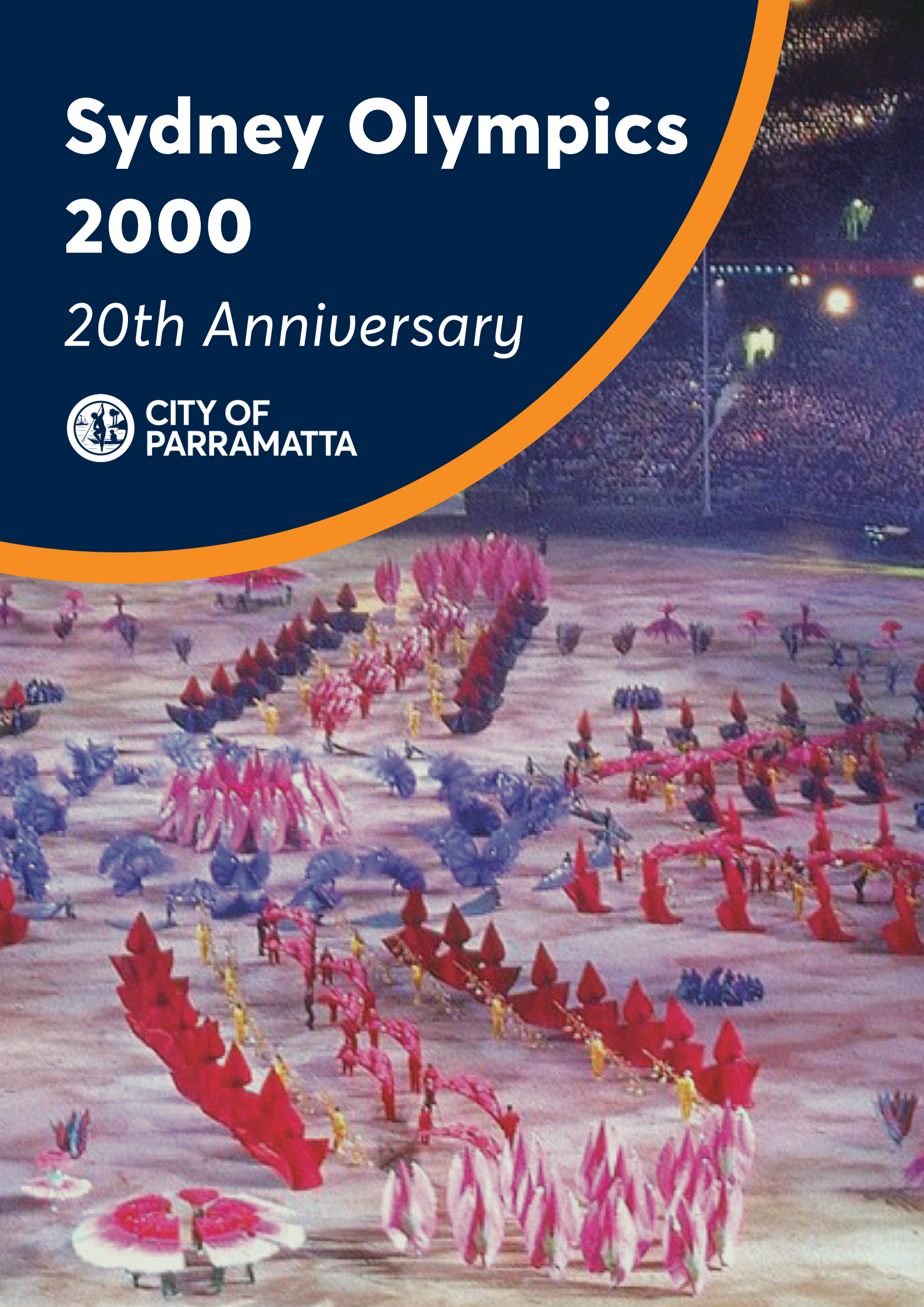


Sydney Olympics 2000

20th Anniversary



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Front cover image: Nature segment during 2000 Sydney Summer Olympic Games Opening Ceremony on 15 September 2000 (Image source: olympic.org, 2020)

COMPILED BY:

Neera Sahni, Research Services Leader

Research & Collection Services

Parramatta Heritage Visitor & Information Centre

346A Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2155



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- <https://www.paralympic.org>
- <https://www.paralympicheritage.org>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org>
- <https://heritagecentre.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/>
- <http://olympic-museum>
- <https://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au>

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INTRODUCTION



Australia was the host nation for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

On 24 September 1993, Sydney won the right to host the Games, after four rounds of voting, selected over Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul and Manchester during the 101st International Olympic Committee Session in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The Sydney 2000 Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXVII Olympiad. It is also known as 2000 Olympics or the Millennium Olympic Games or Games of the New Millennium. Sydney 2000 Olympics was an international multi-sport event held between 15 September and 1 October 2000 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

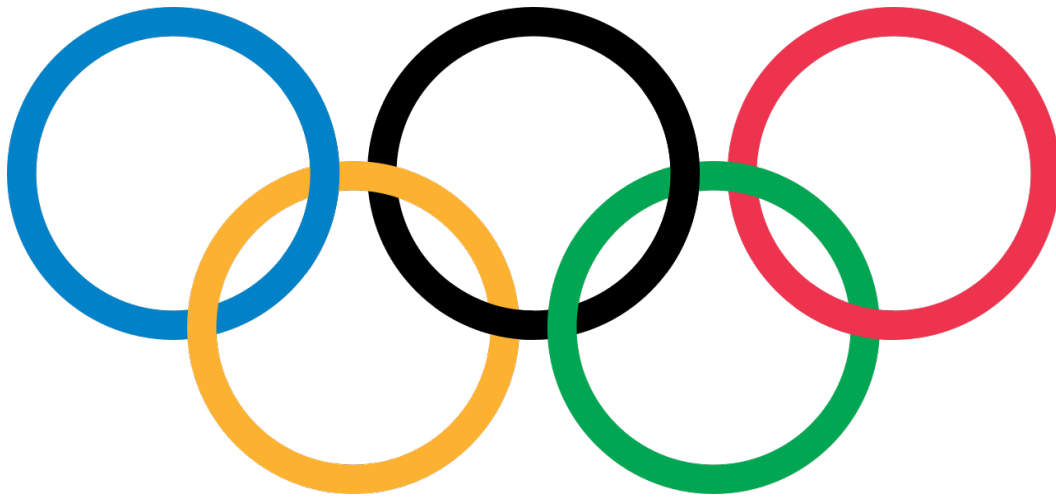
There were 10,651 (4,069 women, 6,582 men) athletes from 199 countries and participated in 300 events. Australian athletes have competed in every Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. There were 628 competitors - 341 men and 276 women. They took part in 270 events in 34 sports.

Research staff have put together stories and pictures - revisit all the magic moments, and memories of Parramatta, during the Greatest Games Ever - that were Sydney Olympics 2000.

Neera Sahni

Olympic Games

Neera Sahni



Olympic rings without rims. Created: 01 January 1913 (Image source: Wikipedia)

