

RESEARCH WORKSHOP AT GAMES TIME

Managing World Heritage Fossil Sites



From left - Rick Arena, PhD student of Professor Michael Archer's at UNSW, Professor Archer and two employees of Pasmenco lift a large block from the AL90 site at Riversleigh onto a Pasmenco truck. The block contained a complete skeleton of a 17 million year old diprotodontid, a large plant eating marsupial.

During the staging of the Olympic Games, Professor Michael Archer will be hosting one of the three Global Workshops supported by UNSW in areas of scientific and community endeavour. The World Heritage Fossil Sites workshop will address the unique management issues associated with fossil sites and aim to establish an international network of fossil site managers and researchers. International and Australian representatives of World Heritage Fossil sites will attend the workshop as well as representatives from key international organisations associated with World Heritage such as UNESCO and IUCN.

In 1994 two Australian fossil sites were inscribed on the World Heritage Fossil List: the Riversleigh Fossil field in Northwestern Queensland and the Naracoorte Caves in South Australia.

Riversleigh fossils were first found in 1901 but it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that the area was revisited. However, the richness and extent of Riversleigh was not recognised until 1983, when it was studied by Professor Archer and his colleagues in more detail. Recently, Sir David Attenborough described the Riversleigh site as one of the four most significant fossil sites in the world.

The Riversleigh Fossil field covers an area of 50 square kilometres with more than 300 individual sites. The individual sites range in age from late Oligocene era to the present and document the evolution and changes of Australia's terrestrial fauna and ecosystems over 30 million years. The fossil record from Riversleigh not only provides understanding about Australia's past but also valuable

conservation messages about the long-term evolutionary 'health' of living descendants such as koalas, platypuses and pygmy possums.

Professor Archer first visited Riversleigh in 1976 when he was at the Queensland Museum. Following his move to UNSW in 1978, he spearheaded a team centred at the University which had links across Australia and reached out across the world. At present some 70 researchers from eight different countries are involved in research at Riversleigh on a wide range of topics, making it one of the largest international projects of its kind.

As well as being Professor at The University of New South Wales, Professor Archer became Director of the Australian Museum in January 1999 and has been instrumental in strengthening links between the University and the Museum.

The focus for the Riversleigh project is the Vertebrate Palaeontology Laboratory in the School of Biological Science where the rocks containing vast numbers of unique fossils are dissolved with diluted acetic acid. The extracted specimens are prepared, catalogued and studied by experts in the field.

Since his first visit to Riversleigh, Professor Archer has been concerned with problems relating to protection of Riversleigh's sites and management of the whole area, not just for scientific research but also for tourism. As a World Heritage site, national as well as international visitors need to be able to visit the area, see the fossils and understand their significance. Professor Archer commented:

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RESEARCH AT GAMES TIME ...

The unique difficulties associated with the management of World Heritage Fossil sites such as Riversleigh are poorly understood. Too often these sites are managed as though there were biologically significant sites and preservation of the site is perceived as the sole purpose of the managing body. However, in order to research these sites fully, specimens must be removed for study back in the laboratory. The question arises then as to how the competing aims of preservation, research and public access to these areas can be managed satisfactorily.

The conference of senior representatives of World Heritage Fossil Sites presently being planned for the period 23 September-1 October 2000 will address these issues. As well as the original seed funding and support from UNSW, the Conference is also supported by the Australian Museum and the Federal Government.

The key topics to be considered at the workshop will include:

- specific management issues including controlled versus free public access, on-site interpretation, vandalism, compatibility of research and tourism activities, potential conflicts in multi-focus areas, and so forth;
- development of effective partnerships between management and research teams;
- potential benefits of establishment of new international networks for World Heritage site managers and researchers.

