

OLYMPIC



GAMES



HERITAGE  
EVENT  
SERIES

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# OLYMPIC GAMES

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# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC GAMES

**Name:** Olympic Games  
**Started:** Circa 776BC (*Before Christ*)  
**Country:** Peloponnesos, Greece  
**Banned:** 393AD  
**Started:** 1896 in Athens, Greece

The Olympic Games is a National Sporting Event involving over 250 countries. It is the largest and most prestigious sporting event on the world calendar and is held in a different country every four years.



Australian Ray Weinberg competing at an Olympic Games.  
*Courtesy Ray Weinberg, 2014.*

The Olympic Games is thought to have started around 776BC (over 2,700 years ago) in ancient Greece, was dedicated to the Ancient Greek God 'Zeus' and was located on the plain of Olympia in Greece. Olympia was dominated by the beautiful and majestic Temple of Zeus and the Temple of Hera. The first games had only one event which was a running race. This race was only run by men and all competitors ran with no clothes. Women were unable to compete in the original Olympic Games. Single women were allowed to attend and watch the sports whereas married women were not permitted.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC GAMES

The winner of this original competition had a wreath (head dress) made from olive branches placed on his head.

The four year break between each Olympic Games started from the first Olympic Games, and was known as an Olympiad. The four year gap continued for 1,170 years. During this time the games continued to grow with sports constantly added. The ancient Olympic Games were banned by Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II in the year 393AD.



Over 1,500 years later, French educator and sportsman - Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin (1863-1937) revived the Olympic Games. It was an all men's Olympic Games and was held in Athens, Greece in 1896. The first winter Olympic Games was held in Chamonix, France in 1924.

### **The Olympic Flag**

The Olympic flag was first used in 1920 during the Antwerp Games in Belgium. It was designed by Baron de Coubertin around 1913. His design of five interlocking rings (blue, yellow, black, green and red) is symbolic of the five world continents coming together in peace.

The flag is paraded during the opening ceremony of each Olympic Games, and at the end of each games, the flag is presented to the next city who has been awarded the honour of hosting the following games.

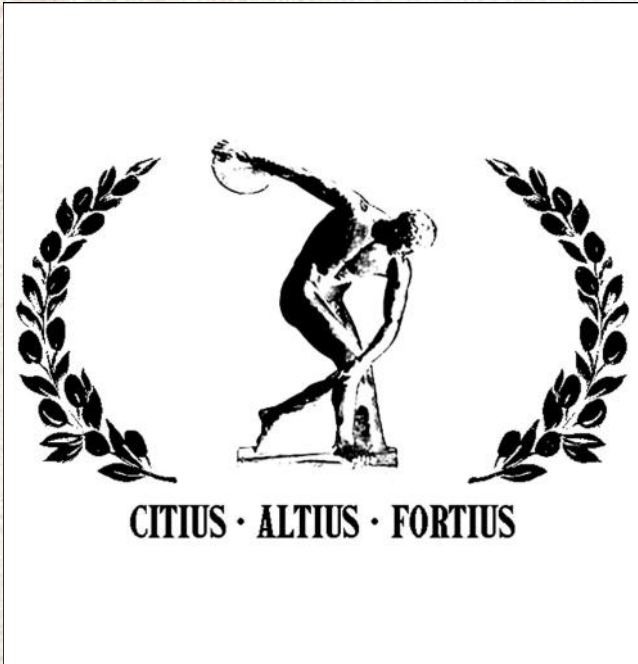
### **The Olympic Torch**

The torch relay is a relatively new Olympic tradition, first seen in the lead-up to the start of the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC GAMES



### **The Olympic Flame.**

Like the Olympic Flag, the Olympic Flame also symbolises the Olympic Games. Unlike the flag, the tradition of the flame commenced during the ancient Greek games, over 2,700 years ago. It symbolises the death and rebirth of Greek heroes. In the lead-up to each new modern Olympics, a flame is lit in the ancient Olympic stadium in Olympia, Elis, in Greece. The flame is lit by the use of a parabolic mirror that focuses the rays of the sun onto a small spot. Once lit, the flame is transported (while still burning) to the country that has been awarded the right to host the current Olympic Games.

### **The Olympic Motto**

The Olympic Motto is: "Citius, Altius, Fortius" - "*Swifter, Higher, Stronger.*"

### **The Olympic Hymn**

The Olympic Hymn is played as the Olympic Flag is raised. It was composed by Spyros Samaras, with the words written by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic Hymn was first played during the opening of the Athens Olympic Games in 1896. It was declared the official hymn by the IOC in 1957.