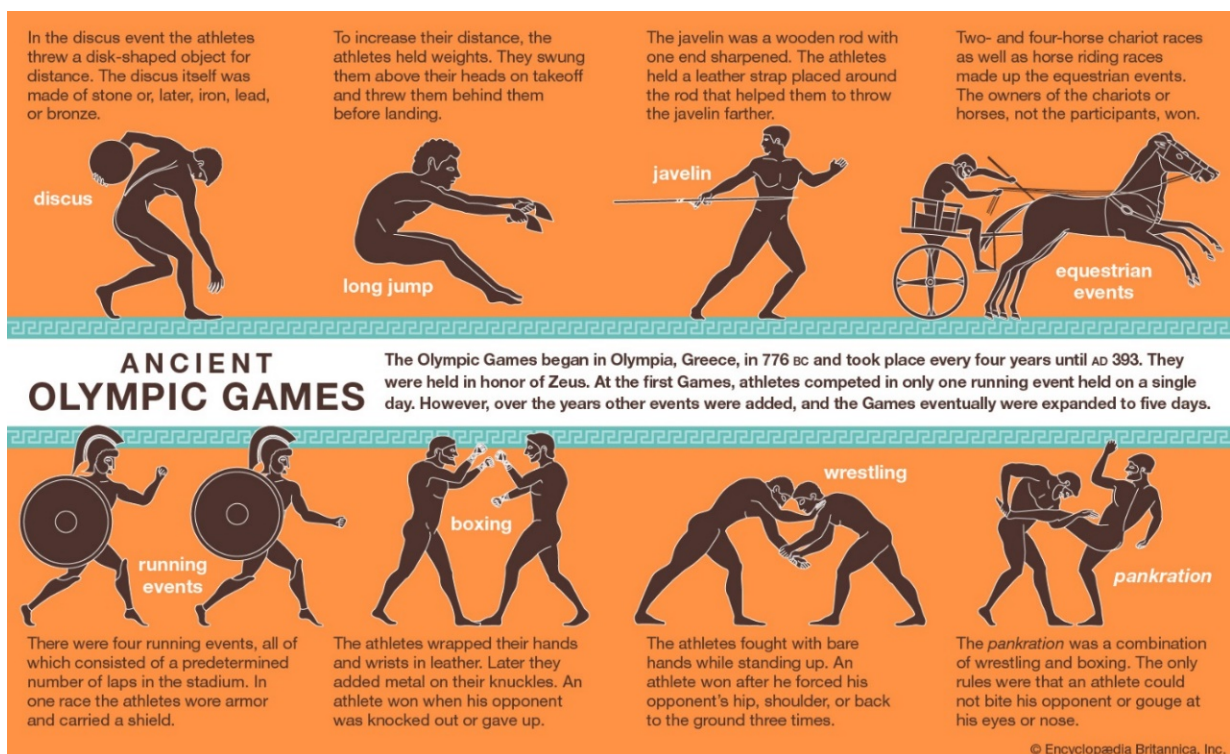
The modern Olympics or Olympic Games are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports. In these summer and winter sports competitions, thousands of athletes from over 200 nations participate in a variety of competitions. These games are considered the world's foremost sports competition. The Olympic Games are normally held every four years, alternating between the summer and winter Games every two years in the four-year period.

The Olympic Movement uses symbols, also known as the Olympic rings, to represent the ideals embodied in the Olympic Charter. The Olympic symbol represents the unity of the five inhabited continents - Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. These colours, blue, yellow, black, green, and red, were chosen because every nation had at least one of them on its national flag. The flag was adopted in 1914 and was flown for the first time at the Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium in 1920.



Baron Pierre de Coubertin (Image source: Wikipedia)

Creation of Olympics Games was inspired by the ancient Olympic, which were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. The First of modern Olympics Games was held in Athens in 1896. The International Olympic Committee is the governing body of the Olympic Movement, with the Olympic Charter defining its structure and authority.



Ancient Olympic Games infographic showing events in which athletes competed at the ancient Olympic Games, including running events, the pentathlon, and the pankration.

(Image source: Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. /Patrick O'Neill Riley)

Over the years and decades, some of the Olympics Games have been cancelled due to world wars in 1916, 1940, and 1944 Games. Moreover, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games were postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1896 Games



Opening ceremony in the Panathinaiko Stadium (Image source: Wikipedia)

The first Games held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee was hosted in the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens in 1896. These games brought together 241 athletes from 14 nations and they participated in 43 events.

Evangelos Zappas, a wealthy Greek-Romanian philanthropist, offering to fund the 1896 Olympic Games. Evangelos Zappas and his cousin Konstantinos Zappas had left the Greek government a trust to fund future Olympic Games.

George Averoff, Aromanian businessperson and philanthropist contributed generously for the refurbishment of the stadium in preparation for the 1896 Olympics Games. The Greek government also provided funding. Part of that funding was to be recouped through the sale of the first Olympic commemorative stamp set and event tickets.

Greek officials and the public were enthusiastic about the experience of hosting an Olympic Games. This feeling was shared by many of the athletes, who even demanded that Athens be the permanent Olympic host city. The IOC intended for subsequent Games to be rotated to various host cities around the world. The second Olympics was held in Paris.

During the 20th and 21st centuries, evolution of the Olympic Movement has resulted in several changes to the Olympic Games. These adjustments include the creation of - Winter Olympic Games for snow and ice sports, Paralympic Games for athletes with a disability, Youth Olympic Games for athletes aged 14 to 18, Five Continental games: Pan American, African, Asian, European, and Pacific and World Games for sports, which are not contested in the Olympic Games.

Winter Olympic Games for snow and ice sports - The Winter Olympics was created to feature snow and ice sports that were logistically impossible to hold during the Summer Games. Figure skating was introduced in 1908 and ice hockey in 1920 were featured as Olympic events at the Summer Olympics. Nevertheless, at the 1921 Olympic Congress in Lausanne, International Olympic Committee made the decision to hold a winter version of the Olympic Games.

Paralympic Games for athletes with a disability - Sir Ludwig Guttman, in 1948, promoted the rehabilitation of soldiers after World War II. He organised a multi-sport event, known as the Stoke Mandeville Games, between several hospitals. This multi-sport event was to coincide with the 1948 London Olympics. For the next twelve years, Sir Ludwig Guttman and his supporters continued their efforts to use sports as an avenue to healing. During 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Sir Ludwig Guttman brought 400 athletes to compete in the "Parallel Olympics", which was known as the first Paralympics.

Youth Olympic Games for athletes aged 14 to 18 - In 2010, the Youth Games were also included in the Olympic Games. In the Youth Games, athletes between the ages of 14 - 18 were given the chance to compete. The Youth Olympic Games were conceived by International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge in 2001 and approved during the 119th Congress of the International Olympic Committee. The first Summer Youth Games were held in Singapore from 14–26 August 2010.

Cost of the games

The Oxford Olympics Study 2016 found that sports-related costs for the Summer Games since 1960 were on average US \$5.2 billion and for the Winter Games \$3.1 billion. This does not include wider infrastructure costs like roads, urban rail, and airports, which often cost as much or more than the sports-related costs. The most expensive Summer Games were Beijing 2008 at US \$40–44 billion.

Ceremonies

Opening Ceremony: Various elements frame the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. This is mentioned in the Olympic Charter and is mandatory. Opening ceremony takes place before the events have occurred.

The opening ceremony starts with the entrance of the president of the host country followed by the hoisting of the host country's flag and a performance of its national anthem. The host country then presents artistic displays of music, singing, dance, and theatre representative of its culture. After the artistic display, speeches are given and formally opening the Games. After this, finally, the Olympic torch is brought into the stadium and passed on until it reaches the final torch carrier, often a successful Olympic athlete from the host nation, who lights the Olympic flame in the stadium's cauldron.

Closing: The closing ceremony of the Olympic Games takes place at the end of all the sporting events. Flag-bearers from each participating country enter the stadium, followed by the athletes who enter together as a group. Three national flags are hoisted, the flag of the current host country; the flag of Greece - to honour the birthplace of the Olympic Games; and the flag of the country hosting the next Summer or Winter Olympic Games.

The president of the organising committee and the International Olympic Committee president make their closing speeches indicating that the Games are officially closed, and then the Olympic flame is extinguished.

Medal presentation: A medal ceremony is held at the end of each Olympic event. The winner, second and third-place competitors or teams stand on top of a three-tiered rostrum to be awarded their respective medals. An International Olympic Committee member gives out the medals; the national anthem of the gold medallist's country is played while national flags of the three medallists are raised.

As is customary, the last medal presentation of the Games is held as part of the closing ceremony.

Sydney Olympics 2000

Neera Sahni



Sydney Olympics 2000 opening ceremony (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000>)

Australia was the host nation for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

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There were 10,651 (4,069 women, 6,582 men) athletes from 199 countries and participated in 300 events. Australian athletes have competed in every Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. There were 628 competitors - 341 men and 276 women. They took part in 270 events in 34 sports.

On 24 September 1993, Sydney won the right to host the Games, after four rounds of voting, selected over Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul and Manchester during the 101st International Olympic Committee Session in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

2000 Summer Olympics bidding results

City	Nation	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Sydney	Australia	30	30	37	45
Beijing	China	32	37	40	43
Manchester	Great Britain	11	13	11	-
Berlin	Germany	9	9	-	-
Istanbul	Turkey	7	-	-	-

Cost: In 2000, the Auditor-General of New South Wales reported that the Sydney Games cost AUD \$6.6 billion, with a net cost to the public between AUD \$1.7 and AUD \$2.4 billion. Many venues were constructed in the Sydney Olympic Park. In the years leading up to the games, funds were shifted from education and health programs to cover Olympic expenses.