In addition to the workshop on key issues and a visit to the Vertebrate Palaeontology Laboratories at UNSW, the program will also include a trip to Naracoorte Caves and the Wonambi Centre in South Australia and visits to the Riversleigh Interpretive Centre at Mount Isa and the Riversleigh fossil sites. Professor Archer added:

It is envisaged that the World Heritage Conference will establish lasting links between participants and that the combined global wisdom and experience of the managers and researchers of these significant fossil sites will help to solve problems they face individually. This international workshop is the first of its kind. I am confident that it will be a key step in developing effective strategies to protect and manage significant fossil sites all over the world.

Bones of another diprotodontid from the White Hunter site at Riversleigh. This one is probably about 25 million years old.



Message from the Vice-Chancellor

When colleagues from the University of California, Berkeley visited UNSW in 1995 to share their experiences of contributing to an Olympic Games host city we had barely begun imagining the extent to which staff, students and the university at large would become involved in the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games. As *Olympic Impact* continues to illustrate, the Games are providing new and challenging opportunities for UNSW staff, students and graduates to apply their research and enterprise. And the broad range of contributions highlight the great diversity of Olympic-related activity at UNSW, from transport planning, drug testing, minimising swimming pool currents, to prop and costume design for the Olympic ceremonies. Our UCLA visitors also warned us about Olympic-related public mood swings and if reporters of public opinion are to be believed, the people of Sydney are following the script. Perhaps our renowned School of Psychology will be featured next!

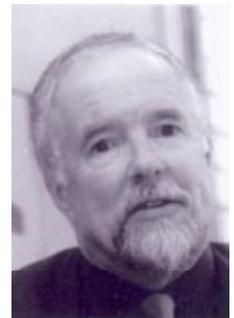


Professor John Niland

EDITORIAL

Associate Professor Richard Cashman

The Olympics will come to the University in the coming months. COFA will host one part of the Cultural Olympiad. An exhibition entitled 'BODY LANGUAGE: art, sport and the cyber conversation', that will be staged at the Ivan Dougherty Gallery from 17 August, is an official component of the Olympic Arts Festival. The torch will pass close by the University in the days before the Games and some UNSW torchbearers are listed in this issue. Undoubtedly there are many more — we will be pleased to acknowledge them in future issues. UNIGYM will join with the students of Kensington Public School to stage a Mini Olympics. The Olympic Games offer many opportunities for various members of the community to become involved in a constructive and worthwhile sense.



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UNSW Contribution to the Torch

'The design of the torch to be used at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games will be one of the most examined and visible examples of modern Australian industrial design. Mark Armstrong, a founding lecturer at the Faculty of the Built Environment's industrial design program over eight years was part of the successful Blue Sky design team that won the right to design and produce this major piece of Olympic history.'

From the outset, according to Mark Armstrong, Blue Sky's strategy was simply 'to win':

Coming second is a very expensive exercise, so we adopted a strategy to analyse the types of solutions that would inspire and appeal to the judging committee as well as meeting the criteria in the design brief. Initially we studied aboriginal artefacts, in particular the shape and textures of hunting boomerangs. We also looked at native flora and fauna, the sculptural qualities of the Opera House and the colours and shapes on Sydney Harbour.

The designs submitted by the Blue Sky design team so impressed SOCOG that 'the team was also chosen to design and manufacture the torches to be used for the Paralympic Games and the cauldrons that are used to light the various torches for both Games'.

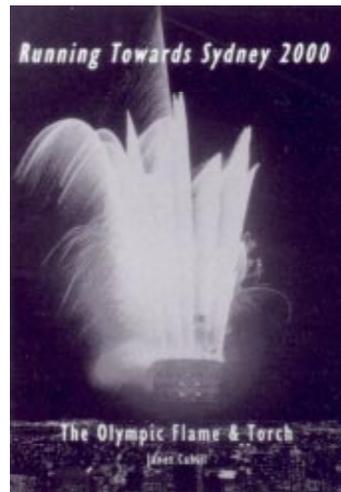
'The design of the torch has been an opportunity to showcase the talents of Australian industrial designers and manufacturers at the turn of the twentieth century. According to Mark Armstrong, this was recognised by everyone in the team.'

