NEW BOOK (JULY 2008)

Benchmark Games: The Sydney Paralympic Games

Richard Cashman and Simon Darcy (edi
With a Foreword by Karen Tighe
Published in conjunction with the Aust Centre for Olympic Studies
Walla Walla Press (July 2008)

Hardback, illustrations, notes, bibliogr index

$AUD49.95 plus postage

How to order your copy:

Benchmark Games is unique as there has been no previous study of an individual Paralympic Games. The book documents and analyses the new benchmarks that were set at the time of the successful Sydney Paralympic Games. Benchmark Games explores many questions about the appeal of the Games to the community and disability sport, and the place of the disability community in Australian life.

This book gives a wonderful insight into the background and running of the Sydney Paralympic Games and the legacy it has left (Karen Tighe, Foreword).

Chapters

PART 1: BECHMARKS BEFORE 2000
1. Introduction (Richard Cashman and Simon Darcy)
2. The evolution of the Paralympic Games (Ian Brittain)
3. Paralympic benchmarks before 2000 (Richard Cashman)

PART 2: THE SYDNEY 2000 PARALYMPIC GAMES
4. The benchmark Games (Richard Cashman)
5. Paralympic planning (Simon Darcy)
6. Media and representation (Richard Cashman and Dominique Tremblay)
7. Community (Richard Cashman and Alana Thomson)
8. The delivery of sport (Richard Cashman)
9. Infrastructure (Simon Darcy)
10. The athletes village (Tony Sainsbury)
11. The inclusion and exclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability (Anne Jobling, Ian Jobling and Hayley Fitzgerald)

PART 3: LEGACY
12. Impacts—national and international impacts (Simon Darcy and Richard Cashman)
13. Paralympic research agendas (Simon Darcy and Richard Cashman)

Epilogue

CONFERENCES

OLYMPIC PRECINCTS CONFERENCE, 22 Oct 2008

The Australian Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney will join with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) to present a one day conference on 22 October 2008 at Sydney Olympic Park on the subject of ‘Creating and capitalising on Olympic precincts—the lessons of the Games: The Case of Sydney Olympic Park’.

This event will be part of Metropolis 2008 which is being organised by the New South Wales Government from 22-25 October 2008 and is expected to attract 1000 delegates. Metropolis is the congress of the World Association of Major Metropolises representing about 80 of the world’s key cities. SOPA is a sponsoring Partner of this event.


SPORT, RACE and ETHNICITY:
BUILDING A GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING, 30 Nov - 2 Dec 2008

The School of Leisure, Sport and Tourism at UTS Kuring-gai, with partners the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, together with the support of the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies research centre (UTS) and the Australian Centre for Olympic Studies, will stage a three day international conference, bringing together academics, policy makers and community representatives from around the world to discuss issues of sport and diversity, with a special focus on themes of ‘race’, indigeneity and ethnicity. The emphasis here is with sport in a global sense, considering developments in regions as varied as Australasia, East and West Asia, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Additionally, there will be scope for
analysis of sport and diversity in localised contexts, such as Aborigines in Australia and Canada, Native Americans and Hispanics in the US, and Maori and Pacific Islanders in New Zealand. Just as significantly, there will be discussion of sport and society in cross-cultural contexts wherein themes of ‘race’, ethnicity, and religion intersect, such as among Chinese, Indian and Malaysian peoples around South-East Asia. See http://www.business.uts.edu.au/lst/sre/

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

1. Prof John Hoberman (Univ of Texas at Austin) will discuss scientific and folkloric assumptions of athletic ability according to ‘race’. His talk will focus on theories of ‘black’ athletic aptitude in the context of the evolving area of medical genetics, whether ‘scientific’ assumptions of ‘racial’ capability are actually convincing, and the likely future of ‘race politics’ in light of science-race discourses in sport. His best known publication is Darwin’s Athletes: How Sport Has Damaged Black America and Preserved the Myth of Race, Houghton Mifflin, New York, 1997.

2. Prof John Sugden (Univ of Brighton, UK) will speak about the role of sport in conflict resolution, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence between rival ethnic and religious groups in Northern Ireland and the Middle East. These are regions where innovative sport programs are part of challenging, yet promising initiatives to try to break down longstanding hostility between historically antagonistic communities. His publications include J. Sugden and J. Wallis (eds), Football for Peace: Teaching and Playing Sport for Conflict Resolution in the Middle East, Meyer & Meyer, Aachen, 2007.

3. Dr Kevin Hylton (Leeds Metropolitan Univ, UK) will deliver a paper that emphasises the value of theoretically informed practical efforts to address problems associated with racial discrimination in sport. Specifically, he will consider how a turn to critical race theory can contribute to a better understanding and theorising of ‘race’, racism and antiracism in sport. In this session Dr Hylton will focus on the inconsistencies, contradictions and pragmatics of theory and practice in sport. He is the author of the much anticipated Critical Race Theory and Sport, Routledge, London, which will be published in July 2008.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Daryl Adair was interviewed about Olympic history and politics by S-Press, a magazine circulated to students and teachers in schools nationally. See 6 -12 May edition, p.23.

Daryl Adair will deliver a paper entitled “Ideology & politics at the Olympic Games: an historical overview” to the Sydney Democracy Forum, Univ of Sydney, 19 September 2008; and subsequently to the conference Rights, Reconciliation, Respect, Responsibility, Univ of Technology Sydney, 30 Sept - 3 Oct 2008.

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC GRADUATE FELLOW

Mr Hiromasa Shirai, October - December 2008

Mr Shirai, who has been appointed ACOS Graduate Fellow for 2008, will conduct research on the legacy of Sydney Olympic Park during his visit to Sydney in the last few months of 2008. Mr Shirai, an accredited architect, is a PhD candidate in the school of urban sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He will present a paper at the conference on Olympic precincts (see above).

BEIJING BOOKS

The Beijing Olympics publishing frenzy is in full swing. Some recent titles are listed below. The ACOS on-line bibliography, which now runs to over 2000 entries, provides details of these and numerous other articles and book chapters on the Beijing Games.


ACOS on-line bibliography can be found at: http://www.business.uts.edu.au/olympic/online_bibliography.html

OLYMPIC GAMES: POWERPOINT FILES

In the second edition of Kristine Toohey and Tony Veal's book, The Olympic Games: A Social Science Perspective, published in 2007, a promise was made to provide a set of PowerPoint files for the use in teaching associated with the book. The files are now beginning to be uploaded and can be found under 'Toohey and Veal' at: www.business.uts.edu.au/lst/books. There is one file for each of the 11 chapters in the book, including copies of the tables and graphics in the book, together with dot-point lists.
EVENT and OLYMPIC STUDIES ON-LINE COLLECTION

On 1 July, at a ceremony at the Graduate School of Business, UTS Haymarket, the Event and Olympic Studies On-line Collection was launched. This is an initiative of The Australian Centre for Event Management (ACEM) at UTS, with the support of ACOS. The collection contains Event and Olympic manuals, reports, memorabilia, archival records and documents as well as the latest scholarly and industry publications in the area of major public events and the Olympic Games.
For access, see http://www.acem.uts.edu.au/resources/

UTS PARALYMPIC PAPERS - SMAANZ CONFERENCE, Nov 2008

Media Representation, Disability and Sport: The case of the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

Paper 1
“The media and Sydney 2000 Paralympics” - Simon Darcy and Richard Cashman.

Paper 2
“Newspaper coverage and representation of disability at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics” - Alana Thomson and Simon Darcy.

Paper 3
“Television coverage of sport, gender, disability and classification at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics” - Christoph Hechelmann and Simon Darcy.