Phases of the Olympic project

The staging of the Sydney Olympics were treated as a massive project on a vast scale. The project broken into several broad phases:

- 1993 to 1996 – positioning
- 1997 – going operational
- 1998 – procurement/venueisation
- 1999 – testing/refinement
- 2000 – implementation
- 2001 – post implementation and wind-down

Volunteer program

In early 1992, before the bid, volunteer program for Sydney 2000 games was established. A group of Sydney citizens, interested in the prospect of hosting the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, gathered for a meeting at Sports House, at Wentworth Park in Sydney on 17 December 1992. After winning the bid in 1993, the small group of volunteers grew from approximately 42 to around 500. These volunteers became known as Pioneer Volunteers.

The Pioneer Volunteer program was managed by the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) Volunteer Services Department in consultation with prominent peak groups like The Centre for Volunteering and TAFE.

During the Olympic 46,967 volunteers, helped everywhere at the Olympic venues, transportation hubs and elsewhere in the city.

The Official Logo

The bid logo, designed by architect and designer Michael Bryce, featured a colourful, stylised image of the Sydney Opera House.

The official logo – also referred to as the "Millennium Man" – took the image of the bid logo and combined it with a stylised image of a runner to form a torchbearer in motion;



formed by two small yellow boomerangs for arms and a larger red boomerang for legs. The Olympic torch is represented through a blue smoke trail, which draws the iconic peaks of the Sydney Opera House.

The design process of the official logo, as well as all other aspects of the Olympic Games' visual design identity, was awarded to Melbourne design studio FHA Image Design. The Sydney Olympics brand identity project officially commenced in 1993.

The Mascots

The mascots chosen for the 2000 Summer Olympics were

- Syd the platypus
- Millie the echidna, and
- Olly the kookaburra
- Fatso the Fat-Arsed Wombat - an unofficial mascot



Olympic Torch

Sydney Olympics 2000 torch travelled across Greece, Guam, Palau, Federal States of Micronesia, Salomon Islands, Papua New Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, New Zealand and Australia. Total distance covered by the torch is over 45,693 km and 436 nautical miles – 1,693 km and 436 nautical mile in Greece, around 17,000 in Oceania and 27,000 in Australia. There were 23,400 torchbearers - around 900 in Greece, 1,500 in Oceania and 11,000 in Australia.

Opening Ceremony: Cathy Freeman, the Australian athlete, had the honour of lighting the Olympic torch at the Opening Ceremony. This emotional moment helped symbolise the desire to reconcile with the Aboriginal populations of Australia.



Sydney Olympics 2000 - Mascots

Neera Sahni



Sydney Olympics 2000 Mascots - Syd, Olly and Millie (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org>)

First time during Sydney Olympics 2000, there were three official mascots. Previously, for the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary were couples, Hidy and Howdy.

The kookaburra and the duck-billed platypus are two emblems of the New South Wales.

The three official mascots for the Sydney Olympics 2000 are:

- a duck-billed platypus (Syd)
- a kookaburra (Olly)
- an echidna or spiny anteater (Millie)

They symbolise the water, air and earth respectively. Their colours correspond to those of the Games emblem, and all three are typical examples of Australian fauna.

Creator of these mascots is Matthew Hatton. These mascots were designed by Matthew Hattan & Jozef Szekeres and were named by Philip Sheldon of agency Weekes Morris Osborn.

Syd is a reference to Sydney, Olly to Olympic and Millie to the new millennium.



Fatso the Fat-Arsed Wombat (Image source: Saberwyn / Wikimedia Commons 2010)

There was also an unofficial mascot, Fatso the Fat-Arsed Wombat, which was popularised by comedy team Roy Slaven and HG Nelson on the TV series *The Dream with Roy and HG*.

Sydney Olympics 2000 - The Victory Medals

Neera Sahni



Victory medals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

(Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000-medals>)

In July 1998, The Medal Ceremonies Sub-Program sent invitations, to 18 prominent artists, sculptors, jewellery designers and design students to select a design for the Olympic victory medals. Four months later, contestants submitted their designs on paper together with actual size replicas. A panel of six experts judged these designs and replicas. The unanimous choice was the design of Wojciech Pietranik.



Wojtek Pietranik, designer of the victory medals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games
 (Image source: http://olympic-museum.de/w_medals/olympic_victory_medals%202000.pdf)

Wojtek Pietranik was born in Gdansk, Poland, in 1950 and graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk with honours at the age of 20.

In 1985, Wojtek Pietranik moved to Australia and began teaching sculpture. In 1989, he began working as a designer and engraver for the Royal Australian Mint.

The medals were 68 mm in diameter, 3 mm thick at the rim and 5 mm thick at the highest point of the relief. The obverse of the Sydney Olympic medals featured the requisite subject of Nike the Goddess of victory, holding a wreath overhead with two palm fronds wrapped in her left hand. She was seated beside a Grecian urn and below her were sprigs of wattle, the Australian national flower. Beside Nike were the traditional Cassioli stadium representation, and a chariot pulled by four horses. The reverse depicted the Sydney Opera House and Sydney's futuristic Olympic Torch. The five raised Olympic rings punctuated the centre, and the name of the event was engraved on the outer rim. Winning athletes were able to have their name engraved on the obverse side, where space had been allowed for that purpose.

- Gold Medals: 750 gold medals were 99.99 per cent pure solid silver with 5 gm gold plating
- Silver Medal: 750 silver medals were 99.99 per cent pure solid silver
- Bronze Medal: 780 bronze medals were 99 per cent bronze with one per cent silver

The medals were struck at the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra and the Perth Mint. All Sydney 2000 medals were hung on blue ribbons made by the Woolmark Corporation and bore the legend "Sydney 2000" in silver embroidered lettering.

Raw materials to produce the Olympic victory medals was donated by mining companies and communities around Australia.



Olympic Victory Medal (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000>)

- **Gold Medals:** Total of 10.5kg of gold was required for the gold medals. All the gold used in the medals came from two mines in the Orange and Blayney areas of central west NSW. The total amount of gold used in production of 750 gold medals was worth more than AUD \$190,000 at the time.
- **Silver Medals:** More than 1000kg of silver was required for all the medals. The Cannington mine in Queensland donated most of the silver. In addition, the community of Broken Hill donated a 22.5kg ingot of silver.
- **Bronze Medals:** The bronze medals were made from melted down 1c and 2c coins that were made obsolete in Australia in 1996. There is a high possibility that the bronze coins used for the medals passed through the hands of most Australians before being turned into medals for Olympians. The bronze medals were made up of 1% silver, 97% copper (from coins), 2.5% zinc and 0.5% tin.

Sydney Olympics 2000 - Venues

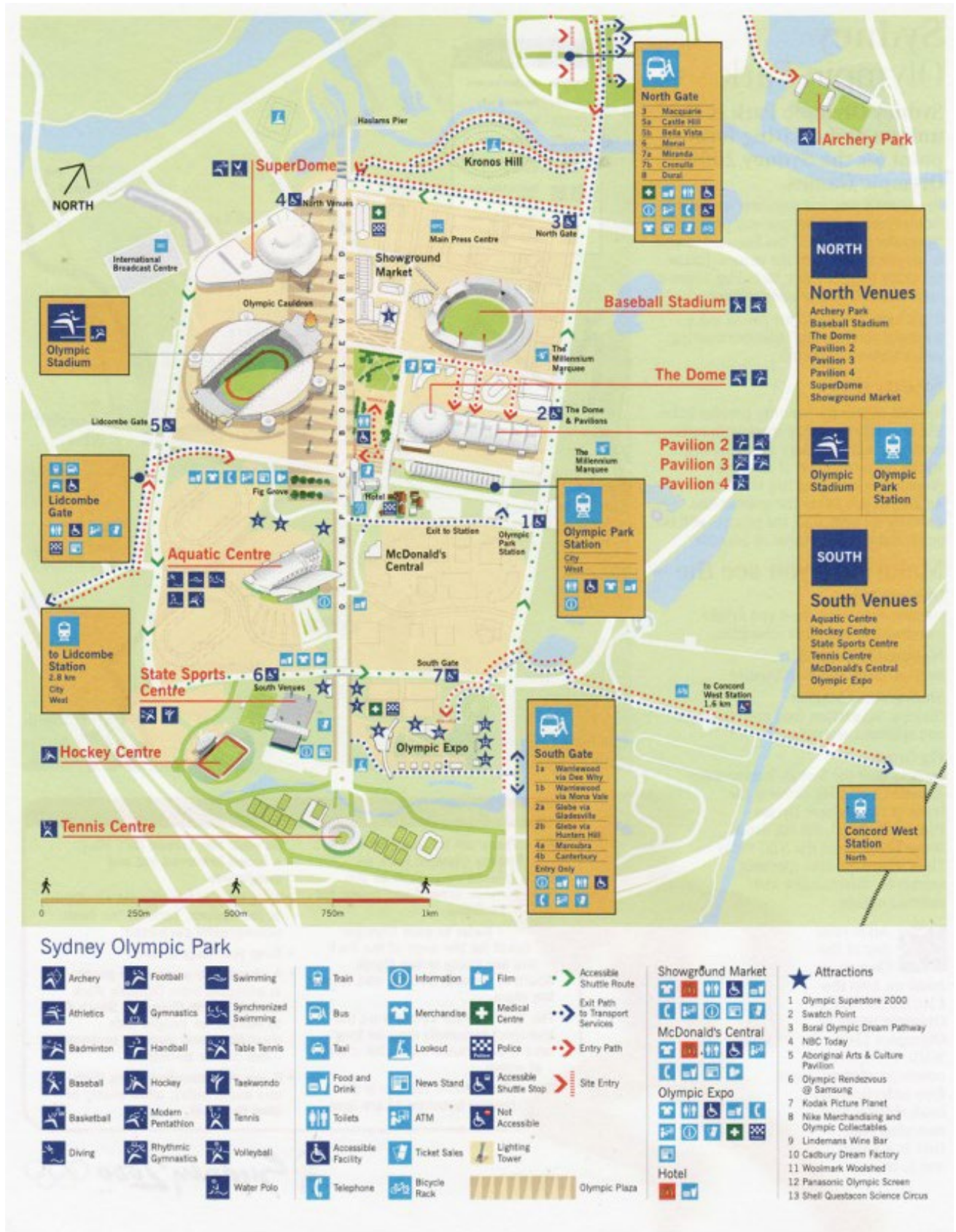
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Sydney Olympics 2000 opening ceremony (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000>)