The torch that is used to fight the flame at the Olympic Games is kept at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. Here you can see in each torch a little of the country and its designers that it represents. For example the clean simplicity of Japanese design is evident in the Nagano torch. We hope that we have embodied the spirit of optimism that is Australia in our design.

[extracts from ble, magazine of the Faculty of Built Environment]

Professor John Niland - 1956 Torchbearer

'John Niland was chosen by his local athletic club in Lismore to be an Olympic torchbearer. He and his colleagues trained at night at the Oaks Oval, Lismore, which was lit by car headlights. They practised with a jam tin filled with concrete on a broomstick so they would be familiar with carrying the approximate weight of the torch across one mile in six minutes. Some of the makeshift torches were faulty, and when they ran outside the range of the car headlights, some of the boys would ditch the concrete from the jam tin and continue running — collecting it on the return lap so as not to be caught out'.



Extract from Janet Cabill, Running Towards Sydney 2000: The Olympic Flame & Torch, Walla Walla Press, Sydney, 1999.

'On the appointed day, John ran his one mile in the allocated six minutes just out of Box Hill, north of Lismore. Small crowds lined the roadside, including his Dad, a local schoolteacher who had to seek permission from the Department of Education to get time off to watch his son run. John found the torch relay practice had helped, but the real torch was heavier than expected (3lb) and had to be held at an angle to avoid sparks flying in his face.'

The Torch Relay Passes Near UNSW

The torch relay will pass by a number of suburbs close to the University, including Coogee, just days before the Opening Ceremony. The precise relay route is not known at this stage. A future issue will advise when and where the torch relay passes close by UNSW.

UNSW Torchbearers for the 2000 Sydney Olympics

Mark Carew, Olympian, former member of UNSW Judo Club

Richard Cahsman, Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies

Natalie Galea, Olympian, member of UNSW Judo Club

Simon Poidevin, UNSW graduate and Australian rugby player

Andrew Richardson, Olympian, UNSW graduate

Warren Rosser, Olympian, a member of the UNSW Judo Club

Sasha Saharov, UNSW graduate, former President of UNSW Sports Association and Lexcen Scholar

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES ...

School of Design Studies Senior Lecturer Allan Walpole (middle rear) with COFA students outside the SOCOG Ceremonies workshop at Redfern.



It'll Be Right On The Night!

COFA at the Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Students from the College of Fine Arts are currently involved in the production of the props and costumes for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Olympic Games.

The epithet 'The Greatest Show on Earth' must surely apply to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of an Olympic Games — and the ceremonies of the Sydney Olympic Games will be no exception. As the blurb for the SOCOG Work Placement/Volunteer Program says — 'these ceremonies will provide the biggest production challenge this country has ever seen'. The largest challenge is to present a spectacle that is on budget and more than just right on the night.

In response to an urgent call for assistance from SOCOG CEREMONIES students from COFA are involved in an operation whose secrecy rivals that of the Pentagon during the Cold War. Everyone is asking — what will the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2000 Olympics look like? Some students from the School of Design Studies in the College of Fine Arts know but they are not telling. Sworn to secrecy these students report daily to the SOCOG CEREMONIES workshops at Redfern. Here they toil side by side with the cream of Australian designers to develop and realise the magic that will enchant the world on 15 September and 1 October.

True to their professional education the Bachelor of Design students keep 'mum' about what the ceremonies will look like and only exclaim, 'wonderful, stupendous, fabulous' when 'pumped' for information. What the design students will divulge is their delight in working alongside design luminaries such as Collette Dinnigan, Jenny Kee, Eamon D'Arcy and Ric Birch. For SOCOG has gathered together the best Australian design practitioners to ensure the biggest showcase for Australian 'can do' does just that. Clearly, nowhere else would any design student be able to access such a gathering of the depth and breadth of the Australian design world. Nor for a long time will there be such an opportunity for our budding designers to observe the practice of so many success stories of the Australian design world in one place. For the seven students from the Bachelor of Design such an exhilarating experience can only come once in their design education.

