

Olympic Day Forum

“Contemporary Issues in the Olympic Movement: An Australian Perspective”

Monday, 29 June 2026, 10.00 - 4.30 pm at the Melbourne Cricket Ground

The three official **Australian Olympic Studies and Research Centres** invite members of the academic community, sporting organisations, Olympic athletes/alumni, the media and other interested parties to a free event of presentations and panel discussions on **topics related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games**.

- [Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre \(OPRC\)](#), Institute for Health and Sport, Victoria University
- [Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies \(QCOPS\)](#), University of Queensland
- [Australian Centre for Olympic and Sports Studies \(ACOSS\)](#), University of Technology, Sydney

Hosted by the **Museum and Heritage Services**, Melbourne Cricket Club.

RSVPs are essential by June 24 to Richard.Baka@vu.edu.au or call 0403 031 295 for queries.

Program: (Subject to minor alterations in times and presenters)

- 10:00 am** Optional **complimentary** [MCG & Australian Sports Museum Tour](#); **Enter via Gate 3** - RSVP essential. Paddock Café inside Gate 3 is open to buy lunch before the Official Program commences in the afternoon.
- 12:00 pm** Registration & Welcome at the MCG (Dillbabiik Room). **Enter via Gate 3** (Olympic Stand).
- 12:15 pm** Welcome: Jed Smith (Manager, Museum and Heritage Services, Melbourne Cricket Club), Professor Camilla Brockett, Senior VU Representative, and a message from the [IOC Olympic Studies Centre](#).
- 12:30 pm** **Presentation 1: The Changing Landscape of Women in the Olympic Movement: Leadership, Gender Balance and Equality** - Overview of OPRC, Dr Richard Baka (VU), **Presentation and Panel Discussion:** VU Professors Tracy Taylor and Clare Hanlon, and Michelle de Highden, Australian Institute of Sport.
- 1:30 pm** **Presentation 2: The 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games: Structure and Planning for a Mega Sports Event-** QCOPS overview and presentation, UQ Professor John Cairney and Dr Bjorn Galjaardt.
- 2:15 pm** **Presentation 3: Olympic Games Legacy: Goals & Outcomes, Sydney 2000** - ACOSS overview and Presentation, UTS Associate Professor Daryl Adair.
- 2:45 pm** Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm** **Presentation 4: “From Edwin Flack to Brisbane 2032: Key Initiatives of the Australian Olympic Committee”;** David Culbert (Olympian and AOC representative).
- 3:45 pm** **Presentation 5: Key Developments in the Evolving Olympic Games Sports Program: Brisbane 2032 and Beyond** - Dr Bjorn Galjaardt (UQ), Dr Richard Baka (VU), **Panel Discussion:** Professor Tracy Taylor (VU), Professor John Cairney (UQ), David Culbert (AOC).
- 4:30 pm** **Closing Remarks/Finish**

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Presenter/Panel Member Profiles

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David Culbert	Olympian and AOC Alumni Engagement Manager
Professor Camilla Brockett	Victoria University, Institute for Health and Sport, Professor of Sports Systems Development, Co-Leader of the Sport That Inspires research program.
Professor Tracy Taylor	Victoria University, Adjunct and Co-Director of the Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre
Professor John Cairney	University of Queensland, Director of the Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies
Professor Clare Hanlon	Victoria University, Susan Alberti Women in Sport Chair
Dr Bjorn Galjaardt	University of Queensland, Member, Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies
Dr Daryl Adair	University of Technology Sydney, Director of the Australian Centre for Olympic and Sports Studies
Jed Smith	Manager, Museum and Heritage Services at the Australian Sports Museum, Melbourne Cricket Club
Michelle De Highden	High Performance Coach at the Australian Institute of Sport
Dr Richard Baka	Victoria University, Adjunct and Co-Director of the Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre

MEDIA NOTICE: Media wishing to attend the Olympic Day Forum to ask questions and interview presenters should contact the MCG/MCC for approval. The Forum organisers will assist in this process to make speakers available once approval is given by the MCG/MCC. Also please contact Richard.Baka@vu.edu.au of your intention to attend.

<https://www.mcg.org.au/news/media-contacts>

RSVP/REGISTRATION/TRAVEL: When registering please indicate if you will join in the morning MCG Tour and the Australian Sports Museum visit as well as the afternoon Forum or just the afternoon Forum. If you can only make part of the day that is fine so please reply with your preference. Public transportation to the MCG is encouraged with Jolimont-MCG or Richmond Train Stations and multiple tram routes the best options. We will have a limited number of allocated car spaces in the MCG underground car park so please indicate if you would like to request one.