The first three place holders in the finals are awarded medals: First place holders receive a gold medal, second place holders receive a silver medal, and those who come in third receive a bronze medal. The bronze medal was introduced in 1904. Each city designs their own medals and Victory Diplomas (certificates) which are also given to the first, second and third place holders.

### **Competition**

The Olympic Games runs for 16 days, plus the opening and closing ceremonies. During the 16 days of competition, all heats and finals must be concluded. Over 300 events covering 26 sports are concluded during that time.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

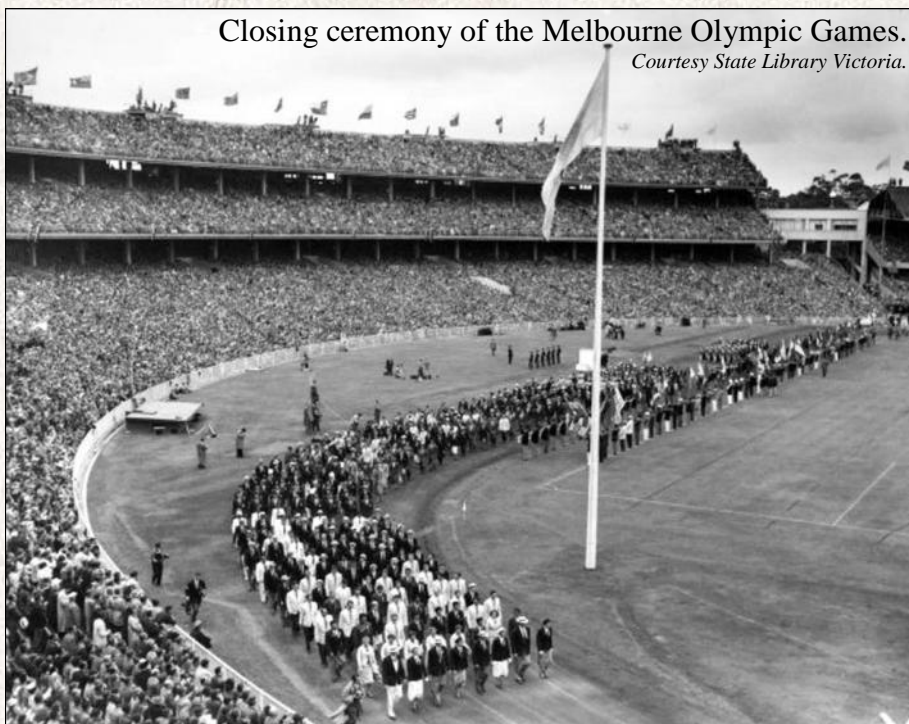
## OLYMPIC GAMES

### **Australian Olympics**

There have been two Australian Olympic Games, Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000. The Melbourne Olympic Games were known as the 'Games of the XVI Olympiad'. All events were held in Victoria with the exception of the Equestrian events, which were held in Sweden due to Australian quarantine regulations.

The Sydney Olympic Games were known as the 'Games of the XXVII Olympiad'. It was only the second time that the Olympic Games have been held in the Southern Hemisphere. The Sydney Olympics was considered one of the best events ever held on the World Stage.

Today's modern Olympic Games have been marred by illegal drug and steroid use. Stringent controls have been put in place to ensure competitors compete on an even playing field.



Closing ceremony of the Melbourne Olympic Games.

*Courtesy State Library Victoria.*



### **Paralympic Games**

The Paralympics is a national sporting event run directly after the Summer Olympics in the same city. The competitors all share a range of physical and intellectual disability, including mobility issues, amputations, blindness and cerebral palsy. The Paralympics is the second largest international sporting event in the world, behind the Olympic Games.

## OLYMPIAN EDWIN FLACK

### Australia's first Olympian

Edwin Flack was born in London, though migrated with his family to Australia when he was five years of age. The family lived in Berwick, Melbourne where Edwin competed in local sporting events including numerous middle distance titles and the Australasian Mile Championships.



As a young man Flack began working at his father's accountancy firm 'Davey, Flack & Co'. When he was 21 years of age, he was sent to London to receive training at the accountancy firm 'Price, Waterhouse & Co'. In London, he joined the London Athletic Club and was again successful in his sporting endeavours. While in London, he learnt of the inaugural Olympic Games in Athens and became determined to attend them.