The interdisciplinary process required to integrate costume, props, sets, lighting and choreography is one our students know well. Vanessa Caldwell, Katrina Carter, David Cook, Debra Gardner, Lisa Lam, Karen Sutherland and Annette Vandenberg are completing the Professional experience component of their degree in a manner that reflects the philosophy of the Bachelor of Design — 'Design is One'. All of these design students have found themselves practising the range of graphic, spatial and form making skills they have learned in their degree in the context of the 'real thing'.

Other UNSW students are also involved with Opening Ceremony preparations. Students from UNSW's dance program have been assisting the choreographers with preparations for the Opening Ceremony. In addition, between now and September over 30 COFA students will engage in the process of producing a show that Australia and the world won't easily forget. The mix of skills, creativity and enthusiasm these UNSW students bring to the production process will bear significantly on how right the greatest show on earth will be on the night.

[contributed by Allan Walpole, COFA]

Professor Helen Lenskyj, Visiting Scholar

Helen Jefferson Lenskyj was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Olympic Studies from February to June 2000. She is a Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, Canada, where she has taught since 1986. Professor Lenskyj has just completed her fourth book, titled *Inside the Olympic Industry: Power, Politics and Activism*, which will be published by State University of New York Press in September, 2000.



Inside the Olympic Industry presents a critical analysis of the politics of Olympic bids and preparations since the 1970s from the perspective of those adversely affected by the social, economic, political and environmental impacts of hosting an Olympic Games. The resistance efforts of international anti-Olympic and watchdog organisations, whose activities are generally under-reported and under-researched, are at the centre of this analysis. Professor Lenskyj prefers the term 'industry' to 'movement' because she believes that, despite the powerful rhetoric, most aspects of the Olympics are organised to maximise profit rather than to promote the welfare of individuals or groups engaged in sport as healthy and fulfilling human activity.

Professor Lenskyj's current research focuses on Sydney 2000 Olympic preparations, including not only the construction of venues and infrastructure, but, more importantly, the underlying issues of social justice: the legislative threat to human rights, Aboriginal concerns, housing and homelessness, environmental impacts, citizen participation in decision-making, freedom of the press, academic freedom, and so forth. In addition to documentary sources and discussions with specialists in the field, she is consulting with key people in the environment movement, the social services, community organisations, Aboriginal groups and many others.

Busy Program For Visiting Olympic Scholar

Professor Bruce Kidd will have a busy few weeks in Sydney during September 2000. He will be a member of the UNSW Panel of International Olympic Scholars. He will also speak at the Centre's Marathon Breakfast on 24 September. Bruce and his partner, Phyllis Burke, are also among some thirteen scholars commissioned to write the Post-Games Report. Bruce and Phyllis between them will write reports on all seventeen days of the Games.

Professor Kidd has had a distinguished career both as an Olympic athlete and an Olympic scholar. He competed for Canada in the 5,000 metres in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Two years before he won the gold medal for this distance at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Perth. As an athlete, Bruce was twice elected Canada's Male Athlete of the Year by Canadian Press (1961 and 1962). He is a member of the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame (as both an athlete and a builder) and the University of Toronto Sports Hall of Fame.

Professor Kidd is Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health at the University of Toronto. He teaches and has written extensively about the history and political economy of the Olympic Movement and Canadian sport.

Professor Kidd has been involved in the Olympic Movement for most of his adult life. He has participated in the Games as an athlete (track and field, 1964), journalist (1976), he has contributed to the arts and culture programs, and he has also worked as a social scientist. Throughout his long involvement, he has constantly sought to educate sportspersons, decision-makers, and members of the public about the broad humanitarian ideals of the Olympic Movement, and the aspirations for education through sports.

A member of the Canadian Olympic Association since 1981, he was a founding member and chair of the Olympic Academy of Canada, a week-long residential leadership development program, from 1983 to 1993. He has lectured at the International Olympic Academy, and Olympic Academies in Alberta, Ontario, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States, and given countless public talks on the Olympic Movement.

Professor Kidd was a member of the Toronto Ontario Olympic Council that bid for the 1996 Olympics, and currently chairs the Legacy and Community Enhancement Committee of the Toronto bid for the 2008 Olympics.

