



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

July 2024

Meetings: The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on **Tuesday 09 July**, 10.30 for a 10.45 start.

Guest Speaker: Sherylyn Overton will talk about Orca



Birthdays in July Flower and Birthstone are the larkspur and ruby. Very best wishes to all our July members.

Christmas in July Bus Trip: 16 July, The Carriageway, Dungog. \$70

Guest Speaker:

Giovanni Di Gravio, our June guest speaker, has provided links to some of the topics he covered in his talk for those who would like to follow up:

The Living Histories Data Platform:
The Hunter Living Histories
Site: <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/>
The "Search Everything Button": <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/ccservices/search>
Our YouTube Channel
(Film/Video): <https://www.youtube.com/c/UoNCCnewcastle/videos>
Our Soundcloud
(Audio): <https://soundcloud.com/uoncc>
Our Flickr
Photos): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/>

The Olympic Games The Olympic Games - Locations, Facts, Ancient & Modern | HISTORY

In 776BC Coroebus, a cook, was the first known Olympic champion, winning the only event – a 192 metre foot race. called the stade (the origin of the modern stadium). However it is believed Hercules, earlier than this, founded the Games. By the end of the 6th century B.C the Olympics had become the most famous of all Greek sporting festivals, held every 4 years between August 6 and September 19 during a religious festival honouring Zeus. The Games were named for their location at Olympia and "their influence was so great that ancient historians began to measure time by the four-year increments in between Olympic Games, which were known as Olympiads."

After 13 Olympiads, two more races joined the stade a 400 and a 1,500 metre foot race. "The pentathlon (consisting of five events: a foot race, a long jump, discus and javelin throws and a wrestling match) was introduced in 708 B.C., boxing in 688 B.C. and chariot racing in 680 B.C. In 648 B.C., pankration, a combination of boxing and wrestling with virtually no rules, debuted as an Olympic event. Participation in the ancient Olympic Games was initially limited to freeborn male citizens of Greece; there were no women's events, and married women were prohibited from attending the competition.

After the Roman Empire conquered Greece in the mid-2nd century B.C., the Games continued, but their standards and quality declined. In one

notorious example from A.D. 67, the decadent Emperor Nero entered an Olympic chariot race, only to disgrace himself by declaring himself the winner even after he fell off his chariot during the event. In A.D. 393, Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, called for a ban on all “pagan” festivals, ending the ancient Olympic tradition after nearly 12 centuries.”

In 1892 French Baron de Coubertin proposed creating a modern Olympic games after visiting the ancient Olympic site. “Two years later, he got the approval he needed to found the International Olympic Committee (IOC).” The first modern Olympics were held in Athens in 1896. “60,000 spectators welcomed 280 participants from 12 nations (all male), who would compete in 43 events, including track and field, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, cycling, tennis, weightlifting, shooting and fencing. All subsequent Olympiads have been numbered even when no Games take place (as in 1916, during World War I, and in 1940 and 1944, during World War II). Women first competed in the 1900 Games in Paris.

The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking coloured rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia.

The Winter Olympics debuted in 1920, including such events as figure skating, ice hockey, bobsledding and the biathlon.”

The honour of holding the Olympic Games is entrusted to a city, not to a country. The choice of the city lies solely with the IOC. Application to hold the Games is made by the chief authority of the city, with the support of the national government.

“Applications must state that no political meetings or demonstrations will be held in the stadium or other sports grounds or in the Olympic Village. Every competitor must be given free entry without discrimination on grounds of religion, colour, or political affiliation.”

The 2024 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and

commonly known as Paris 2024, will take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in France, with Paris as the main host city and 16 other cities spread across Metropolitan France, with one site in Tahiti. This year will mark the Centenary of the 1924 Paris Games and will be the 6th time (3 in Summer and 3 in Winter) the Games have been hosted in France. It will feature 329 sports.

It is expected 10,500 athletes from 206 countries will compete. Australia will be represented by close to 500 athletes over 32 sports. Sending the Australian team to the Paris Olympics in 2024 is expected to surpass \$25 million which includes expenses related to athletes, officials, logistics and support staff.

The cost of hosting the Olympic Games can vary significantly depending on factors such as location, infrastructure, and scale. The highest costs have been associated with the Summer Games. In Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021 due to the pandemic) the estimate of \$12.6 billion became a final cost of \$15.9 billion.



Point to Ponder: “The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work”. *Robert Frost*

2023/24 Committee:

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Asst Secretary:	Denise Wright
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