



Abstract for ‘Sporting Traditions XXV, Biennial Conference of the Australian Society for Sport History, 21-24 July 2025, Hosted by Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia’

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Title of Paper: The Development of Victoria University’s Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre and Related Archives

Abstract: This paper consists of three distinct sections. The first part summarises the evolution of Victoria University’s Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre (OPRC). This Centre was established in 2020, and is part of a worldwide network of Olympic Studies and Research Centres officially approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Against this background, the second aspect of the paper outlines the current resources of the OPRC and specifically acknowledges and highlights the recent generous donation of Olympic-related materials from the collection of John Deane. The third and concluding part of the paper is a brief case study based on the use of primary sources from the IOC’s extensive library and archives located in Lausanne, Switzerland, whereby an audacious plan of the newly formed nation of Pakistan to host the Olympic Games in the 1950s is contextualised by the authors.

Note: Rob Hess will be presenting the paper on behalf of the team of authors (three of whom are unable to attend the conference).