Professor Kidd has served on the boards of a number of local, national and international bodies dealing with sport, including the International Council of Sport Sciences and Physical Education, the International Campaign Against Apartheid Sport, the Stadium Corporation of Ontario, the Canadian Sport Development Program and WomenSport International. He is currently Co-chair of the Working Group on an Alternative Dispute Resolution System for Canadian Sport, appointed by the Minister of State for Amateur Sport.

In 1997, the Canadian Sports Awards created the Bruce Kidd Award to honour an outstanding national team athlete who has given significant leadership to sports.

Marathon Breakfast, Sunday 24 September, from 7.30 am

The Centre for Olympic Studies will join with WOMENSPORT and RECREATION NSW to host a breakfast to celebrate the women's marathon which will pass by UNSW twice.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Bruce Kidd

Professor Kidd will explore the symbolic, social, and athletic history of the Olympic marathon as one of the most powerfully affirming events of the modern Games, one which has dramatised the aspirations of the disadvantaged and powerless for a fairer share of social resources. While more people have entered the 100 metres, ever since the first Coubertin Games in Athens in 1896, it has been the marathon which historically provided the greatest opportunities for men — and subsequently women — from the colonial and developing countries to shine, and bring honour to their countries.

The remarkable and popular victory of the Greek athlete, Spiridon Louis, also helped establish the reputation of the marathon as a memorable event. Professor Kidd will also explore how the widening interest in the Olympic marathon — the social basis of performance — has transformed the race. He will also recall and relish some of the most famous Olympic marathons as great races.

Professor Kidd, in front of a statue of Paavo Nurmi, the great distance runner from Finland, immediately before the start of the 1982 Helsinki Marathon.



OLYMPIC EVENTS ...

HANDOVER CEREMONY OF VALUABLE BID BOOKS

A handover ceremony was held on 1 June at the Centre for Olympic Studies Library when the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Fell received fourteen bid books on behalf of the Centre from Australian IOC member, Mr Phil Coles AM. This collection consists of eight bid books for the 2004 Games (Buenos Aires [Argentina], Cape Town [South Africa], Istanbul [Turkey], Rio de Janeiro [Brazil], Rome [Italy], Seville [Spain], St Petersburg [Russia], Stockholm [Sweden]) and another six for the 2006 Games (Helsinki [Finland], Klagenfurt [Austria], Poprad-Tatry [Slovakia], Sion [Switzerland], Turin [Italy] and Zakopane [Poland]). The Director of the Centre Richard Cashman commented: 'this valuable donation will enhance the research collection of the Centre. It will be very useful for scholars undertaking research on the bid system in particular and host cities in general. This donation will encourage other people to make donations of important Olympic documents to the Centre.' Mr Coles launched the Centre for Olympic Studies on 21 May 1996.



Left. Mr Coles handing over a bid book to the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Fell.

Right. Mr Coles speaking at the handover ceremony. The bid books are displayed on the table beside Mr Coles.

REPORT TO RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE IOC

The Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies, Associate Professor Richard Cashman, was invited to Lausanne to make a presentation at the Research Council of the International Olympic Committee on 29 March 2000. He was asked to report



IOC President Samaranch studies the 1998/99 Annual Report of the UNSW Centre for Olympic Studies which has been presented to him by Richard Cashman at the Volunteers Conference, Lausanne, November 1999. Professor Miquel de Moragas (centre), Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, watches the event. The two Centres have signed an agreement to collaborate in various ways.

on activities planned for scholars from the various universities in Sydney and the activities of the Centre for Olympic Studies in particular at the time of the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The Research Council of the IOC consists of key personnel from the Olympic Museum and the Olympic Studies Centre there: Mrs Françoise Zweifel, the Director of the Museum, Ms Nuria Puig, Head of the Olympic Studies Centre, and other personnel including the heads of various departments: the archives, the library and the collection of images. The Research Council also consists of seven international scholars, who are each appointed for a period of four years.

