



# Newsletter of the NT Chapter



## **Australian Society for Sports History**

**The aims of the ASSH are:**

- **To promote, stimulate and encourage study, research and publication on sporting traditions with special reference to Australia;**
- **To organise meetings and to issue publications to advance interest and scholarship in this area of study;**
- **To liaise with individuals and institutions that have an interest in the aims of the Society**

# WATCH OUT FOR "WORDSTORM"

## THE NT WRITERS' CENTRE MAJOR ANNUAL EVENT

THIS YEAR SPORT IS FEATURED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE NT ASSH CHAPTER

**18-21 May 2006**

### WORDSTORM DEBATE:

#### **That the Book is Better Than the Ball**

##### **Speakers**

Peter Docker, Steve Kinnane & Leigh Redhead s John Harms, Charlie King, Alana Valentine  
Thursday May 18, 2006 at 7:00pm,  
Main tent, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

### BOOK LAUNCH:

#### **Racism & Sports – Discussion & Book Launch of 'Australia's Blackest Sporting Moments'**

Is the playing field always even? Steve Hagan and John Harms discuss this issue with Charlie King. Followed by a launch of Steve Hagan's 'Australia's Blackest Sporting Moments'.  
4:00pm, Friday May 19, Main tent, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

**John Harms** was described by fellow writer and Age columnist Martin Flanagan as "One of Australia's best sports writers". He has that eye for the pivotal moment in a sporting occasion and the sense of context in which to place it whether it is backyard kick-to-kick or Buddha Hocking's last game for the Cats. John is even funnier, more sophisticated and more wide-ranging than appears in this deceptively simple love story. He is a craftsman of rare skill, a national treasure in the making.

**Charlie King** is well known to listeners and ABC viewers in Darwin as the expert on all things sporting, heard every weekend covering events from across the Territory and nationally. He considers this job important because of the role he can play in promoting a healthy life through sport. But Charlie's role in the community extends well beyond his job and obsession with sport. He is on a number of committees and boards making vital decisions about the welfare and care of young people in the Territory.

**Steve Kinnane** is a writer and researcher, who has worked on a variety of community-based cultural heritage projects and has published on history, social justice and sustainability. He has worked as a producer, heritage officer and policy officer for independent research centres and Aboriginal community organisations. Products of his research include documentary film, manuscripts, papers, policy and planning documents, archival collections, lectures and documentary photography. He is a descendent of the Miriwoong people of the East Kimberley. His work has centered on investigations of Aboriginal history, removal of children and the surveillance and control of Aboriginal community members by various state regimes.

**Steve Hagan.** Not one to shy away from controversial topics or take the easy option in life, Associate Lecturer in USQ's Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Centre and commentator on race relations, Stephen Hagan's life has been eventful to say the least and at the age of 45 he's launching his autobiographical book, *The N Word – One Man's Stand*.

**Peter Docker** is the author of *Someone Else's Country* a profound, personal journey into contemporary Aboriginal Australia. From his early life on an outback station to his work as an actor living in St Kilda, he is drawn into the world of Indigenous Australia.

**Leigh Redhead** was born in Adelaide and spent her earliest years in a commune before moving to Sydney and later to Munich at the age of seven. After traveling through Europe, Redhead's family settled in Elands, an alternative community in northern New South Wales. At the age of sixteen she spent a year in California with her father and then returned to Australia, and while working, Redhead completed a Bachelor of Arts in communication.

**Alana Valentine** is the recipient of a NSW State Literary Award, a Churchill Fellowship, the Rodney Seaborne Playwright's Award, and the ANPC/ New Dramatists Award. She has also been commended for the Louis Esson Prize for Drama in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards.

## **Report on the Inaugural Australian Society for Sports History Forum, Darwin, 5 November 2005**

The inaugural sports history forum of the ASSH was held in Darwin on 5 November 2005 to gauge the level of interest in sports history in the Top End. Thirty people attended to hear presentations from local sports historians and to discuss how sports history could be promoted in the NT. We were privileged to have The Honourable Ted Egan, the Northern Territory Administrator as one of the speakers who has been involved in Northern Territory sport, particularly the famous St Mary's Football Club, for many years. A short outline of the presentations is provided below

**The Honourable Ted Egan** - *'Sport in Darwin Happened Before Tracy'- The Steve Abala Project.* This paper examined aspects of the sporting history of Darwin in the period between World War II and Cyclone Tracey. In particular it focused on Steve Abala, a well known Darwin sportsman who died from injuries received in a game of Rugby League in 1956, his contemporaries and his legacy. It also discussed the Steve Abala, Top End Role Model project celebrating the achievements of Northern Territory role models.