He left London 27 March 1895 and upon arriving in Athens, enrolled as a competitor for the Games. Not only did he compete, he also went on to make history as the first Australian Olympian.

His first win was in the 800m heat, which was run on the first day of competition. On the second day he convincingly won the 1500m final.

A keen tennis player, he played tennis on the third day of competition. Despite losing, he again played tennis in the morning of the fourth day, also losing. That afternoon he competed in and won the 800m final, finishing in two minutes and ten seconds.

Lastly, Edwin competed in the marathon, a race he had never run or trained for. He ran exceedingly well and even led the marathon for a 4km section. His legs gave way on him around the 34km point and he collapsed not long after. Even though he had lost the Marathon, he had won the hearts of the crowds, and became fondly known as the "Lion of Athens" for his determination and courage.



## OLYMPIAN EDWIN FLACK

### THE OLYMPIC GAMES

AN INTERESTING REVIVAL.

MEETING AT ATHENS.

A FOOT-RACE WON BY A  
VICTORIAN.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

At an international congress held at Paris in 1894 it was decided to revive the Olympic games of ancient Greece, which were held every four years on the banks of the Alpheus, near Olympia, in the Peloponnesus.

The first series of games was opened yesterday at Athens by His Majesty King George of Greece.

Great interest was taken in the event, and there was an enormous attendance, estimated at 70,000 persons.

The first heat of the foot race for 800 metres (about half a mile) was won by Flack, the well-known Victorian amateur athlete and champion harrier. The time was 2min. 10sec.

[The revived Olympic games are to be held every four years at one of the European capitals, and the next meeting will be held at Paris in the year 1900.]

The Argus  
Wednesday 8 April 1896  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Edwin Flack, was Australia's first Olympian.

*Courtesy National Library Australia.*

### THE OLYMPIC GAMES

FOOTRACING AT ATHENS.

FLACK WINS THE HALF-MILE  
FINAL HEAT.

LONDON, APRIL 10.

The Olympic games were continued yesterday at Athens.

Flack, the Victorian amateur, who won the first heat of the foot race for 800 metres (about half a mile) in 2min. 10sec., proved victorious in the final heat.

[On the second day of the meeting Flack won the race of 1,500 metres (nearly a mile) in 4min. 33sec.]

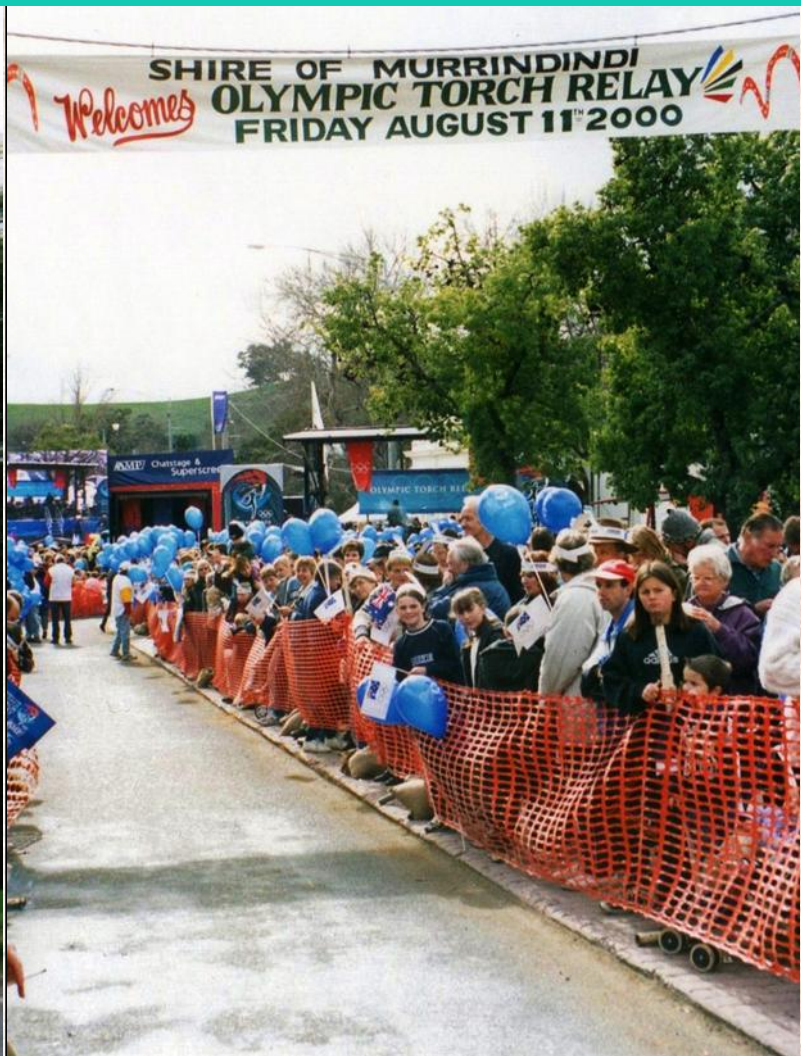
The Argus  
Thursday 9 April 1896  
Courtesy National Library Australia



- SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY, ALEXANDRA -



Tom Pritchett





Victorian school children in Newport, Melbourne holding the 2000 Olympic Torch.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTERESTING FACTS

- ◇ The IOC (International Olympic Committee) always gives the honour of holding the Olympic Games to a city instead of a country.
- ◇ James B. Connolly (from the United States of America) was the winner of the hop, step and jump during the 1896 Olympic Games. In winning, he became the first Olympic Champion of the modern Olympic Games.
- ◇ Australia has attended all of the Summer Olympic Games. This includes the 1980 Olympic Games, held in Russia, which was boycotted by 65 countries, including the United States of America. The boycott was because of the Soviet war in Afghanistan.
- ◇ During the opening ceremony of each Olympic Games, the Greek team is the first team to march in the opening parade. All other teams march in alphabetical order.
- ◇ Our first Australian Olympian was Edwin Flack of Melbourne, Victoria. He helped raise awareness of the games and introduced Australia to them.
- ◇ Swimmer Michael Phelps won the most gold medals in Olympic history with 14 gold medals (six in 2004 and eight in 2008).
- ◇ In the Ancient Olympics, first place holders received a silver meal and an olive branch. Second place holders received a bronze medal and third place holders received nothing.
- ◇ The first Winter Olympic Games was held in Chamonix, France in 1924.
- ◇ All of the competing countries flags are represented in the colours of the Olympic Flag (gold, blue, red, green, black and the white background).

## INTERESTING FACTS

- ◇ As of 2014, the youngest medal winner was a ten year old gymnast who won a bronze medal. The oldest was a 72 year old shooter who won a silver medal.
- ◇ Athletes often train in a gymnasium. The word gymnasium is derived from the Greek word "Gymnos" which means 'naked'. This is fitting as the first Olympic runners ran in the nude.
- ◇ In 1936 the Olympic Games was telecast on television for the first time. There was an estimated audience of 150,000 people.
- ◇ The last solid gold medal to be given out at an Olympics competition was at the 1912 games held at Stockholm, Sweden. Since then, all gold medals are made of sterling silver with only a coating of pure gold (weighing around 6grams).
- ◇ The Silver medal is made of an alloy comprising mainly of tin and copper and is valued at under \$6.00 Australian dollars.
- ◇ Athletes who win a Gold medal at the Sochi Winter Olympic Games on the 15th February 2014 will receive a Gold medal impregnated with tiny fragments taken from the Chelyabinsk meteorite. The meteorite exploded over the Russian city of Chelyabinsk on 15 February 2013 causing widespread damage and injuring over 1,400 people. Fragments for the medals were taken from a 1.5 metre piece of rock which was recovered from Lake Chebarkul, in central Russia.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC GAMES HOSTS

### SUMMER GAMES

2020 - Tokyo, Japan  
2016 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
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2012 - London, United Kingdom  
2008 - Beijing, China  
2004 - Athens, Greece  
**2000 - Sydney, Australia**  
1996 - Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
1992 - Barcelona, Spain  
1988 - Seoul, South Korea  
1984 - Los Angeles, California, USA  
1980 - Moscow, USSR  
1976 - Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
1972 - Munich, Germany  
1968 - Mexico City, Mexico  
1964 - Tokyo, Japan  
1960 - Rome, Italy  
**1956 - Melbourne, Australia**  
1952 - Helsinki, Finland  
1948 - London, England  
*1944 - Cancelled (World War II)*  
*1940 - Cancelled (World War II)*  
1936 - Berlin, Germany  
1932 - Los Angeles, California, USA  
1928 - Amsterdam, Holland  
1924 - Paris, France  
1920 - Antwerp, Belgium  
*1916 - Cancelled (World War I)*  
1912 - Stockholm, Sweden  
1908 - London, England  
1906 - Athens, Greece  
1904 - St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
1900 - Paris, France  
1896 - Athens, Greece