Sydney Olympic Park

- Olympic Stadium: Ceremonies (opening/closing), Athletics, Football (final)
- Sydney International Aquatic Centre: Diving, Modern Pentathlon (swimming) Swimming, Synchronised Swimming, Water Polo (medal events)
- State Sports Centre: Table Tennis, Taekwondo
- NSW Tennis Centre: Tennis
- State Hockey Centre: Field Hockey
- The Dome and Exhibition Complex: Badminton, Basketball, Gymnastics (rhythmic), Handball (final), Modern Pentathlon (fencing, shooting), Volleyball (indoor)
- Sydney Superdome: Gymnastics (artistic, trampoline), Basketball (final)
- Sydney Baseball Stadium: Baseball, Modern Pentathlon (riding, running)
- Sydney International Archery Park: Archery



Sydney Olympic 2000 competition venues in Sydney Olympic Park
(Image source: Architecture of the Games, 2000)

Sydney

- Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre: Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Weightlifting, Wrestling
- Sydney Entertainment Centre: Volleyball (indoor final)
- Dunc Gray Velodrome: Cycling (track)
- Sydney International Shooting Centre at Cecil Park: Shooting
- Sydney International Equestrian Centre at Horsley Park: Equestrian
- Sydney International Regatta Centre: Rowing, Canoeing (sprint)
- Blacktown Olympic Centre: Baseball, Softball
- Western Sydney Parklands (Calmsley Hill City Farm formerly Fairfield City Farm) at Abbotsbury: Cycling (mountain biking)
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre: Water Polo
- Penrith Whitewater Stadium: Canoeing (slalom)
- Bondi Beach: Volleyball (beach)
- Sydney Football Stadium: Football
- Olympic Sailing Shore Base: Sailing
- Centennial Parklands: Cycling (road)
- Marathon course: Athletics (marathon)
- North Sydney: Athletics (marathon start)
- Sydney Opera House: Triathlon

Outside Sydney

- Canberra Stadium, Canberra: Football
- Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide: Football
- Melbourne Cricket Ground: Football
- The Gabba (Brisbane Cricket Ground), Brisbane: Football

Sydney Olympics 2000 – Participating Countries

Neera Sahni



Sydney Olympics 2000 (Image source: Topend sports)

Sydney Olympics 2000 or the Millennium Olympic Games/Games of the New Millennium, was an international multi-sport event held between 15 September and 1 October 2000 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. It was the second time the Summer Olympics were held in Australia, and the Southern Hemisphere, the first being in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1956.

There were 10,651 (4,069 women, 6,582 men) athletes from 199 countries and participated in 300 events. List of the participating countries is as follows:

1	Albania	10	Australia	19	Belize
2	Algeria	11	Austria	20	Bermuda
3	American Samoa	12	Azerbaijan	21	Benin
4	Andorra	13	Bahamas	22	Bhutan
5	Angola	14	Bahrain	23	Bolivia
6	Antigua and Barbuda	15	Bangladesh	24	Bosnia and Herzog
7	Argentina	16	Barbados	25	Botswana
8	Armenia	17	Belarus	26	Brazil
9	Aruba	18	Belgium	27	British Virgin Islands

28	Brunei	64	Finland	100	Laos
29	Bulgaria	65	France	101	Latvia
30	Burkina Faso	66	Gabon	102	Lebanon
31	Burundi	67	Gambia	103	Lesotho
32	Cambodia	68	Georgia	104	Liberia
33	Cameroon	69	Germany	105	Libya
34	Canada	70	Ghana	106	Liechtenstein
35	Cape Verde	71	Great Britain	107	Lithuania
36	Cayman Islands	72	Greece	108	Luxembourg
37	Central Africa	73	Grenada	109	Rep. of Macedonia
38	Chad	74	Guam	110	Madagascar
39	Chile	75	Guatemala	111	Malawi
40	China	76	Guinea	112	Malaysia
41	Colombia	77	Guinea-Bissau	113	Maldives
42	Comoros	78	Guyana	114	Mali
43	Congo, Rep. of the	79	Haiti	115	Malta
44	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	80	Honduras	116	Mauritania
45	Cook Islands	81	Hong Kong	117	Mauritius
46	Costa Rica	82	Hungary	118	Mexico
47	Côte d'Ivoire	83	Iceland	119	Micronesia, Fed. States
48	Croatia	84	India	120	Moldova, Rep. of
49	Cuba	85	Indonesia	121	Monaco
50	Cyprus	86	Iran	122	Mongolia
51	Czech Republic	87	Iraq	123	Morocco
52	Denmark	88	Ireland	124	Mozambique
53	Djibouti	89	Israel	125	Myanmar, Union of
54	Dominica	90	Italy	126	Namibia
55	Dominican Republic	91	Jamaica	127	Nauru
56	Ecuador	92	Japan	128	Nepal
57	Egypt	93	Jordan	129	Netherlands
58	El Salvador	94	Kazakhstan	130	Netherlands Antilles
59	Equatorial Guinea	95	Kenya	131	New Zealand
60	Eritrea	96	Korea, North	132	Nicaragua
61	Estonia	97	Korea, South	133	Niger
62	Ethiopia	98	Kuwait	134	Nigeria
63	Fiji	99	Kyrgyzstan	135	Norway

136	Oman
137	Pakistan
138	Palau
139	Palestine
140	Panama
141	Papua New Guinea
142	Paraguay
143	Peru
144	Philippines
145	Poland
146	Portugal
147	Puerto Rico
148	Qatar
149	Romania
150	Russian
151	Rwanda
152	Saint Kitts and Nevis
153	Saint Lucia
154	St Vincent and Grenada
155	Samoa
156	San Marino
157	Sao Tome and Principe
158	Saudi Arabia
159	Senegal
160	Serbia and Montenegro
161	Seychelles
162	Sierra Leone
163	Singapore
164	Slovakia
165	Slovenia
166	Solomon Islands
167	Somalia

168	South Africa
169	Spain
170	Sri Lanka
171	Sudan
172	Surinam
173	Swaziland
174	Sweden
175	Switzerland
176	Syria
177	Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)
178	Tajikistan
179	Tanzania
180	Thailand
181	Togo
182	Tonga
183	Trinidad and Tobago
184	Tunisia
185	Turkey
186	Turkmenistan
187	Uganda
188	Ukraine
189	United Arab Emirates
190	United States
191	Uruguay
192	Uzbekistan
193	Vanuatu
194	Venezuela
195	Vietnam
196	Virgin Islands
197	Yemen
198	Zambia
199	Zimbabwe

Sydney Olympics 2000 - Summer Sports

Neera Sahni



Sydney 2000 (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000>)