The Research Council was impressed with the scope of preparations for scholars at the Sydney Olympics. Olympic Museum Librarian, Yoo-Mi Steffen, commented that there had been more academic Olympic publications before the Sydney Olympics than for any previous Games.

UNSW UNIGYM HOST MINI OLYMPICS



UNSW UNIGYM and Kensington Public School have been working together to formulate a Mini Olympics. Children will train in a variety of sports including gymnastics, hockey, athletics, basketball and swimming with the help of UNIGYM

sports coaches and with the use of UNIGYM sporting facilities. At the conclusion of the two-month training schedule, Kensington Public students will participate in a round robin sporting carnival modelled on the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The event has received applause from the 'School Sport 2000 trust' offering the school a small grant to help fund the project.

UNSW UNIGYM offers a choice of more than 40 sports per week to more than 1,000 local school children, including Kensington Public School. In an ever increasing sedentary society, with more than 50 per cent of Australian children overweight it is refreshing to know that Kensington Public School are committed to their exercise and enthusiastic about the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

UNSW UNIGYM strives to build positive working relationships with the local schools and members of the community. Strong community support of sport, exercise, fitness and recreation have a positive 'impact' for the University, and the children of our local area. Good luck to Kensington students in their Mini Olympics!

[contributed by Simone Rae]

WORLD RECORD AT UNSW POOL!

When Michael Wenden swam the first lap in the UNSW pool on 1 March 1980 it is believed that he created a world record. Because a boom had not been placed in the pool Wenden swam 51 metres rather than 50 metres. It is almost certain that no one has ever swum 51 metres faster than did Michael Wenden on that day.

TICKETS FOR THE PARALYMPICS ARE EASY TO OBTAIN!

Tickets for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games are currently on sale through the Sydney 2000 Games Information line 1300 364 024. Tickets are being sold on a first in, first served basis. To secure the best seats you need to be quick. The Paralympic Games Ticket Schedule (below) will enable you to select your preferred sessions. Call 1300 364 024 to purchase your tickets. Payment can be made using VISA (preferred card of the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games), cheque or money order (made payable to SPOC Ticketing, PO Box 670, Broadway, NSW 2007), or MasterCard. Tickets will be forwarded at a later date.

Tickets are now available for the Opening Ceremony at Stadium Australia on 18 October 2000. Category A seats, \$170; B, \$105; C, \$60. The Opening Ceremony will start at 8 pm and conclude at 11 pm. Singer, actor, entertainer Kylie Minogue heads a line-up of exceptional international and Australian talent. Ms Minogue will be joined by Yothu Yindi, Vanessa Amorosi, Taxiride, Christine Anu, Billy Thorpe, Graeme Connors and Jeff St. John. The evening's entertainment will be narrated by internationally-acclaimed Australian actor, Bryan Brown.

The Closing Ceremony on 29 October 2000 will be from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Category A tickets, \$70; B, \$45; C, \$30.

OTHER TICKETS

A Day Pass, to all venues, 19-29 October, is only \$15 (adult) and \$8 (concession).

Reserved Seating Pass will guarantee a seat for selected finals, including popular events such as wheelchair basketball, tennis and swimming. This Pass includes Day Pass access to any other sports session on that day.

RESERVED SEATING

[Please Note: All information is subject to change. There are additional final sessions for athletics, powerlifting and swimming which do not offer reserved seating.]

- Athletics finals, 28 October, Stadium Australia, \$25
- Basketball (wheelchair) Women's Finals, 27 October, SuperDome, \$25
- Basketball (wheelchair) Men's Finals, 27 October, SuperDome, \$25
- Football Finals, 29 October, State Hockey Centre, \$25
- Goalball Finals, 29 October, Pavilion 2, \$25
- Powerlifting Finals, 28 October, Downes Pavilion, \$25
- Swimming Finals, 28 October, International Aquatic Centre, \$25
- Tennis, Women's Singles and Men's Doubles Finals, 27 October, TennisCentre, \$25
- Tennis, Men's Singles and Women's Doubles Finals, 28 October, TennisCentre, \$25
- Volleyball (sitting) Finals, 28 October, Pavilion 3, \$25
- Wheelchair Rugby Finals, 29 October, The Dome, \$25