### WINTER GAMES

2018 - PyeongChang, South Korea  
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2014 - Sochi, Russia  
2010 - Vancouver, Canada  
2006 - Turin, Italy  
2002 - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
1998 - Nagano, Japan  
1994 - Lillehammer, Norway  
1992 - Albertville, France  
1988 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
1984 - Sarajevo, Yugoslavia  
1980 - Lake Placid, New York, USA  
1976 - Innsbruck, Austria  
1972 - Sapporo, Japan  
1968 - Grenoble, France  
1964 - Innsbruck, Austria  
1960 - Squaw Valley, California, USA  
1956 - Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy  
1952 - Oslo, Norway  
1948 - St. Moritz, Switzerland  
*1944 - Cancelled (World War II)*  
*1940 - Cancelled (World War II)*  
1936 - Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany  
1932 - Lake Placid, New York, USA  
1928 - St. Moritz, Switzerland  
1924 - Chamonix, France



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC GAMES SPORTS

### SUMMER GAME SPORTS

Archery  
Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Beach Volleyball  
Boxing  
Canoe Slalom  
Canoe Sprint  
Cycling BMX  
Cycling Mountain Bike  
Cycling Road  
Cycling Track  
Diving  
Equestrian / Dressage  
Equestrian / Eventing  
Equestrian / Jumping  
Fencing  
Football  
Golf  
Gymnastics Artistic  
Gymnastics Rhythmic  
Handball  
Hockey  
Judo  
Modern Pentathlon  
Rowing  
Rugby  
Sailing  
Shooting  
Swimming  
Synchronized Swimming  
Table Tennis  
Taekwondo  
Tennis  
Trampoline  
Triathlon  
Volleyball  
Water Polo  
Weightlifting  
Wrestling Freestyle  
Wrestling Greco-Roman

### WINTER GAME SPORTS

Alpine Skiing  
Biathlon  
Bobsleigh  
Cross Country Skiing  
Curling  
Figure skating  
Freestyle Skiing  
Ice Hockey  
Luge  
Nordic Combined  
Short Track Speed Skating  
Skeleton  
Ski Jumping  
Snowboard  
Speed skating

# DAVY SAFETY LAMP

## MELBOURNE 1956 OLYMPIC'S MINERS LAMP

Miners lamp, used to carry  
the Olympic flame, Athens  
to Melbourne, XVI  
Olympiad.

Engraved on brass plate  
fixed to front: Gewidmet /  
Olympisches Komitee / des  
Saarlandes / 1954.

Translation of the above  
German inscription:

*'Presented by Olympic  
Committee from Saarland  
1954. Saarland is a state of  
Germany.'*

Inscribed in black ink on  
catalogue card which  
accompanies the lamp:

*'Miners Lamp in which the  
Olympic Flame, / lit on  
Mount Olympus, Greece,  
was brought by / air from  
Greece to Australia and  
was carried / down by  
Road from Cairns to  
Melbourne with / the Torch  
Relay. This lamp was  
presented to / the  
Organising Committee for  
the XVI Games 1956 by /  
the National Olympic  
Committee of the Saar. /  
Presented to the Library by  
P.W. Nette / Administrative  
Director / XVI Olympian.'*

Courtesy  
State Library Victoria.



776 - 1896



# ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΟΙ ΑΓΩΝΕΣ

*Artwork from the 1896 Olympics,  
the first in Modern History.  
Courtesy Lawrence Hood.*



LES JEUX OLYMPIQUES

ΑΘΗΝΑΙ-ΑΘΗΝΕΣ

ΚΑΡΟΛΟΣ  
Ε.





TM©

SYDNEY 2000  
OLYMPIC  
TORCH  
RELAY

PRESENTED BY

**AMP**

**2000 Torch Relay flag from the  
Alexandra torch relay.**

**Ray Weinberg was responsible for  
bringing the Torch Relay to  
Alexandra.**

*Flag courtesy Vicki Fox.*

**Tom Pritchett running with the 2000 Olympic Torch at Alexandra.**

*Courtesy Kerry Marthick*



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1956 OLYMPIC GAMES PROGRAMME

### mele mung'il to Melbourne

Olympic games to the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne will be coming to a stage last where Mele Mung'il is celebrated for welcome.

A great deal of what is taken so much for granted by Australians is, in fact, unique.

The flag and particularly the flag has no history anywhere else in the world. Australia's flag is but one of the many symbols of a nation which have derived in a unique manner.