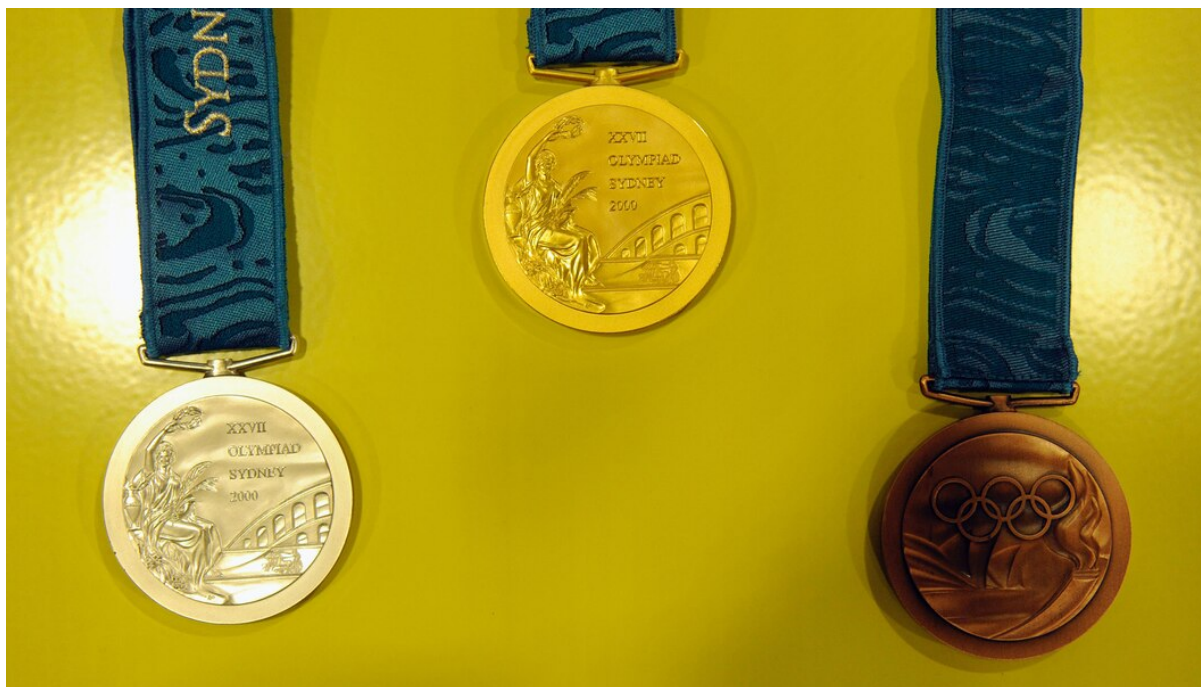
Sydney Olympics 2000 - List of Summer Sports

Archery	Judo
Artistic Swimming	Karate
Athletics	Marathon Swimming
Badminton	Modern Pentathlon
Baseball and Softball	Rowing
Basketball	Rugby
Beach Volleyball	Sailing
Boxing	Shooting
Canoe Slalom	Skateboarding
Canoe Sprint	Sport Climbing
Cycling BMX	Surfing
Cycling Mountain Bike	Swimming
Cycling Road	Table Tennis
Cycling Track	Taekwondo

Diving	Tennis
Equestrian/Dressage	Trampoline
Equestrian/Eventing	Triathlon
Equestrian/Jumping	Volleyball
Fencing	Water Polo
Football	Weightlifting
Golf	Wrestling Freestyle
Gymnastics Artistic	Wrestling Greco-Roman
Gymnastics Rhythmic	
Handball	
Hockey	

Sydney Olympics 2000 – Medal Tally

Neera Sahni



Victory medals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

(Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000-medals>)

Top ten nations won medals in the Sydney Olympics 2000 Games

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	37	24	32	93
2	Russia	32	28	29	89
3	China	28	16	15	59
4	Australia	16	25	17	58
5	Germany	13	17	26	56
6	France	13	14	11	38
7	Italy	13	8	13	34
8	Netherlands	12	9	4	25
9	Cuba	11	11	7	29
10	Great Britain	11	10	7	28
Total	10 nations	186	162	161	509

Australian Medal Talley

	Medal	Athlete	Sport	Event
1	Gold	Ian Thorpe	Swimming	Men's 400m freestyle
2	Gold	Grant Hackett	Swimming	Men's 1500m freestyle
3	Gold	Grant Hackett Bill Kirby Michael Klim Daniel Kowalski Todd Pearson Ian Thorpe	Swimming	Men's 4 × 200m freestyle relay
4	Gold	Simon Fairweather	Archery	Men's Individual
5	Gold	Cathy Freeman	Athletics	Women's 400m
6	Gold	Brett Aitken Scott McGrory	Cycling	Men's Madison
7	Gold	Phillip Dutton Andrew Hoy Matthew Ryan Stuart Tinney	Equestrian	Eventing Team
8	Gold	Australia women's national field hockey team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Allen • Alyson Annan • Renita Farrell • Juliet Haslam • Rechelle Hawkes • Nikki Hudson • Rachel Imison • Clover Maitland • Claire Mitchell-Taverner • Jenny Morris • Alison Peek • Katrina Powell • Lisa Powell • Angie Skirving • Kate Starre • Julie Towers 	Field hockey	Women's competition
9	Gold	Michael Diamond	Shooting	Men's trap
10	Gold	Tom King Mark Turnbull	Sailing	Men's 470

11	Gold	Jenny Armstrong Belinda Stowell	Sailing	Women's 470
12	Gold	Adam Pine Todd Pearson Michael Klim Ashley Callus Chris Fydler Ian Thorpe	Swimming	Men's 4 × 100m freestyle relay
13	Gold	Susie O'Neill	Swimming	Women's 200m freestyle
14	Gold	Lauren Burns	Taekwondo	Women's 49kg
15	Gold	Natalie Cook Kerri Pottharst	Volleyball	Women's beach volleyball
16	Gold	Australia women's national water polo team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi Castle • Joanne Fox • Bridgette Gusterson • Simone Hankin • Yvette Higgins • Kate Hooper • Bronwyn Mayer • Gail Miller • Melissa Mills • Debbie Watson • Liz Weekes • Danielle Woodhouse • Taryn Woods 	Water polo	Women's competition

	Medal	Athlete	Sport	Event
17	Silver	Jai Taurima	Athletics	Men's long jump
18	Silver	Tatiana Grigorieva	Athletics	Women's pole vault
19	Silver	Australia women's national basketball team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carla Boyd • Michelle Brogan • Sandy Brondello • Trisha Fallon • Kristi Harrower • Jo Hill • Lauren Jackson • Annie La Fleur 	Basketball	Women's competition

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley Sandie • Rachael Sporn • Michele Timms • Jenny Whittle 		
20	Silver	Daniel Collins Andrew Trim	Canoeing	Men's K-2 500m
21	Silver	Gary Neiwand	Cycling	Men's Keirin
22	Silver	Michelle Ferris	Cycling	Women's track time trial
23	Silver	Andrew Hoy	Equestrian	Eventing Individual
24	Silver	Ji Wallace	Gymnastics	Men's trampoline
25	Silver	Daniel Burke Jaime Fernandez Alastair Gordon Brett Hayman Rob Jahrling Mike McKay Nick Porzig Christian Ryan Stuart Welch	Rowing	Men's eight
26	Silver	Darren Balmforth Simon Burgess Anthony Edwards Robert Richards	Rowing	Men's lightweight coxless four
27	Silver	Kate Slatter Rachael Taylor	Rowing	Women's coxless pair
28	Silver	Darren Bundock John Forbes	Sailing	Tornado
29	Silver	Russell Mark	Shooting	Men's double trap
30	Silver	Ian Thorpe	Swimming	Men's 200m freestyle
31	Silver	Kieren Perkins	Swimming	Men's 1500m freestyle
32	Silver	Matt Welsh	Swimming	Men's 100m backstroke
33	Silver	Michael Klim	Swimming	Men's 100m butterfly
34	Silver	Regan Harrison Geoff Huegill Michael Klim Ryan Mitchell Adam Pine Ian Thorpe Josh Watson Matt Welsh	Swimming	Men's 4 × 100m medley relay
35	Silver	Leisel Jones	Swimming	Women's 100m breaststroke
36	Silver	Susie O'Neill	Swimming	Women's 200m butterfly

