

## Australian Games - Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000

### Teacher Guide, Activities and Resources

Australia has participated in every modern Olympic Games since 1896 and hosted the Olympic Games in 1956 and 2000. The 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, the 'Friendly Games' and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the 'Green Games' illustrate Australia's traditional interest in sport and the Olympic movement. Harry Gordon calls it 'A Tale of Two Cities'. Australia's changing culture and identity was reflected in two Olympic Games some 44 years apart.

Both Olympic Games were affected by the context of their times as local and international issues influenced the preparations and implementation by the host cities. The Melbourne Olympic Games was influenced by the Cold War and national rivalries and some countries boycotted the Games.

The Hungarian Uprising of October 1956 and the Russian attack on Budapest and suppression of the activists was immediately before the beginning of the Melbourne Olympics. The Hungarian team, it seems, were not clear about what happened in Budapest and other parts of their country because they were in training outside Hungary. So they arrived in Melbourne to read and hear about the slaughter. Their water polo match against Russia has become a symbolic highlight of the Games. Australia was more than aware of what happened in Hungary and supported their Olympic athletes.

An interesting Australian connection appears in an interview with Australia's Shirley Strickland. She indicated that she may have played a part in the defections after the Olympic Games. Remember, Australians were overwhelmingly anti-communist and had followed the Petrov Affair just two years before when a Russian diplomat in Canberra attempted to defect and Russian agents were publicly stopped from taking the Petrovs back to Russia.

For Sydney the rise of anti-globalisation protests, increased demands for a sustainable, green Olympic Games with a positive legacy for the host city and the approaching new millennium provided a different backdrop for a much more cosmopolitan and demanding Australian society.

Australia's Olympic performances in 1956 and 2000 open this topic to an investigation as to why Australia's performances were so strong when hosting the Olympic Games in 1956 and 2000. This unit will focus on the Olympics of 1956 and 2000 and what Melbourne and Sydney achieved from and gave to the Olympic Games at these times.

In line with the new Australian History Curriculum the content in this section *provides opportunities to develop historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability*. In this section these concepts are investigated within the particular historical context of the 1956 and 2000 Olympics to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.

This is a multimedia resource and provides a range of opportunities for evidence based learning, especially those relating to Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

This section of the education resource focuses on the Olympics of 1956 and 2000 and a comparison of the issues and features of Australia during these times.

Each lesson is divided into three sections, Historical Context, the Games and Performances.

### Historical Context

The historical context for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics

- The Hungarian uprising and Russian invasion
- The Suez Crisis, involving Egypt, Israel, Britain and France
- Nuclear tests, including the British tests in Australia
- The start of television in Australia: TCN9 Sydney and GTV 7 Melbourne

The historical context for the 2000 Sydney Olympics

- A coup in Fiji which destabilized the government and led to a military uprising
- Ongoing Israel-Palestinian issues and conflicts – Israel withdrawal from Lebanon; Camp David discussions
- First Draft of Human Genome completed
- Anti-globalisation protests: Millennium Summit (NY) United Nations; World Economic Forum in Melbourne

### The Games

- The features of the Olympic hosting bid by Melbourne for the 1956 Olympic Games and how it overcame criticisms from IOC President Avery Brundage and the animal quarantine issue.
- The features of the Olympic hosting bid by Sydney for 2000 Olympic Games and the significance of other Australian city hosting bids and Sydney's commitment to a 'Green Games'.
- Preparations for the 1956 and 2000 Olympics, such as the venues.
- A focus on the symbols of national identity and Olympic tradition used in the official Olympic posters for the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games.
- The aspects of the Opening Ceremonies at Melbourne 1956 OR Sydney 2000 which reflect the nature of the host city.
- The significance of the Closing Ceremony for the Melbourne Olympics and future Olympic Games, including the contribution of one Australian migrant.
- The role of the media in the 1956 Olympic Games with a focus on the role of television and for Sydney 2000, the development of a Media Centre and use of technological innovations, virtual access and social media.
- How the conflict between Hungary and Russia influenced the Melbourne Olympic Games and the role of one Australian athlete, Shirley Strickland, in the Cold War defections after the Games.
- Looking back at aspects of the legacy of the Melbourne Olympic Games for the host city, Australia and the Olympic movement, including defining Melbourne Olympics as the 'Friendly Games' and an analysis of Prime Minister Menzies' report letter, 'A Green and Pleasant Memory'.