GETTING TO THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

Travel to Paralympic sessions is free on the Paralympic Games transport system for holders of Paralympic tickets on the day the ticket is valid. The Paralympic transport system comprises the CityRail suburban rail system, the Homebush Bay regional bus

routes, and shuttle buses connecting from selected CityRail stations to the cycling, equestrian and shooting venues. The Homebush Bay regional bus routes will operate on the five days of peak spectator demand - 18, 21, 22, 28 and 29 October 2000. Further information about accessible public transport will be available mid year,

PARKING

No general spectator parking is available at Sydney Olympic Park.

Limited free accessible parking will be available for people with a disability at Sydney Olympic Parkland the track cycling, shooting and equestrian (Park 'n' Ride) venues. A Paralympic Games ticket valid for that day and a valid Mobility Parking Scheme authority (RTA sticker or equivalent) are required. At Sydney Olympic Park, pre-booking is essential — call 13 61 00, fax (02) 9254 2940 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.au

[Extracts from SOCOG website: <http://www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/>]

PROGRAM

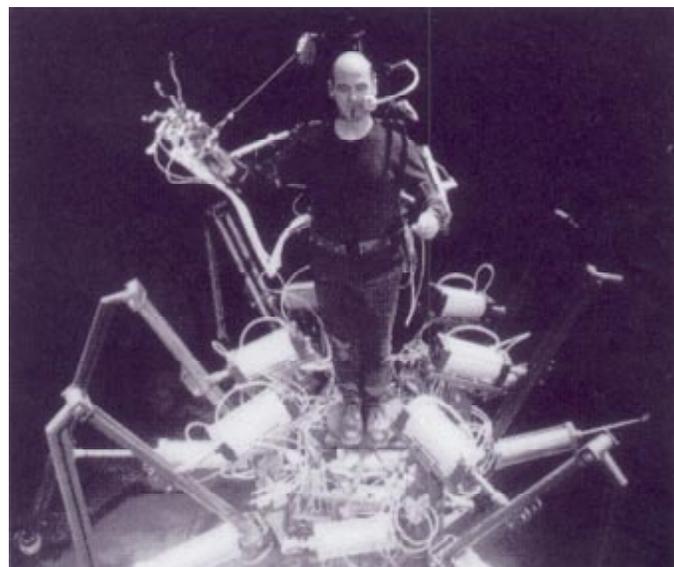
CULTURAL OLYMPIAD AT UNSW

BODY LANGUAGE: art, sport and the cyber conversation. 17 August – 21 October

An official component of the Olympic Arts Festival, this provocative exhibition features the work of four Australian artists at the cutting edge of digital technology — Paula Dawson, John E. Hughes, Rosemary Laing and Stelarc. Using Holographic, photographic, virtual and cyborg technologies, these artists explore the visual and sometimes technological limits of human potential. An illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition catalogue.

- **Curator:** Felicity Fenner
- **Exhibition Talk:** 1 pm, Thursday 18 August
- **Exhibition drinks and Stelarc performance:** Friday 25 August, 6-9 pm
- **Please call the gallery for details** (02) 9385 0726
- **E-mail** ldg@unsw.edu.au

Stelarc EXOSKELETON Cybeorg Frictions Dampffzentrale, Bern 1999 (with F 18 Dickmann Enterprises)



TARYN WOODS - ASPIRING OLYMPIAN

Taryn Woods, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts at UNSW hopes to get selected in the highly-ranked Australian women's water polo at the Sydney Olympics. If selected she will have the unique opportunity to be part of the first women's Olympic water polo competition. For while men have competed in this event since 1900, women have only just been admitted.