37	Silver	Elka Graham Susie O'Neill Giaan Rooney Petria Thomas Kirsten Thomson Jacinta van Lint	Swimming	Women's 4 × 200m freestyle relay
38	Silver	Dyana Calub Leisel Jones Susie O'Neill Giaan Rooney Sarah Ryan Petria Thomas Tarnee White	Swimming	Women's 4 × 100m medley relay
39	Silver	Daniel Trenton	Taekwondo	Men's +80kg
40	Silver	Todd Woodbridge Mark Woodforde	Tennis	Men's doubles
41	Silver	Michellie Jones	Triathlon	Women's competition

	Medal	Athlete	Sport	Event
42	Bronze	Katrin Borchert	Canoeing	Women's K-1 500m
43	Bronze	Shane Kelly	Cycling	Men's track time trial
44	Bronze	Bradley McGee	Cycling	Men's individual pursuit
45	Bronze	Sean Eadie Darryn Hill Gary Neiwand	Cycling	Men's team sprint
46	Bronze	Robert Newbery Dean Pullar	Diving	Men's synchronized 3m springboard
47	Bronze	Rebecca Gilmore Loudy Tourky	Diving	Women's synchronized 10m platform
48	Bronze	Australia men's national field hockey team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Brennan • Adam Commens • Stephen John Davies • Damon Diletti • Lachlan Dreher • Jason Duff • Troy Elder • James Elmer • Paul Gaudoin • Stephen Holt • Brent Livermore 	Field hockey	Men's competition

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Sproule • Jay Stacy • Craig Victory • Matthew Wells • Michael York 		
49	Bronze	Maria Pekli	Judo	Women's 57kg
50	Bronze	Ben Dodwell Bo Hanson Geoff Stewart James Stewart	Rowing	Men's coxless four
51	Bronze	Matthew Long James Tomkins	Rowing	Men's coxless pair
52	Bronze	Michael Blackburn	Sailing	Laser
53	Bronze	Annemarie Forder	Shooting	Women's 10m air pistol
54	Bronze	Australia women's national softball team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Allen • Joanne Brown • Fiona Crawford • Kerry Dienelt • Peta Edebone • Sue Fairhurst • Selina Follas • Kelly Hardie • Tanya Harding • Sally McDermid • Simone Morrow • Melanie Roche • Natalie Titcume • Natalie Ward • Brooke Wilkins 	Softball	Women-only event
55	Bronze	Matt Welsh	Swimming	Men's 200 m backstroke
56	Bronze	Geoff Huegill	Swimming	Men's 100m butterfly
57	Bronze	Justin Norris	Swimming	Men's 200m butterfly
58	Bronze	Petria Thomas	Swimming	Women's 200m butterfly

Cathy Freeman

Emma Stockburn



(Image source:)

Cathy Freeman was born in Makay QLD in 1973, three hours from her extended family who lived at Woorabinda, an Aboriginal mission. She was 'hooked on running' at the age of eight when she ran her first race. Soon after she was attending the Primary School Championships and by the age of fourteen, she knew, her only goal was to win an Olympic Medal.

Cathy has said,

"the dream evolved throughout my childhood and my the time I was in high school I wasn't thinking about anything else. The first thing I remember about running was how happy it made me feel"

By fourteen, Cathy had already won national titles in high jump, the 100, 200 and 400 metre sprints. Then she won her first gold medal in the 4 x 100 metre relay at the 1990 Commonwealth Games when just sixteen years old. This was the first time an Aboriginal Australian had won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

It was in 1994 that Cathy had her breakthrough year and joined the athletic elite.

This was at the Commonwealth Games in Canada and Freeman won gold in both the 200 m and 400 m. She also competed as a member of Australia's 4 × 100 m squad, winning the silver medal. During 1994, she also took 1.3 seconds from her 400 m personal best, achieving 50.04 seconds, and set all-time personal bests in both the 100 m (11.24) and 200 m (22.25). In 1998, Cathy was named Australian of the Year.

Beset by injury in 1998, Cathy took the season off, but by the 2000 Sydney Olympics she was the favourite to win the 400 metres. She had lit the Olympic Flame at the Opening Ceremony and as Freeman took to the track for her main race it was with the hope of a nation. But also to the background of reconciling and solidarity for Australians Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. In May 2000 over 250'000 people walked over the Sydney Harbour Bridge in a Walk for Reconciliation *"The march was a public expression of support for meaningful reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples."* And it was this feeling that carried across the 111' 00 strong stadium audience and millions more around the world. Cathy Freeman won her race with a time of 49.11 seconds, a time that makes her the eighth fastest women in the world.

Taken from an article written this year as a recollection of the race in 2000.

"Her lap of honour was like a dance, as she carried both the Aboriginal and Australian flags. With those joyful steps she lodged herself in our hearts forever...On screen we saw a sea of Aboriginal flags, Australian flags, green and gold streamers and people clapping their hands. It's hard not to imagine that, at that minute, every Australian was proud of Freeman – and what she represented to us all. Strength, commitment, focus and belief in self"

Cathy was given the Olympic Order for Sportswoman of the year in 2001. Freeman announced her retirement in 2003. Now pursuing interests that are of significance to her, especially those related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Including the formation of the Cathy Freeman Foundation to help children have brighter future through education.

Ian Thorpe

Emma Stockburn



(Image source:)

Ian Thorpe was born on October 13, 1982 in Milperra, a suburb of Sydney. Thorpe is the most decorated male Australian Olympian, and was the most successful athlete at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. His speciality is freestyle but he has also been successful in the backstroke and individual medley.

Thorpe started swimming when he was seven years old. He was an active and highly successful swimmer during his primary school years and competed at state and national levels throughout. By the time he was fourteen years old he was the fourth fastest competitor for the 400m freestyle and in 1997 he was the youngest ever male swimmer selected for the Australian swimming team.

Ian Thorpe made his international debut at the 1997 Pan Pacific Championships and here he set new personal bests in the both the 200m and 400 metres events. However, it was during the 1998 World Aquatic Championships in the 4 x 200m medley that Thorpe, at the age of fifteen became the fourth fastest ever male world champion. He won four gold medals at the 1998 Commonwealth games. In 1998 he was named the youngest swimmer to be named the Swimming World Swimmer.

The Sydney Olympics in 2000 were near and Thorpe had already broken 10 world records. Four of these records were broken at the 1999 Pan Pacific titles. Thorpe was expected to compete in the Sydney event with relative ease with the media calling him invincible. On the first night of Olympic competition in Sydney he won the 400m freestyle, besting his own world mark, then combined with Michael Klim, Chris Fydler and Ashley Callus to beat the United States in their first defeat ever in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay, setting another world record. This swim was drama packed and is a highlight of any Olympic games. Then again, Thorpe featured with Klim, Todd Pearson and Bill Kirby in another world-record relay victory winning the 4 x 200m. Ian Thorpe was the most successful athlete of the 2000 Games, with three gold and two silver medals.

In between Sydney and Atlanta Thorpe added to his immense medal tally. Winning twenty gold medals at World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Pan Pacific's. During his time at Athens in 2004 he competed in what was called the "race of the century against" Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband and American Michael Phelps. Thorpe won the 200m race and with this result cemented his place as one of the best swimmers of all time. Thorpe won two gold and two silver at the Athens Games.

Ian Thorpe officially retired from competitive swimming in 2006 and in April 2018, Thorpe was awarded an Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee.

Lord Mayoral Minute Announcement of the Sydney Olympics 2000

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

SUBJECT Sydney Olympics 2000
REFERENCE File 186/59 - 9316203
REPORT OF Lord Mayoral Minute No. 12/93

74623 RESOLVED

- (a) A Committee be established to act as a Project Team for the Sydney Olympics 2000 consisting of the Lord Mayor, four Councillors, the General Manager and relevant Directors.
- (b) Regular reports be submitted to keep Council informed of progress by the Project Team in this matter.
- (c) The Parramatta Olympic Bid Committee be advised of Council's appreciation for their work associated with Sydney's bid for the year 2000 Olympic Games and also be invited to reform the Committee into a Support Committee.

.../Cont'd

THIS IS PAGE 2 OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1993 AND CONFIRMED ON NOVEMBER 1, 1993.