- Looking back at aspects of the legacy of the Sydney Olympic Games for the host city, Australia and the Olympic movement, including defining Sydney Olympics as the 'Green Games'.

### Performances

- Some of the Australian performance highlights of the individual and team results at the 1956 Olympic Games, such as Betty Cuthbert, Murray Rose, Shirley Strickland, David Theile and the relays.
- Some of the Australian performance highlights of the individual and team results at the 2000 Olympic Games, such as Ian Thorpe, Cathy Freeman and a host of others
- The nature of and reasons for Australia's Olympic performances when hosting the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games.
- Team results at the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games, with a focus on analyzing the data and making assumptions.

### Australian Curriculum for History links

The relevant **key inquiry questions** for Year 10 are:

*How did the nature of global conflict change during the twentieth century?*

Explore the development of the 'Cold War'; Hungarian Uprising and suppression by Russia; The Suez Crisis directly involving Egypt, Israel, Britain and France and the United Nations and indirectly the United States and Russia.

*What were the consequences of World War II? How did these consequences shape the modern world?*

Changing alliances with the development of a post war divided Europe; the Soviet Com-intern and the development of the 'Cold War'; Russia's use of force against Hungary to maintain the Com-intern.

**Overview content** for the Modern World and Australia includes the following:

*Continuing efforts post-World War II to achieve lasting peace and security in the world.*

The role of the Olympics in promoting global peace in the Post World War II world.

*The nature of the Cold War*

The realisation the Olympic Games were a peaceful expression of international rivalries and nation status, such as the Melbourne 1956 Olympics as the 'Friendly Games'.

## The Modern World and Australia (Year 10)

### Overview:

Aspects which relate to the Australian History curriculum are:

### Depth Study 2: Rights and freedoms (1945 – the present)

*The continuing nature of efforts to secure civil rights and freedoms in Australia and throughout the world, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)*

The role played by Cathy Freeman and the Australian Olympic Committee to promote reconciliation, rights and freedoms for Indigenous Australians; the symbolism of lighting the Olympic flame and the national support for Cathy Freeman during her performances.

### Depth Study 3: The Globalising World

Here there are three (3) options from which to choose one (1) depth study. Each option has historical aspects which can be illustrated by the parts of this Olympic resource.

#### Popular culture (1954 – present)

*The nature of popular culture in Australia at the end of World War II, including music, film and sport, such as identifying sports that were popular in Australia such as football, horse racing, cricket.*

*Developments in popular culture in post-war Australia and their impact on society, including the introduction of television and rock 'n' roll, such as investigating America's cultural influence, as seen in the arrival of television for the Melbourne Olympics (1956) and Bill Haley's Australian tour (1957).*

Australia's contribution to international popular culture (music, film, television, sport) and changing beliefs and values have influenced the Australian way of life. This could include an assessment of the contribution of Australian men and women to international sport and discussion of Australian involvement in world sporting contests and promotion of sport as a global event, such as the Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

#### The environment movement (1960s – present)

*Significant events and campaigns that contributed to popular awareness of environmental issues.*

The Sydney 2000 Olympics was an event which contributed to this by promoting sustainability and urban renewal in the host city bid.

