liaison Officer but there are a variety of positions including camera and audio assistants.

My experiences of training with SOBO have been varied and opened my eyes to the world of broadcasting and events management. They include providing assistance to international broadcasters on a visit to Sydney Olympic Park, the official opening of Stadium Australia, a water polo test event, a general assembly of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union and most recently the Adidas International tennis tournament.

I am very grateful for the position that I have been offered at the Games and the experience I will gain. I am going to be a part of the largest broadcast ever, with 17,000 accredited media at the events, broadcasting to an estimated cumulative television audience of 25 billion people around the globe. This is something to be excited about, while so many concentrate on the cost of the Games and the negative aspects, it should be remembered that so many people are getting experience that they could only ever dream of. Until the Opening Ceremony that is what I will be doing, dreaming of my chance at a once in a lifetime event.



IBM Surf Shackers:  
UNSW students Urvika Shah, Eric Ang and Amarto Basu (l to r)

## VOLUNTEER - IBM Surf Shack

'This is a once in a lifetime experience! I am thrilled to be able to be part of the Olympic Games', says Eric Ang, a UNSW student accepted into the IBM Surf Shack program. He along with Urvika, Amarto and more than 65 others from across all faculties will be selected to work in IBM Surf Shack facilities located at the Athletes Village and Darling Harbour during the Olympic Games. The Surf Shacks are Internet cafe facilities set up for the Sydney 2000 Games. The Surf Shack will feature a web program known as 'FanMail' which allows fans from all over the world to send e-mails to athletes competing at the Games.

UNSW volunteers will join volunteers from across the globe in assisting athletes and fans access 'FanMail'. Surf Shack staff will also host visitors and assist them in using IBM technology, execute promotional programs and schedule VIP/media visits. IBM are looking for students across a number of faculties particularly Marketing, Media and Communications, Languages and of course Technology. Excellent communication skills are an essential attribute for a Surf Shock staffer as they will be interacting with people from all over the world. Obviously, fluency in a second language is a plus. IBM will cover the cost of transportation to the facilities, meals during work hours and provide on IBM Olympic-themed uniform. Students will need to be available from around 24 August until 1 October. If you are interested in applying for this program contact the Centre for Olympic Studies on 9385 9240 or e-mail a one-page resume to [olympic@unsw.edu.au](mailto:olympic@unsw.edu.au). All applications should be submitted by 15 April 2000.

## CALLING ALL OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS ON CAMPUS

Dr Malcolm D. Buck of the Schools of Geology and Geography is keen to hear from students and staff at UNSW who are Olympic volunteers. Please contact him if you have been selected to be an Olympic volunteer and include details of your position. Please also specify whether you are happy for this information to be given to other volunteers or whether such information should remain confidential. Dr Buck may use this information for a future article in *Uniken*. He himself is a volunteer: he will be a Family Fleet Services Manager (for ORTA) during the Games.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Dr Malcolm D. Buck Manager, School Services  
Schools of Geology and Geography  
e-mail: [m.buck@unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.buck@unsw.edu.au)

# THE CAMPUS AT OLYMPICS-TIME ...

## ACCESS DURING THE OLYMPICS or TAKE AN OLYMPIC HOLIDAY

**H**ave you seen the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority's advertising campaign appealing to workplaces to alter normal business operations in an endeavour to minimise traffic disruption during the Games? Have you ever wondered how UNSW is doing its bit? How will you get to and from work? Will the campus operate as normal?

Essentially all NSW universities agreed to assist the Olympic organisers by suspending teaching activities during the Games. At UNSW, an extended recess during session two of four weeks from 11 September to 1 October will be the major change experienced by most Sydney based staff. Otherwise, the campus will operate during the Olympics as it would in any other recess period.

Staff may want to take leave or vary their working arrangements during the Games. Managers may be able to put into place a range of workplace arrangements that provide for maximum staff flexibility while still meeting the obligations of the work unit. So if your work unit hasn't already made its staffing plans for during the Games, it is time to raise it at a staff meeting or with your supervisor now!