It is not unusual, therefore, that a unique country should produce a unique symbol like it, in itself, also unique.

The Staff Company of Australia has its own "Mele Mung'il Service". This fine service is located at Staff office in all capital cities of Australia and in the major historical and tourist cities of Newcastle, Townsville, Rockhampton, Darwin and Broken Hill.

Many of the people who come from overseas for the Games will, no doubt, while they are in Australia, try to see something of the country. Some may wish to see the famous "Port Phillip", a road parallel, across the tropical north and west, the "Yankee" stretching west across the Nullarbor Plain to "Whisper, Australia" as it is called through the island of "Cape York", in the heart of the continent.

All of these places are served by one form of modern transport or another. But in the winter, the most appropriate and comfortable journey is by rail.

It is to these people that the "Mele Mung'il Service" is particularly useful. Staffed by Young Officers with exact knowledge of Australia, they can help you enjoy to the utmost your stay in this country.

To the Australian who returns to Melbourne for the 1956 Olympic Games, many information and road details are available through the "Young Officers Centre" located nearest.

In addition, the Staff Office in great numbers of cities are open for you, to co-operate with the "Mele Mung'il Service" in all the information you may require.

Various in the 1956 Games—those whom they may meet—will be interested in Australia, its cities, its people and all things Australian from the Staff Company of Australia Ltd, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Darwin, Townsville, Rockhampton, Newcastle and Broken Hill.



OLYMPIC  
GAMES



MELBOURNE  
22 Nov-8 Dec 1956



- Port Phillip Bay
1. Post Office Building
  2. Melbourne Convention Centre
  3. MCG
  4. Olympic Park
  5. Olympic Village
  6. Exhibition Building
  7. Melbourne Town Hall
  8. St. Albans
  9. St. Albans Race Club
  10. St. Albans Race Course
  11. St. Albans Race Course
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  40. St. Albans Race Course

### Australia's olympic record

Australia has been one of the most consistent supporters of the Olympic movement.

She has been represented at every Olympiad of the modern era from the first in Athens in 1896, a record shared only by Great Britain, the United States of America and Greece.

Australian have won 22 gold medals at the Games. The first winner was E. H. Mack, a Melbourne runner, who won the 800 and 1500 metres track events at the inaugural Games at Athens.

Squadron F. V. Lane, at Paris in 1920, the Australian Rugby team at London in 1948, swimmer Fanny Durack at Stockholm in 1912, and the Australian men's relay swimming team at Stockholm all won first laurels.

The coach named in 16-year-old Andrew "Boo" Charlton, winner of the 1500 metres freestyle swim at Paris in 1924, Field games star N. W. "Nick" Winter, in the hop, step and jump, and David Dick Eve, in the high tower dive, were also victors at Paris.

The brilliant Australian sculler Bobby Pearce triumphed at Amsterdam in 1928 and again at Los Angeles in 1932. The invincible swimmer Clive Denisk, and cyclist E. L. Gray also gained gold medals at Los Angeles.

At the London Games in 1948, the Australian winners and place-getters collected 13 medals. John Winter took the high jump and Murray Wood the single sculls, while other team members scored six seconds and five thirds.

Heinkel, 1952, saw Australia win more gold medals than at any previous Games. The world's fastest woman sprinter, Marjorie Jackson, won the 100 and 200 metres, Shirley Strickland the 80 metres hurdles and John Davies the 200 metres breaststroke swim. Russell Mockford captured the 1000 metres cycling time-trial and he and Lionel Cox won the tandem.

Competing in their native land in 1956, the largest Australian team yet to enter the Games will make a bid to eclipse this country's past performance.

### the ancient games

The 1956 Olympic Games will carry on a tradition dating far back beyond the birth of Christ. While the Modern Games have only a brief history of 60 years, the ancient Olympiads lasted for over eleven centuries from 776 B.C.

The festivals were held every four years in honour of Zeus, the Greek god of gods, in the valley of Olympia in south-western Greece.

They were held in such reverence that the Greeks withdrew their armies from the field of battle and peace reigned throughout the land during the festival.

They were open to all free-abiding Greeks who were free-men and who had undergone the prescribed sea voyage training, to fit them for their use.

The contests, of which the most important were the pentathlon, wrestling, boxing, the paktation, the dista, the javelin, foot-racing and chariot-racing, attracted the interest of the whole Hellenic world, from Sicily to Asia Minor.

Winners were crowned with garlands of wild olive branches and their native States or cities heaped additional honours on them.