*Responses of Australian governments and international organisations to environmental threats since the 1960s, including deforestation and climate change, such as evaluating the effectiveness of international protocols and treaties such as Kyoto(1997), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (since 1992).*

Following the UN climate change convention the IOC formulated an environmental protection criteria, Olympic Agenda 21, as an Olympic movement goal. The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games are an interesting and relevant case study on this aspect of the National Curriculum. The Sydney Olympic Games Organising Committee collaborated with environmental Non-Governmental Organisation's (NGOs) to achieve the goal of a 'Green Games'. Sydney was the first Games to be audited throughout by Greenpeace. The President of the IOC also said Sydney's Olympic Games were the benchmark for future Games.

#### **Depth Study 6: Migration experiences (1945 – present)**

*The waves of post-World War II migration to Australia, including the influence of significant world events.*

*The impact of changing government policies on Australia's migration patterns, including abolition of the White Australia Policy, 'Populate or Perish'.*

The Melbourne 1956 Olympics are relevant to these aspects of the national Curriculum because it highlights that Australia had changed its migration program after World War II with the idea that it needed to 'populate or perish'. The preference was for British migrants given assisted passage to Australia. However, there were so many refugees from war-torn Europe that by 1956 the Australian government had formal and informal migrant agreements with over a dozen countries, like Italy, Turkey, Greece, Austria, Spain and West Germany.

But a new type of refugee was 'defectors', people fleeing communist countries controlled by Russia. Australia provided asylum for the Russian diplomat Petrov and his family in 1954. When Russia crushed the Hungarian uprising (October 1956) just before the Melbourne Olympics many athletes and officials saw an opportunity to remain free. It brought tension to the Melbourne Olympic Games and an investigation of the famous Hungary-Russia men's water polo match illustrates this well.

The other revelation comes in an interview with the Australian runner, Shirley Strickland (de la Hunty) where she talks about taking a mysterious letter from Hungarians already in Melbourne into the Games village for Hungarian athletes. Were the Hungarian athletes suspicious? Did she play a part in the later defections?

### Activities

Learners have the opportunity to:

- identify the key world issues in 1956 and 2000 and rivalries which impacted on Australia and host cities as they prepared for the Olympics
- identify key features of Australia's society and culture in 1956 and what it offered to the Olympic Games
- identify key features of Australia's society and culture in 2000 and what it offered to the Olympic Games
- investigate Melbourne and Sydney's preparations for the Olympic Games in the context of their times
- investigate the meaning of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- examine the role of television and other media at the Games
- investigate the Hungary-Russia Issue at the Melbourne Olympic Games of 1956
- identify and describe aspects of the Olympic legacy for Melbourne and Sydney
- identify and assess some of the Australian performance highlights of the individual and team results at the 1956 Games, such as Cuthbert, Rose, Theile and the relays.
- identify and assess some of the Australian performance highlights of the individual and team results at the 2000 Games, such as Thorpe, Freeman and a host of others
- explore other athlete performances
- analyse the team performance data and make assumptions
- investigate and explain why Australia has performed so well in the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games

### Resources

#### Historical context

##### Hungarian uprising

The Cold War Museum: <http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/HungarianRevolution.asp>

BBC On This Day:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/4/newsid\\_2739000/2739039.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/4/newsid_2739000/2739039.stm)

Remembering the Hungarian Uprising (Flash Audio 9 minutes):

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/remembering-the-hungarian-uprising-of-1956-audio/11281.html>

##### Suez Crisis

The Cold War Museum: <http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/SuezCrisis1956.asp>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/suez\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/suez_01.shtml)

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[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/suez\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/suez_01.shtml)

Read and listen: [http://www.open2.net/writingthecentury/suez\\_crisis.html](http://www.open2.net/writingthecentury/suez_crisis.html)

Suez crisis – key players: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/5195582.stm>

YouTube video: The Other Side of Suez 1956 (BBC Documentary) 9min 48 sec:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOSG-mTttzE>

## Nuclear tests

British Atomic testing in Australia: <http://allshookup.org/quakes/atomic.htm>

Maps of Australian nuclear sites: <http://australianmap.net/>

## Television is first broadcast in Australia (September 16)

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/When\\_did\\_television\\_arrive\\_in\\_Australia#ixzz1XJQAb1nk](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/When_did_television_arrive_in_Australia#ixzz1XJQAb1nk)