*Lord Mayoral Minute announcement of the Sydney Olympics 2000
(Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)*

The Olympic Journey in Parramatta

Michelle Goodman & Neera Sahni



PRS118_086_001: Aboriginal dancers performing at the Olympic Flag in Parramatta ceremony, 1996
(Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_089_001: Parramatta Lord Mayor John Books at the Olympic Journey Parade in Parramatta, 1997 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_090_002: Sydney 2000 banner at Olympics Parade in Parramatta, 1997
(Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_089_002: Sydney 2000 Mascots at the Olympic Journey Parade in Parramatta, 1997 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_091_001: Athlete signing autographs at Paralympic Expo in Church Street Mall, Parramatta, 1997 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_090_001: Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer (1960) John Devitt [Grew up and trained in Granville] in Olympic Parade in Parramatta, 1997 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_103_002: Sydney Olympics Torch Relay event in Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_115_002: Sydney Olympics Torch Relay in Parramatta, 2000 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_115_001: Sydney Olympics Torch Relay in Parramatta, 2000 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_108_001: Sydney Olympics Torch Relay in Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_103_001: Sydney Olympics Torch Relay event in Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_095_001: Lord Mayor Lorraine Wearne at Parramatta Olympics Festival, 2000
(Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_105_001: Lord Mayor David Borger (left) with Sydney Olympics Cauldron in Parramatta, 2000 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_105_002: Lord Mayor David Borger (left) with Sydney Olympics Cauldron in Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_104_001: Sydney Olympics Cauldron alight in Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)



PRS118_096_001: Official volunteers at Parramatta Olympics Festival, 2000 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_092_001: Members of the Mexican Olympics team dining out in Parramatta, 2000 (Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives)



PRS118_092_002: Sydney Olympics banners in Church Street, Parramatta, 2000 (*Image source: City of Parramatta Council Archives*)

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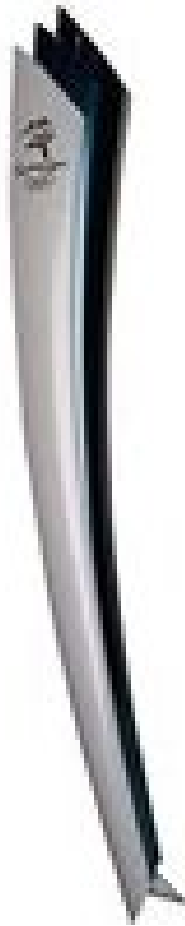
Sydney Olympics 2000 - Relive the Magic

Neera Sahni



Sydney Olympics 2000 – Official Logo (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)

To mark the 20th anniversary of Sydney Olympics, let us revisit all the magical moments of what former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch declared at the Closing Ceremony "as the best Olympic Games Ever"



Olympic Torch (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)





Flaming path to glory. Local bearers of the torch on way to the Olympic Games.
(Image source: *Parramatta Advertiser*, 20 September 2000, page 7)



Opening Ceremony – Nature segment (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)

The Opening Ceremony in Sydney was the show that stopped a nation. An estimated 3.6 billion people around the world witnessed it.



Nikki Webster performs at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. (Image Source: Craig Golding, Fairfax Syndication)

Spectacular performances by Vanessa Amorosi, James Morrison, Human Nature, Adam Garcia, Djakapurra Munyarrayun and Nikki Webster, whose performance at just 13 years of age wowed the world.



Cathy Freeman – Opening Ceremony (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)

The Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Sydney 2000 - personalities who made the night so unforgettable are flagbearer Andrew Gaze and hometown hero Cathy Freeman, who stole the show.



Cathy Freeman – Opening Ceremony (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



Opening Ceremony (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



Fireworks – Opening Ceremony (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



01 Oct 2000: The Sydney Harbour Bridge is lit up with Fireworks after the Closing Ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Sydney Australia. (Image Credit: Matt Turner/Getty Images)



Fatso the Fat-Arsed Wombat (Image source: flicker)



Sydney Olympics 2000 Mascots - Syd, Olly and Millie (Image source: flicker)



Sydney Olympics 2000 Mascots - Syd, Olly and Millie (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



Victory medals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games (Image source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000-medals>)



Wojtek Pietranik, designer of the victory medals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games (Image source: http://olympic-museum.de/w_medals/olympic_victory_medals%202000.pdf)



Olympic Victory Medal (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org/sydney-2000>)



Cathy Freeman (Image Source: Channel 7)



(Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



Ian Thorpe (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org/news/olympic-great-ian-thorpe-offers-message-of-hope-and-positivity>)

Swimming stars Ian Thorpe, breaking his own world record



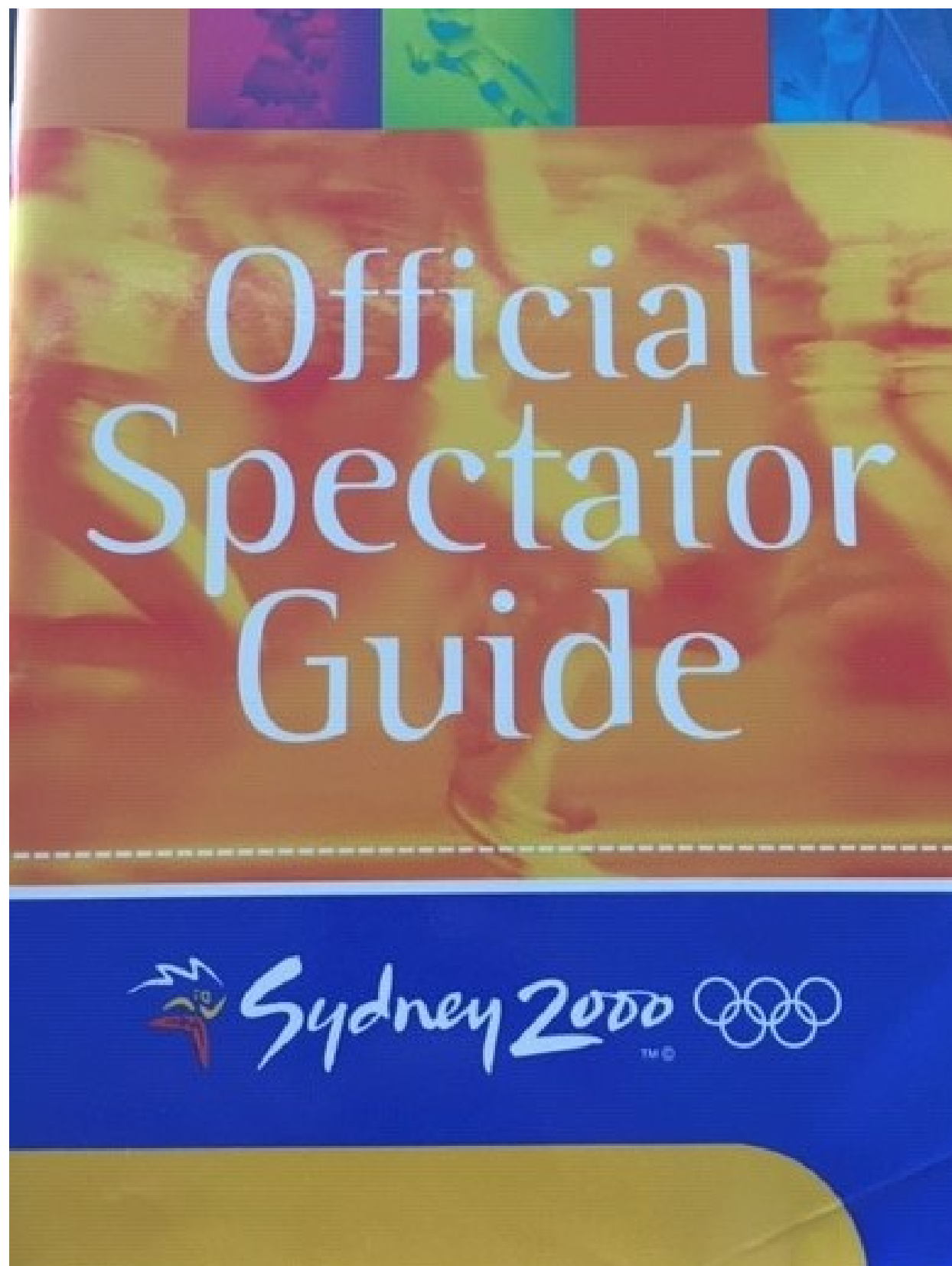
16 Sep 2000: Ian Thorpe of Australia celebrates winning Gold in the Mens 400m Freestyle Final at the Sydney International Aquatic Centre during Day One of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Thorpe won the Gold in a new World and Olympic record time of 3 mins 40.59 seconds. *(Credit: Nick Wilson/Getty Images)*



Countdown to Closing Ceremony (Image Source: <https://www.olympic.org>)



Sydney Harbour Bridge during closing ceremony of Sydney Olympics 2000
(Image Source: Wikimedia)



Sydney Olympic Park

Sydney Olympic Park

Sydney Olympic Park is the unique and exciting focal point for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, a special one-way pedestrian "spectator traffic plan" has been developed to get you to and from the venues. Follow the signs to the venues, including where to enter and exit venues and facilities.