Enquiries about *varying working arrangements* can be directed to the Industrial Relations Advisory Unit by emailing: [irau@unsw.edu.au](mailto:irau@unsw.edu.au)

For information on *transport arrangements* during the Olympics look at the ORTA website at [www.orta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.orta.nsw.gov.au)

## MARATHON BREAKFAST, UNSW UNION, 22 SEPTEMBER, from 7.30 am

**T**he first women's marathon, at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, was a milestone in the ongoing battle to gain equity for women's sport at the Games. The Women's Marathon at the Sydney Games, to be held on 22 September offers a unique opportunity for the University community to witness this great event. The race will commence at Miller Street North Sydney at 7.30 am and will wend its way over Sydney Harbour Bridge, along Macquarie Street to Oxford Street and along Anzac Parade to the Kingsford roundabout before heading back past the University, down to Centennial Park and onwards to the Olympic Stadium.

The Centre for Olympic Studies is holding a luncheon in the Kingsford room at the Squarehouse to celebrate this great event. The balcony will provide excellent viewing as the race passes by twice. There will also be television monitors so guests can watch the race from start to finish. After the runners have completed the Kingsford loop there will be an address by Professor Bruce Kidd from the University of Toronto, on the history and significance of the event. Professor Kidd was long distance runner who competed in the Tokyo Olympics.

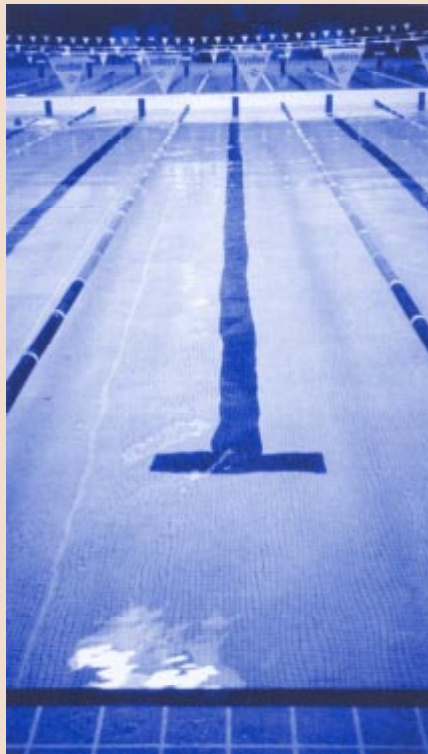
### ENQUIRIES:

Centre for Olympic Studies 9385 1551 (phone/fax)  
or e-mail [olympic@unsw.edu.au](mailto:olympic@unsw.edu.au)

## EIGHTEEN WATER POLO TEAMS TRAIN IN UNSW POOL

**T**raining is an essential component in an athlete's preparation for the Olympic Games and has to take place up to the time of competition. In the lead-up to the Games in Sydney, high quality and accessible venues have to be supplied for some 10,400 athletes. In an arrangement with SOCOG, the University of New South Wales has agreed to open the pool to water polo teams from across the globe to prepare for competition.

From 2 September 2000 until the end of the Games, eighteen water polo teams will train at the pool. These include six women's teams who will be competing in this event for the first time in Olympic history. UNSW will also host the women's and men's Australian water polo teams who have both qualified to compete in Sydney 2000.



There are strict security arrangements for the Olympics so athletes, coaches and officials only will access the UNSW pool during this period. However, the pool will be open to the public in the mornings from 5 am to 8 am.

### Olympic Facts

1. Water polo began as an aquatic version of rugby in mid-nineteenth century England
2. The event was first seen at an Olympic Games in Paris in 1900
3. European countries have been the traditional medal winners in the men's water polo - though the Australian women's team have good medal prospects in 2000

# OLYMPIC EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE FOR OLYMPIC STUDIES ...

## LEGENDS DINNER

9 June 2000 from 7 pm  
Intercontinental Hotel, Sydney  
Cost of a ticket \$130

The objectives of this fund-raising dinner are to provide a scholarship for a disadvantaged elite athlete UNSW and to contribute to the Centre's Olympic legacy program.