<http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/popular-austn-television>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television\\_broadcasting\\_in\\_Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_broadcasting_in_Australia)

## Australia and Melbourne 1956

Pictures of Australia from 1956 collection

<http://bonzle.com/pictures-over-time/pictures-taken-in-1956/page-1/size-3>

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/04fifty.htm#b>

Read more:

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_was\\_life\\_like\\_in\\_the\\_1950's\\_in\\_Australia#ixzz1XKnyna3B](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_was_life_like_in_the_1950's_in_Australia#ixzz1XKnyna3B)

Defence policy 1956: <http://www.defence.gov.au/strategicbasis/pdf/1956.pdf>

American and British cultural influences 1950s: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-189\\_t-506\\_c-1875/nsw/history/australia-s-social-and-cultural-history-in-the-post-war-period/social-and-cultural-features-of-the-1950s/american-and-british-cultural-influence-1950s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-189_t-506_c-1875/nsw/history/australia-s-social-and-cultural-history-in-the-post-war-period/social-and-cultural-features-of-the-1950s/american-and-british-cultural-influence-1950s)

Sport in Australian culture: [http://www.skwirk.com/p-c\\_s-14\\_u-189\\_t-506\\_c-1874/nsw/history/australia-s-social-and-cultural-history-in-the-post-war-period/social-and-cultural-features-of-the-1950s/sport-in-the-1950s](http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-189_t-506_c-1874/nsw/history/australia-s-social-and-cultural-history-in-the-post-war-period/social-and-cultural-features-of-the-1950s/sport-in-the-1950s)

## Australia and Sydney 2000

**Sporting Australians** (ABS: 1301.0 - Year Book Australia, 2000)

Involvement in sport – trends:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/1301.0Feature%20Article132000?openDocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=1301.0&issue=2000&num=&view>

## 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games

Melbourne 1956 venues: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956\\_Summer\\_Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_Summer_Olympics)

Overview podcast 1956 Melbourne (12 min 40 sec)

<http://tunein.com/tuner/?ProgramId=134987&TopicId=34709279&>

This tunein.com Irish sports audio podcast is part of a series on the events of the Olympics. It includes athlete interviews and audio from the key Olympic events interspersed with the music of the times and world events.

*Olympic Proposals and Bids by Australian Cities*, Ian Jobling, Department of Human Movement Studies University of Queensland. Melbourne's successful Bid: Page 40-43:

<http://www.la84foundation.org/SportsLibrary/SportingTraditions/1994/st1101/st1101h.pdf>

Wiki overview: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956\\_Summer\\_Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_Summer_Olympics)

**The Games TV Promotional Show looks at the other bid cities:** Manchester YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyMt6veKOVY&feature=related>

Details of the use of the MCG during the Olympic Games:

[http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne\\_details.php?id=5001](http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=5001)

Olympic Games posters since 1896 to get a broader view of the poster art used for official Olympic posters over the years: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/olympic-trivia/olympic-poster.html>

## Home movie: Opening Ceremony Melbourne Olympic Games

<http://aso.gov.au/titles/home-movies/syme-k-melbourne-olympic-games/clip2/>

Melbourne Olympic Games Media overview:

[http://www.terramedia.co.uk/media/change/olympic\\_games\\_1956.htm](http://www.terramedia.co.uk/media/change/olympic_games_1956.htm)

## National Media Post Script 1956

An overview of the setting up of communication equipment prior to the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games: <http://aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/australia-post-olympic/clip1/>



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The workings of the OTC, telegraph and press offices. This is followed by footage from various athletic events, and of the special post offices, purpose-built to serve the public at the 1956 Olympic Games. <http://aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/australia-post-olympic/clip3/>

### Introducing television to Australia Fact Sheet ABS

<http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/publications/fact-sheets/fs115.aspx>

