

Background Information

- A baggy green cap and batting pads worn by Don Bradman...
- Olive branches and first place medals awarded to Edwin Flack, Australia's first ever Olympic winner, in Athens in 1896, along with 24 other gold medals among 48 Olympic medals...
- Hand-written notes outlining the rules of the game by Australian football founders Wills, Hammersley, Smith and Thompson in 1859...
- The first ever Brownlow Medal awarded to Edward "Carji" Greeves in 1924...
- Ian Thorpe's full body swimsuit...
- Catherine Freeman's famous swift suit, worn during the Sydney Olympics in 2000...
- The skeleton of Carbine - the champion racehorse of the late 19th century...

All are icons representing some of the greatest moments in Australia's sporting history. Each has found a home in the National Sports Museum which opened in March 2008 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Located on two levels of the Olympic Stand, the National Sports Museum is home to more than 2500 items from Australia's rich sporting history.

More than just a museum, the National Sports Museum seeks to capture the spirit of Australian sporting life and relive the moments that have shaped Australia's rich sporting traditions.

From the Malvern Star bicycle that Hubert Opperman rode in his record-breaking 24-hour marathon in 1940, and the Repco BT19 racing car Jack Brabham designed, built and drove to victory in 1966, to the guernseys worn by Australian Football heroes such as Alex Jesaulenko and James Hird, the National Sports Museum houses Australia's most comprehensive sporting collection and celebrates the important place sport holds in Australian life.

Highlights of the National Sports Museum include:

- **Game On!** – an extensive interactive area offering the visitors the chance to test their own sporting skills.
- **NSM Cinema Sport** - presenting non-stop sporting action in a 34-seat cinema where short films created especially for the Museum are screened.
- **Two 3D theatrettes** featuring Essendon champion James Hird and cricket great Shane Warne discussing the highs, lows, setbacks and triumphs of their sporting lives. Using the latest in simulated hologram technology, audiences feel they are actually in the room with these sporting greats.

- Eight permanent exhibitions that offer visitors an insight into the greatest moments in Australian sport.

These exhibitions are:

Faster, Higher, Stronger

From the ancient games to the present day, *Faster, Higher, Stronger* traces Australia's participation in the Olympic Games.

Highlights include an Olympic timeline with each Olympic relay torch from Berlin in 1936 to Athens in 2004, excluding Helsinki in 1952 and medals and artefacts from past and present Olympians including Petria Thomas, Catherine Freeman and Edwin Flack - Australia's first Olympic winner.

Backyard to Baggy Green

Backyard to Baggy Green traces the evolution of equipment used in cricket, its rules and undeniable spirit. It includes the fabulous Baggy Green Room, showcasing a collection of Baggy Green caps worn by Australian Test cricketers.

Included within the exhibition are items relating to the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame inductees, one of Shane Warne's trademark white floppy hats, and Betty Wilson's personal collection of items profiling her celebrated career.

Spirit of Sport

Spirit of Sport introduces athletes inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame since 1985 and honours the 30 who have achieved Australian sport's most prestigious honour, Sport Australia Hall of Fame Legend Status.

The exhibition showcases the careers of Legends including Shane Gould, Sir Donald Bradman, Scobie Breasley, Greg Norman and Sir Jack Brabham amongst others.

Australia's Game

Australia's Game traces the history of Australian Football and includes a selection of the greatest VFL/AFL Grand Final moments, plus a wealth of material collected from the greats of this uniquely Australian game.

View the hand-written notes from 1859 outlining the rules of the game by the founders of Australian football; see the 1933 Brownlow medal awarded to Wilfred 'Chicken' Smallhorn; and trace the evolution of player from past to present day.

Australian Football Hall of Fame

The *Australian Football Hall of Fame* was established by the Australian Football League in 1996 to recognise those who made a significant contribution to the game since its inception in 1858.

Footy fans can pay homage to these greats at the Australian Football Hall of Fame exhibition which features an outstanding array of material from the Legends and Inductees of the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

Included is the guernsey worn by Darrel Baldock on the day he captained St Kilda to their 1966 premiership, a certificate presented to Haydn Bunton senior in 1931 to recognise the first of his three Brownlow medals, John Coleman's Essendon training bag, and guernseys worn by Ron Barassi and many other greats.

The People's Ground

The People's Ground presents a history of Australia's spiritual home of sport, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which in 2005 was included on the National Heritage List.

The exhibition highlights the history of the MCG and the important role it has played in the history of cricket, Australian Football, the 1956 Olympic Games, and as a home for thousands of Australian and United States servicemen during World War II.

Multi sports display

The National Sports Museum also displays collections from a range of other sports including basketball, boxing, cycling, golf, tennis, soccer, netball, Paralympic Games, rugby union and rugby league.

A visit to the National Sports Museum offers the opportunity revisit more than 150 years of sporting achievements and participation - and the opportunity to reflect on what makes Australia such a great sporting country.

Champions - Thoroughbred Racing Gallery

The Champions Gallery opened in October 2010. It presents the unique stories and rich objects of this country's thoroughbred racing heritage and is also home to the Australian Racing Hall of Fame.

One of many highlights is an articulated skeleton of Carbine - the champion racehorse of the 1880s and 1890s. Also featured are the hooped jockey sleeves worn when riding Phar Lap, all of Bart Cumming's dozen Melbourne Cup trophies, a Scobie Breasley jockey cap and Damien Oliver's saddle used in Naturalism's 1993 Japan Cup triumph.

The Museum also offers access to:

Melbourne Cricket Club Museum

Located on Level B1 of the Members Pavilion, the 400-square metre *Melbourne Cricket Club Museum* has more than 1500 artefacts on display, showcasing the rich history of the Melbourne Cricket Club and the ground it manages. The centrepiece is the story of the Ashes, where the club's outstanding collection of artefacts includes the Blackham Ball and a silver "urn" from manager Frank Laver's successful tour of England in 1909.

The ISS Exhibitions Gallery

This gallery provides a full program of temporary exhibitions relating to additional sports and contemporary themes. Now: *Ashes to Ashes* (on cricket clashes between England and Australia). Coming in April 2011: *Yiloga! Tiwi Island Football*.

The National Sports Museum - A Commonwealth Government Initiative