The paktation title was one of the most coveted of all. This contest was a combination of boxing and wrestling, with kicking, striking and strangling permitted. It was a fight to the finish, decided by death or surrender.

The pentathlon consisted of jumping, foot-racing, discus, javelin and stand-up wrestling. In wrestling, the best of three falls from an upright position decided the winner. The Greeks also had ground wrestling, which continued until one of the contestants acknowledged defeat.

Boxing was decided in a similar manner. Classification by weight was unknown and it consequently became the province of heavier men. Foot-racing was over multiples of the length of the Stadium, 200 yards, and jumping was confined to broad jumps.

The Games were abolished by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, in 394 A.D.

### official programme for the 1956 olympic games

M — Morning A — Afternoon N — Night

	November							December							Venue			
	23 Thurs.	24 Fri.	25 Sat.	26 Sun.	27 Mon.	28 Tue.	29 Wed.	30 Thurs.	1 Fri.	2 Sat.	3 Sun.	4 Mon.	5 Tue.	6 Wed.		7 Thurs.	8 Fri.	9 Sat.
Opening Ceremony	A																	Main Stadium
Athletics		MA	MA		MA	MA	MA	MA	MA	MA								Main Stadium
Basketball		N	AN	MAN		MAN	AN	AN	AN	AN								Glaciarium
Fencing			MAN		MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN		MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN		St. Kilda Town Hall
Football (Soccer)			A	A	A	A	A	A	A									Olympic Park & Main Stadium
Modern Pentathlon		M	M		M	A	A											Oaklands Hunt Club & various arenas
Weight-lifting			AN	AN	AN													Exhibition Building
Boxing			N	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	N								West Melbourne Stadium
Hockey			MA	MA		MA	MA	MA	MA									Olympic Park & Main Stadium
Yachting					A	A	A	A										Port Phillip Bay
Shooting								MA	MA			MA	MA	MA				Williamstown Range & R.A.F. Station Laverton
Rowing			MA	MA	MA	A												Lake Wendouree, Ballarat
Swimming							AN	AN	AN	AN		AN	AN	AN	AN			Olympic Park & Richmond Baths
Wrestling							M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N		Exhibition Building
Cycling												AN	N	N	M			Olympic Park & Country Road Course, Scotchmansdown
Gymnastics												MA	MA	MA	MA	A		Glaciarium
Canoeing																		Lake Wendouree, Ballarat
Demonstrations																A		Main Stadium
Closing Ceremony																	A	Main Stadium

### the modern games

The Modern Olympic Games have grown, in little more than half a century, into a unique world movement, embracing people of all races and creeds.

These founder was Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French educationalist and visionary. The occasion of the birth of Olympism, the site of the ancient Greek Olympic Games, played the idea of a modern revival in his mind.

His early aim was to build up the French race through a planned athletic programme, but then his horizons broadened.

He realised that the Games could be a powerful instrument for creating international understanding and friendship.

In 1893, he issued an open letter to the world's athletic authorities, proposing a revival of the Olympic Games and called an international meeting at Paris, in 1894, to discuss the proposal.

Delegates voted unanimously for a revival of the Olympic Games and approved an International Olympic Committee, composed today of representatives from all competing nations, to supervise them.

Athens was the venue chosen appropriately for the first Olympic Games of the modern era, held in 1896.

The Games have been celebrated every four years, except in 1916, 1920 and 1944, when were interrupted. They have grown in size and influence with each new Olympiad and today 83 nations set in the Olympic movement.

Since 1896 the Games have been held in Paris, 1900; St. Louis, 1904; London, 1908; Stockholm, 1912; Antwerp, 1920; Paris, 1924; Amsterdam, 1928; Los Angeles, 1932; Berlin, 1936; London, 1948; Stockholm, 1952.

The International Olympic Committee in 1956 awarded the Games to Melbourne. This Olympiad, in a new continent and a new hemisphere, will lend further emphasis to the movement's truly international character.

## 1956 Melbourne Olympics Programme

Courtesy Peter Raymond 2017

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1956 OLYMPIC GAMES



### Melbourne prepares

Melbourne, Australia's second city, is making full-scale preparations to carry out its role as host to the 1956 Olympic Games.

In the early summer of this year the symbolic Olympic flame, kindled in Olympia, Greece, will be carried into the Southern Hemisphere for the first time.

Its arrival in the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the main Olympic Stadium, on November 24, will lift the curtain on 11 days packed with suspense, drama and exciting atmosphere unique to the Games.