**Pearl Ogden** - *'Katherine and VRD Bush Races.'* This presentation explored the history and role in society of bush races in the Katherine and VRD districts. These meetings were the social event of the year for many in the bush and were a magnet for many colorful characters. It also highlighted the rich sporting history of the bush and the importance of documenting these stories.

**Jack Frawley** - *'Football Stories: A Tiwi Football History Project'*. Australian Rules football has become an integral part of the culture and society of the Tiwi Islands. This multifaceted history and community capacity building project focuses on documenting this history. A community based project that combines historical research with education and training initiatives it is an example of how Sports History can be a catalyst for community development.

**Maisie Austin** - *'A Lamington amongst the Creampuffs'*. A fascinating personal history examining the central role that sport played in the Darwin community in the Post World War II period. Highlighting her personal experiences and those of many of the people and places involved in sport during the period. Sport played critical role in developing Darwin's dynamic and unique character providing people with opportunities to play and socialise together. The presentation also considered if sport continued to play this role in Darwin today.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion Northern Territory Sports History - where to from here? The discussion canvassed many issues and made many suggestions for future sports history initiatives. The members of the ASSH present at the forum undertook to take on a liaison role for all those present keeping them informed of sports history initiatives in 2006.

**Watch out for the dates of future NT ASSH activities—in 2006 in conjunction with the Historical Society of the NT, NT Writers Centre “Wordstorm” and Rotary International**

## NORTHERN TERRITORY ASSH CHAPTER

The Northern Territory ASSH Chapter is small and has undertaken to work in conjunction with the Historical Society of the Northern Territory (HSNT) in 2006. The HSNT has selected 'Sport and Recreation' as the theme for its 2006 Lecture Series. We are working with the NTHS to provide a program of speakers. The first lecture being delivered by NT ASSH Convenor Matthew Stephen on the subject "The role of sport and recreation in the Northern Territory before 1911"

A liaison has also been established with the NT Writer's Centre and the speaker being brought to its "Wordstorm" festival in May, noted author and sports tragic John Harms will be the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Darwin North dinner meeting on Monday 22 May. (See below for details).

### EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Wednesday 26th April 2006

Speaker: Maisie Austin  
Subject: Pioneer Women in NT sport  
Venue: Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery, Bullocky Point  
Host: Lecture in the HSNT series

#### Saturday 20th May 2006

Wordstorm event—That the book is better than the ball  
Venue and time: Main Tent, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Bullocky Point  
Speakers: Peter Docker, Steve Kinnane & Leigh Redhead v John Harms, Charlie King, Alana Valentine  
**Booking ring NT Writers' Centre on 8941 2651**

#### Monday 22nd May 2006

**Rotary Club of Darwin - Dinner Meeting**  
6pm for 6.30pm Raging Bull Restaurant Parap Village Tavern  
Speaker: John Harms  
Subject: "Watching today is history tomorrow—what is sports history?"  
**For bookings ring David Pearson on 89887200 or 0402 454 241**

#### Wednesday 24th May 2006

**Lecture in the HSNT series**  
Speaker: Dennis Booth  
Subject: To be advised  
Venue: Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery, Bullocky Point  
Host: Lecture in the HSNT series

#### Wednesday 28th June 2006

**Lecture in the HSNT series**  
Speaker: His Honour Ted Egan, Administrator of the NT  
Subject: To be advised  
Venue: Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery, Bullocky Point  
Host: Lecture in the HSNT series

#### Wednesday 23rd August 2006

**Lecture in the HSNT series**  
Speaker: Michael Martin  
Subject: To be advised  
Venue: Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery, Bullocky Point  
Host: Lecture in the HSNT series

#### Wednesday 25th October 2006

**Lecture in the HSNT series**  
Speaker: To be advised  
Subject: The role that sport played in the rebuilding of Darwin after Cyclone Tracey  
Venue: Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery, Bullocky Point

#### Meeting with Minister for Sport

**On May 9 the Steering Committee for the NT ASSH Chapter, Matthew Stephen, Rollo Manning and David Pearson will meet Minister Delia Lawrie MLA to explain why the NT should have an active Chapter of ASSH** and where the Government may be able to contribute to the history of sport in the NT. Planning will also be progressed towards an event towards the middle of the year to officially launch the NT Chapter of ASSH  
Watch this space.

**Any current member of the ASSH is urged to contact Matthew Stephen, Rollo Manning or David Pearson and join the fun of organizing an NT Chapter of the ASSH organisation. Any person wanting to forge a stronger link with Sports history can join ASSH by downloading the Member Application form from the website at <http://www.sporthistory.org/>**

**Matthew 0437 307 399. Rollo 8942 2101 (all hours) David 0402 454 241**