The event will be:

- hosted by the Vice-Chancellor
- Olympic legend Shirley Strickland will be a keynote speaker
- Michael Wenden, UNSW's greatest Olympian, will also be a keynote speaker

Many Olympians, including some from UNSW, will be at the dinner and host the various tables at the dinner.

## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR OLYMPIC RESEARCH

8-10 September 2000  
Cliffbrook and Kensington Campuses

The Center for Olympic Studies  
The University of New South Wales

and

The International Centre for Olympic Studies  
The University of Western Ontario, Canada

'Bridging Three Centuries:  
Intellectual Crossroads and the Modern Olympic Movement'

Keynote speakers:

Mr Dick Pound, IOC Vice-President and Member (Canada)  
Associate Professor Jim McKay, University of Queensland

## 'SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE' AT THE MAIN PRESS CENTRE

The Centre for Olympic Studies has been invited to become part of SOCOG's Research and Information Service for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Volunteers from the Centre will share shifts (around the clock) from 1 September to 2 October (before and after the Olympics) and from 18-29 October (during the Paralympics).

Drawing on its electronic data base and backed up by hard copy material (books, reports and video) the Centre will provide a

unique and innovative research service for the international media. The Centre service will be enhanced by links to designated academic experts on subjects ranging from Indigenous culture, Australian society and politics, the environment and even the weather.

This is the first time that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will have a 'scholar in residence'. The service will be closely monitored in the hope that it can be replicated at future Games.

## NEW HOME OF THE CENTRE FOR OLYMPIC STUDIES AT CLIFFBROOK CAMPUS



The new home of the Centre for Olympic Studies is at the small Coogee sub campus, named after Cliffbrook House (depicted above) overlooking Gordons Bay. The Centre for Olympic Studies moved to this site in January 2000.

Cliffbrook House was built in 1921 by Sir Denison Miller, first Governor of the Commonwealth Bank on the site of the stables of the ill-fated first Cliffbrook. The original land grant had been made to Lewis Gordon, Government Surveyor in 1845.

The new Cliffbrook, designed by architect, John Kirkpatrick, is a handsomely proportioned Georgian revival building of dark brick set with stone quoins. Between 1953 and 1982 Cliffbrook was the headquarters of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission. In 1993 the University of New South Wales purchased the building as the new residence for their Asia-Australia Institute and has restored it to its original appearance. Other tenants, at the newer building on the site, are ATAX and UNSW Press.

*[Historical information sourced from 'Randwick Ramble, Coogee and Clovelly', Randwick and District Historical Society, 1994.]*

# SUPPORTING THE PARALYMPICS ...

## PARALYMPIC ISSUES ON CAMPUS

A range of activities will be taking place during the Paralympics (18-29 October) to both celebrate these Games and to raise awareness about disability issues. Noting that teaching activities will have resumed during the staging of the Paralympics, greater opportunities exist to engage students and staff campus based events, which will cover sporting and cultural pursuits. Already the University has committed to sponsoring an Architecture Award for design for an accessible environment and staging the UNSW Symposium on a topic of current interest to the disability community. To provide a longer-term benefit, UNSW will establish a Ben Lexcen scholarship for a Student with a Disability.

## A PORTRAIT INVOLVING FRIENDS ...

### A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A PARALYMPIAN AND AN ARTIST FROM COFA

Paralympian Hamish MacDonald and Bronwyn Bain first met in Alice Springs in their childhood years. Hamish has since developed an illustrious sporting career that will see him compete in the Sydney Paralympic Games and Bronwyn has followed a career in film, television and theatre before turning to art - she is now completing her Master of Fine Arts at the College of Fine Arts at UNSW. They have come together again after many years, and the result is a breathtaking portrait of this Paralympian athlete.

Bronwyn has concentrated her Masters on the concept of 'Solitude' - a state that often has negative connotations - but which Bronwyn is redefining in her work, 'For me there is an association of peace, serenity and tranquility'. This serenity is captured in the portrait of Hamish which Bronwyn says, 'Has given me some time out from my MFA while at the same time influencing my thoughts and processes'.