Between 1,000 and 4,000 of the world's best athletes, champions of up to 16 nations, will gather in Melbourne to compete in hundreds of events in 16 branches of sport.

Another 4,000 to 5,000 visitors are likely to come from overseas to watch the Games. Melbourne in 1956 will be the focal point of the Olympic world, some of the greatest international sporting festival of ancient and modern times.

The effort required to stage the Games successfully is a supreme test for a city. Australia is meeting the challenge as a national responsibility. The Melbourne Organising Committee is backed by the financial and technical resources of the Federal and State Governments and the Melbourne City Council.

The City is carrying out a £2,500,000 building programme to provide the necessary stadiums, arenas, buildings, and accommodation for athletes.

The facilities will be in world class. They will equal the best provided by any Olympic city of the past.

For the main Olympic Stadium, the Organising Committee chose the Melbourne Cricket Ground, one of the finest in the world, standing in a parkland setting just outside the business centre of the City. More than 100,000 people will crowd its huge covered grandstands, including a new triple-deck stand now under construction, for the impressive ceremonial opening of the Games.

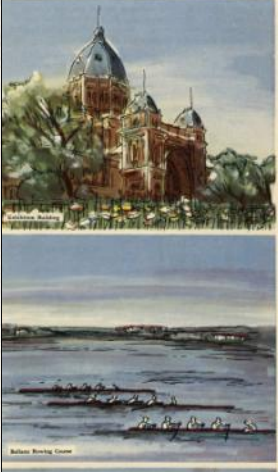
Olympic Park, a few hundred yards away in the same green belt, is rapidly taking shape as Australia's foremost multipurpose sporting centre - the venue for Olympic swimming, diving and water polo, cycling, and hockey and soccer performances.

Three new sports arenas and an ultra-modern swimming stadium at Olympic Park will accommodate 8,000 spectators.

A feature new to the Olympic Games will be a National Arts Festival of drama, music, ballet and art, similar to the Edinburgh Festival.

Other special events will be organised to coincide with the Games. Olympic year means will enable visitors to see something of the fascinating Australian continent.

Melbourne will make special arrangements to accommodate its visitors. Those who cannot be accommodated in hotels will stay in selected homes and guest houses. Good class accommodation will be available at reasonable rates for everybody planning to come to Melbourne. The host city will welcome you!



### plan now for 1956

Don't delay planning your visit to Melbourne for the 1956 Games.

Early booking of seats, travel and accommodation is essential. Excellent accommodation can be booked through all local office agents or direct with the Civic Olympic Committee, Town Hall, Melbourne. Times, £1 and £2/10/0 (Auss) daily for bed and breakfast.

The central box office for the Olympic Games is the New Emporium Ltd, 314 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

In Australia, branch offices of banks and main airlines in every town and city will handle bookings. Australian and New Zealand banks and airlines, and United Bookings Co. of N.Z. will book throughout New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Overseas agents include Australian bank branches, airlines and a number of major travel agents.

Prices per day for the opening ceremony, eight days of athletics, hockey and soccer finals and closing ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground range from 6/6d. to £12/6d.

Other prices per session are:—boxing 11/-, no £5/10/0; cycling, 8/7 to £5/10/0; swimming, 11/- to £5/10/0; wrestling and weightlifting, 1/4 to 10/-; basketball and gymnastics, 11/- to £5/10/0; fencing, 1/4; soccer, 8/7 to £1/10/0; hockey 8/7 to £1/10/0; rifle shooting and clay pigeon shooting, 11/- a day; modern Pentathlon (fencing 11/-, swimming 1/4, fencing 1/4, shooting 1/4, running, no charge), £1. 10/0; Australian rules 8/7; Bowling or Baseball U.S., Address of the Organising Committee, XXVth Olympiad is: Post Office Building, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Australia. Cable and telegrams: "Olympiad", Melbourne. Telephone 28 351.



Plan of the international village now being built by the Victorian State Housing Commission at Heidelberg, 7 1/2 miles from the Main Stadium, for Olympic teams and officials.

It will be a self-contained settlement of over one-third of concrete houses. Facilities in the village will include laundry, medical and dental centres, barber shop, canteen, banks, post office, shops, and swimming baths.



### 1956 Melbourne Olympics Programme

Courtesy Peter Raymond 2017

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OLYMPIC LINKS



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Olympic Games



Summer Olympics



Winter Olympics



Melbourne Olympics



Sydney Olympics



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