Sydney Olympic Games Media overview:

[http://www.terramedia.co.uk/media/change/olympic\\_Games\\_2000.htm](http://www.terramedia.co.uk/media/change/olympic_Games_2000.htm)

The Olympics on television:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympics\\_on\\_television#2000\\_Summer\\_Games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympics_on_television#2000_Summer_Games)

### Hungary at the Games

Water Polo at the Melbourne summer Olympics:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water\\_polo\\_at\\_the\\_1956\\_Summer\\_Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_polo_at_the_1956_Summer_Olympics)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_water\\_polo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_water_polo)

### Looking back Melbourne 1956

*Snap! - Press photos from the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games*, Exhibition catalogue from the 50th anniversary of the Melbourne Olympics.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery/Exhibitions/Pages/Snap.aspx>

Parliament of Australia, Library: The Modern Olympics: an overview

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/2007-08/08rp32.htm>

### Looking back Sydney 2000

ABS: Looking back at Sydney Olympics and Paralympics:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/featurearticlesbytitle/E7E546D49DCA1D97CA257298000CED32?OpenDocument>

NSW Treasury: [http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/6644/TRP97-10\\_The\\_Economic\\_Impact\\_of\\_the\\_Sydney\\_Olympic\\_Games.pdf](http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/6644/TRP97-10_The_Economic_Impact_of_the_Sydney_Olympic_Games.pdf)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Sydney, 2000:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/olympics.html>

Our Green Olympic Games - The Olympic village:

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/slab/olympics/default.htm>

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Parliament of Australia, Library: The Modern Olympics: an overview:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/2007-08/08rp32.htm>

Sydney Olympic Park – how it is used today: <http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/>

### Performances

Overview video (3 min 29sec) <http://media.olympics.com.au/index.cfm?objectid=3AE4D43C-5A42-11DE-AD2B005056B05E14&prevCollectionID=802F366B%2D5A43%2D11DE%2DAD2B005056B05E14>

### Golden Nuggets

This is a series which features Australian gold medal winners in the summer Olympic Games from Athens in 1896 through to the Beijing Games in 2008. The series was written and narrated by veteran Olympic broadcaster, Norman May. It includes profiles of athletes from the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

<http://media.olympics.com.au/index.cfm?objectid=368C464E-4F0F-11DE-A15E005056B05E14>

### Shirley Strickland - Australian Biography online:

You can read the transcripts and/or download the interviews. All interviews:

<http://www.australianbiography.gov.au/subjects/strickland/>

**Interview 5** asks her about disappointments as a runner and why she had something to prove at the Melbourne Olympics: <http://www.australianbiography.gov.au/subjects/strickland/interview5.html>

**Interview 3** covers the post-world War II period. Transcript :

<http://www.australianbiography.gov.au/subjects/strickland/interview3.html>

**Alain Mimoun:** <http://www.olympic.org/alain-mimoun>

Redgrave gets fifth Gold - BBC On This Day:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/23/newsid\\_3534000/3534760.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/23/newsid_3534000/3534760.stm)

### Team results Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000

[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/08/04/sports/olympics/20080804\\_MEDALCOUNT\\_MAP.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/08/04/sports/olympics/20080804_MEDALCOUNT_MAP.html)

View the chronological time line of medals and nations from 1896 to 2008. Circles are sized by the number of medals that countries won in summer Olympic Games. Note how the countries on the map have been organized. Use the slider to view past Olympics, or click on a country to display a list of its medal winners.

### Books, reports and articles

Official Olympic Reports: <http://olympic-museum.de/o-reports/report1956.htm>

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A Bibliography (Updated June 2011)

Veal, A. J. (2011) *The Olympic Games: A Bibliography*. Sydney: Australian Centre for Olympic Studies, University of Technology, Sydney, available at:  
[www.business.uts.edu.au/1st/research/publications/bibliographies/index.html](http://www.business.uts.edu.au/1st/research/publications/bibliographies/index.html)