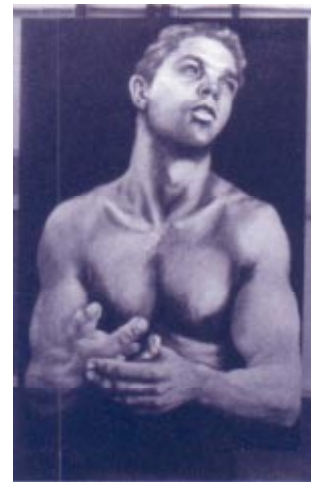
'I have been so inspired by Hamish, I just had to paint him', explains Bronwyn, 'He is not only a successful Paralympian athlete but also promotes and supports the Paralympic community. He has come from much adversity but describes his life as blessed'.

The 26-year-old athlete began lifting weights in his high school years to alleviate the muscular problems he has due to congenital spastic diplegia, which he has had since birth and effects his motor system. Since then, this multi-talented athlete has competed in the Paralympic Games



running the 100 metres and 200 metres, and won a gold medal at the Atlanta Paralympic Games for shot put. But Hamish also stands out for his achievements off the track and field - as a Media Ambassador for the Paralympic Games and in his involvement with the United Nations Olympic Humanitarian Assistance Project.

So what can the UNSW community do to support athletes like Hamish and the Paralympic Games? Hamish asks that we attend the Paralympics, 'The best thing that could happen for the Games and the athletes in Sydney 2000 would be for the stadiums to be full. If people were aware of the excellence in sport they could see for about \$8 a day I'm sure they would come along'.



## SUPPORT FOR THE PARALYMPICS...

### PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC SCHOLARS

Like the Olympic Games, Paralympic research has not had the same level of support that the Olympics historically have had. The Paralympic Games are a valuable and rewarding experience for spectators and athletes alike. Likewise, Paralympic research can be a tool for greater understanding and awareness of issues of disability and sport.

The Centre for Olympic Studies aims to redress this imbalance by hosting a group of leading International Paralympic scholars that are coming to Sydney during the Paralympic Games. The Panel will be an opportunity to facilitate the research of international Paralympic scholars; to organise events for scholarly interchange and to develop some common publication projects. It will be an occasion for sharing ideas on the direction and the future of the Paralympic Games.

#### Invited Panel of International Paralympic Scholars

(confirmations have been received from half of this Panel)

Dr Simon Darcy, University of Technology, Sydney

Dr Karen DePauw, Washington State University, USA

Dr Michael Ferrara, University of Georgia, USA

Professor Dr Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Frei University, Berlin, Germany

Professor Keith Gilbert, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Bob Neumayer, Charles Sturt University

Dr Otto J. Schantz, Université Des Sciences Humaines de Strasbourg, France

Professor Claudine Sherrill, Texas Women's University

Dr Marit Sorensen, Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education

Mr Robert Steadward, President of the International Paralympic Committee

# OLYMPIANS AT UNSW

## PAST AND PRESENT...

### PETER VASSELLA, OLYMPIC FINALLIST, 1964 - THE FIRST OLYMPIAN AT UNSW

**S**print sensation Peter Vassella (born 1941) was the first of a long line of Olympians who have attended UNSW. In March 1960 season Vassella ran third in the 100 yards and second in the 220 yards at the Australian championships behind Dennis Tipping who was selected for the 1960 Rome Olympics. On Anzac Day he represented the University of New South Wales against the University of Sydney when he ran 9.7 sec. and 21.5 sec for the 100 yards and 220 yards - both university records.



In the space of a month during the 1960-61 season he equalled the NSW state record for 100 yards of 9.6 secs., won the 1961 NSW 100 yards championship where he defeated Mike Cleary, the 220 yards came second in both these events at the Australian Championships and then equalled the 220 yards record with a run of 20.9 secs.