Water polo has long played a large role in her family and Karen noted that 'I have been watching water polo all my life'. Her father, David, represented Australia in water polo in three Olympic Games in 1968, 1972 and 1976 while younger brother, Gavin, is also hopeful of selection in the water polo team at the Sydney Olympics. If both are successful this would be a unique family achievement.

Taryn first played water polo when she was asked by coach, Brad Palmer, to join the team at high school. 'I played in the school team, enjoyed it and then decided to take it more seriously', she said. She first played in the Australian women's water polo team in 1992 and was a member of the Australian team that won the World Cup in 1994. She has also played two seasons in Italy and has competed in many other competitions.

The inclusion of women's water polo in the Olympics has, according to Taryn, 'made a difference'. 'Some additional funding has allowed a more professional team training approach to the game', she said. 'Back in 1994 a lot of training was up to the individual. We were rarely given the opportunity to train together. It was very hard to compete with other teams. It was tough, but things are different now. This new coach we've had since 1998 will take us through to the Olympics,' she added.

Taryn and the team are currently training at Kawana Waters on the Sunshine Coast. Taryn has high hopes that consistent team training, coupled with solid experience will bring about good results. 'Experience in playing high-pressure games has got to mean a lot - this definitely gives us a good medal chance', she said.

During the 1990s the Australian women's water polo team ranked consistently in the top three positions in the world. Women's water polo was not included in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic program. The Australian team, competed in an 'Olympic Year' competition, when the team came third. In September 2000 the Australian women's water polo team — possibly with Taryn and another UNSW graduate Liz Weekes — may even go one or two steps better.

[contributed by Karen O'Brien]

LARS KLEPPICH - OLYMPIAN

Lars Kleppich, aged 32, is at the peak of his form in the Olympic sailboard event. He is the current world champion windsurfer.

Lars was born at the harbourside suburb of Drummoyne, his parents having migrated from Germany. He discovered sailing at the tender age of six and enjoyed sailing in small boats as a teenager and competed in small dinghies at Dobroyd Aquatic Club.

After the first sailboard was imported to Australia in 1976, a friend introduced him to windsurfing in 1982. Seduced by the freedoms of windsurfing, he soon left the trailer and boat behind and put his sailboard under his arm and headed for the water. Lars gravitated rapidly from state to national competitions. He first competed internationally in 1988 when he was placed third. He then attempted to qualify for the 1988 Olympics competing on a borrowed board in the trials. Although he missed selection in the Australian team when he finished second in the trials, this experience whetted his appetite for future Olympic competition.

Lars completed his degree in Commerce at UNSW in 1988. His degree helped him to obtain work necessary to support his other career in windsurfing. 'I had to work for two years and then train for two years. This has been the pattern,' he said. 'University of New South Wales helped me obtain a graduate place with Unilever in 1990'.

He prepared himself with great thoroughness for the 1992 Atlanta Olympics. His commitment paid off when he achieved a bronze medal in the sailboard event. Winning this medal was a 'fantastic feeling' and 'the high point of his life'. After the exhilaration of 1992 there was 'the huge low' of 1996 when he failed to gain Olympic selection. 'The timing was wrong. Only one person is selected to represent Australia, but those are the rules,' he said, philosophically. After the Atlanta Games Lars resumed full-time training with spectacular results: he won seven of the nine events in which he competed. 1999 proved 'a really good year': he became world champion and won selection for the Sydney Olympics.

Lars is now following a rigorous training pattern coached, ironically, by Brendan Todd, the same person who represented Australia in sailboard at the 1996 Olympics. Their teamwork and relationship, Lars noted, is 'strong'.

Sailboarding, Lars noted, is an art and a discipline: 'it is how you use the wind and water that is important. Windsurfing is a discipline of sailing. It is knowing how to understand the moods of the wind and using it to your advantage. All these factors build up expertise over the years — experience counts.'

2000 has already been an eventful years for Lars. A 'beautiful daughter' Grace was born to Lars and his wife Karen on 13 March. 'Her birth has changed my life', he said. Will this year also be equally memorable for Lars Kleppich in the Olympics?

[contributed by Karen O'Brien]