Ken Steward, the doyenne of NSW athletics coaches at the time, stated Vassella was the best natural sprinter he had ever seen: 'his physique is perfect, starting, pickup, power are all there - the boys got everything ... he is a replica of the great USA sprinter Bobby Morrow', (triple gold medallist at the 1956 Games).

In 1962 he had the disappointment of missing the Perth Commonwealth Games because of a hamstring injury. In a recent interview he stated 'it was a terrible disappointment ... but that's the way it goes'.

Vassella did not resume running until November 1963 but he was determined to make the Games the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Because he thought his hamstring was vulnerable in the explosive 100 and 220 yards races, he made a successful switch to the 400 meters. At the Games he placed fourth in each of the first round, quarter and semi finals. In the final he finished seventh in a time of 46.32 seconds behind Michael Larrabee of the USA who won in 45.1 secs. He stated 'this was the pinnacle of my career ... representing my country at the Olympics.' After the Games he ran at some international meets but retired shortly after his return to Australia - 'in those days there weren't many international meets to run at and financially there was nothing in it'. On his return he married long time fiancée, sprinter Marilyn Black who had won a bronze medal in the 200 meters at the Games. He became involved in his family's engineering business where he has had a life long career.

In his University days Vassella was described as a 'modest and unassuming young champion'. Although he ran interclub for the Ryde-Hornsby Club, he represented the University Athletic club at every opportunity, at special meets and Australian University championships. He was regarded highly by the University club and community 'as a splendid ambassador for the University'.

### PATRICK DWYER - TRAINING FOR 2000

**P**atrick Dwyer, 22, is completing a degree in Building Construction Management in the Faculty of Built Environment as well as getting ready to run the 400 metres at the Sydney Olympics. Assisting Patrick in his academic and athletic pursuits is the UNSW Ben Lexcen Scholarship. A committee that includes the Centre for Olympic Studies Executive Officer, Anthony Hughes, selects at least ten UNSW athletes a year as beneficiaries. The scholarship was established to honour Ben Lexcen, designer of the keel that won the America's Cup for Australia in 1996.



## PAST OLYMPIANS FROM UNSW

1964 Tokyo	Peter Vassella	Industrial Engineering 1958-63	Finalist - 400m - TRACK	1984 Sarajevo	Andrew Horsley	Arts/Law 1970-75, BA 1973, LLB 1976, Business Administration 1978-79, MBA, AGSM 1980	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING Assistant Coach/Manager Australian CCS Team
1968 Mexico City 1972 Munich	Michael Wenden	Commerce-Marketing	1968-73 SWIMMING Gold - 100m freestyle (World Record) Gold - 200m freestyle Silver - 4 x 200m freestyle relay Bronze - 4 x 100m freestyle relay	1984 Los Angeles	Andrew Richardson		JUDO
1976 Montreal	Phillip Cheetham	Electrical Engineering 1973-77 BE Hons 1977	GYMNASTICS	1984 Los Angeles	Matthew Spies		MODERN PENTATHLON
1976 Montreal 1980 Moscow 1984 Los Angeles 1988 Seoul	Andrew Kerr	Building 1973-80	WATER POLO	1988 Seoul	Warren Rosser		JUDO
1976 Montreal	Robert Paver	Medicine	ROWING, EIGHTS	1992 Barcelona	Lars Kleppich	Economics and Finance, BComm 1989	Bronze - Men's sailboard SAILBOARD
1980 Moscow	Graeme Brewer	Building 1977-79	Bronze - 200m freestyle SWIMMING	1996 Atlanta	Natalie Galea	Building and Construction Management, 1999	JUDO
1980 Moscow	Mark Carew	Electrical Engineering 1972-75, BE 1976	JUDO	1996 Atlanta	Kevin Lim (Malaysia)		SAILING
1984 Sarajevo 1988 Calgary	David Hislop	Civil Engineering 1977-81, BE 1982	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	1996 Atlanta	Carl Probert (Fiji)	Bachelor of Social Science	SWIMMING
				1996 Atlanta	Jane Saville	Social Science, BSocSc 1996	WALK

[This is an incomplete list. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who can provide additional information].