If you have any questions please ask a spectator services staff member wearing yellow sleeved uniforms.

Security

You can expect the security process to be like an airport security check with walk-through magnetometers and hand-held wands. As a condition of entry, be prepared to have your bag inspected. As long as you follow the instructions given by security staff, the process will be quick and as unobtrusive as possible.

Make sure you see the –

Olympic Expo

sponsor attractions, food and drinks, merchandise and other amenities.

McDonalds Central

for food, drink and merchandise

Showground Market

Olympic Superstore, food and beverages and spectator amenities

Fig Grove

Located near the Sydney International Aquatic Centre, Fig Grove is the home of the Olympic Dream Pathway by Boral, the Fig Grove Water Feature and the NBC Today Show. There are also spectator amenities, merchandise and catering outlets.

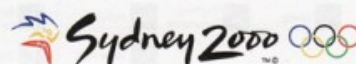


After your day at the Games, head on into the City for Sydney's Olympic party at Olympics Live. With live sport coverage of the Games, free entertainment, food, drinks and non-stop fun, this is a party not to miss!

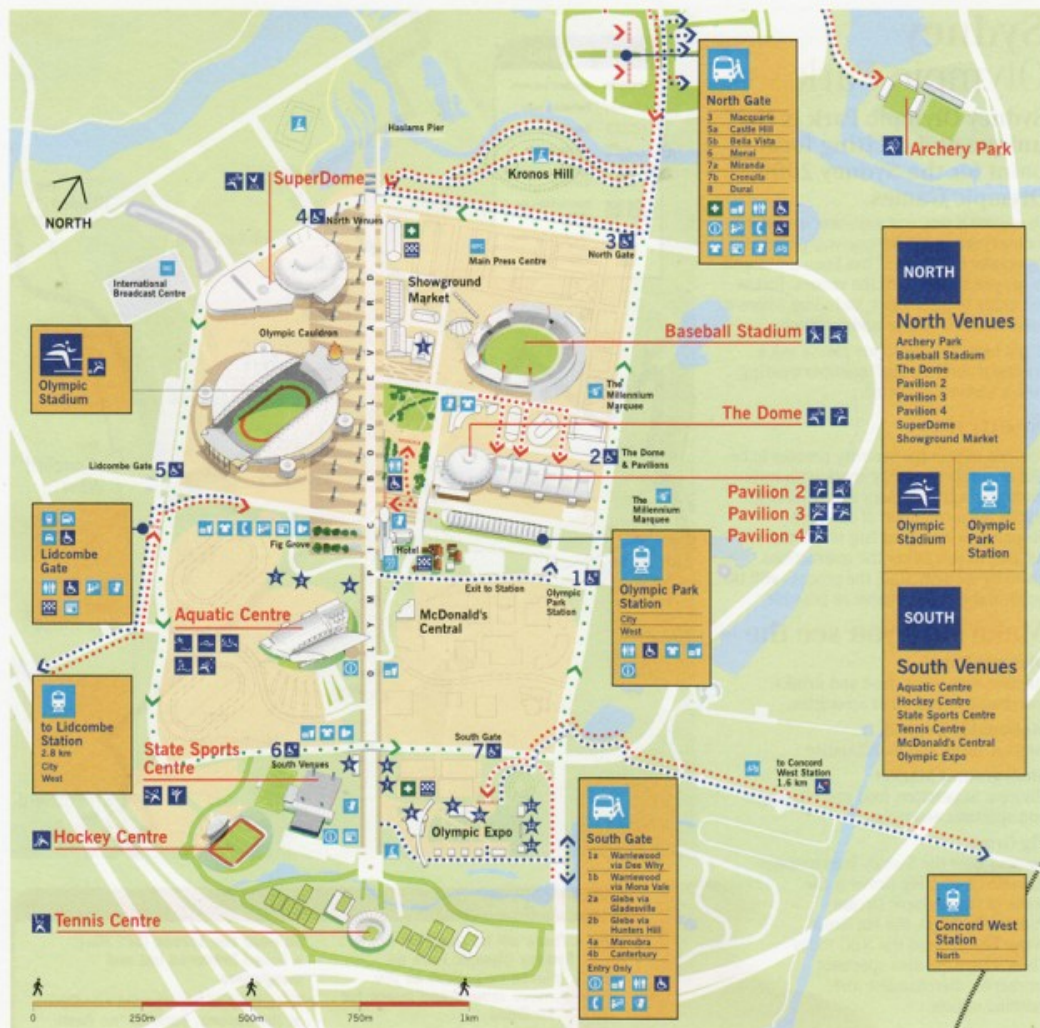


Spectator Tips

- There will be large crowds at Sydney Olympic Park so please be patient as you move around and queue for facilities
- Refer to your Olympic ticket for the area of the Park you are going to (eg North, South or Central Sector) and follow the signs
- The walk to your venue from the transport terminals may be long - take short breaks and drink plenty of water
- Remember the sun is the hottest between 11am-3pm, so wear sun screen (SPF30+), a broad brimmed hat and sunglasses
- Take note of any special conditions at the venues, such as "no flash photography permitted"
- Keep your bags secure
- A wheelchair-accessible shuttle bus is available from Olympic Park station, North Gate and South Gate to venues for people with disabilities and mobility restrictions - two carers permitted
- If you are attending more than one event today, allow plenty of time to travel.



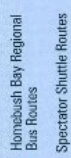
Sydney Olympic Park



Sydney Olympic Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archery Athletics Badminton Baseball Basketball Diving Football Gymnastics Handball Hockey Modern Pentathlon Rhythmic Gymnastics Swimming Synchronized Swimming Table Tennis Taekwondo Tennis Volleyball Water Polo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train Bus Taxi Food and Drink Toilets Accessible Facility Telephone Information Merchandise Lookout News Stand ATM Ticket Sales Bicycle Rack Film Medical Centre Police Accessible Shuttle Stop Lighting Tower Olympic Plaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible Shuttle Route Exit Path to Transport Services Entry Path Site Entry 	<p>Showground Market</p> <p>McDonald's Central</p> <p>Olympic Expo</p> <p>Hotel</p>	<p>★ Attractions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Olympic Superstore 2000 Swatch Point Boral Olympic Dream Pathway NBC Today Aboriginal Arts & Culture Pavilion Olympic Rendezvous @ Samsung Kodak Picture Planet Nike Merchandising and Olympic Collectables Lindemans Wine Bar Cadbury Dream Factory Woolmark Woolshed Panasonic Olympic Screen Shell Questacon Science Circus
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2000 Sydney Paralympics



Sydney Paralympic Opening Ceremony (Image source: IPC /Lieven Coudenys, 2000)

The Paralympic Games or Paralympics are held every four years, on an international stage. The sporting events involve athletes with a range of disabilities, including impaired muscle power, impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment. There are Winter and Summer Paralympic Games.

History of the Paralympics

There was only three athletes with disabilities who competed in any Olympic events prior to the first Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960. These were George Eyser in 1904, Karoly Takacs in 1948 and 1952. Lis Hartel also won her medal at the 1952 Olympics.

The true precursor to an Olympics event for people with disabilities were events that came to be known as the Stoke Manderville Games. The first of these took place in 1948 during the London Olympics. This was a sports competition for British World War II veteran patients with spinal cord injuries and organised by Dr Ludwig Guttmann. These events were then held again in 1952 along with veterans from Israel and The Netherlands.

The first official Paralympic Games, no longer open solely to war veterans, was held in Rome during the summer of 1960. Here 400 athletes from 23 countries competed. At first the events were only for those athletes in wheelchairs.

Then at the 1976 Toronto Paralympics, classifications of athletes able to compete were expanded to include 1,600 athletes from 40 countries. In 1976 the first Winter Paralympics were held. In 1988 at the Seoul Summer Paralympics the event was first held directly after the Summer Olympics and using the same facilities.

Included in the Olympics Charter:

"The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play....Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement."

Sydney Paralympics 2000



Sydney 2000 Paralympic Logo (Image source: Wikipedia)

The 2000 Sydney Paralympics started well with a record 1.2 million tickets sold.

The Games attracted a record number of athletes. The total being 3,879 (2,889 men and 990 women) from 123 countries. Para athletes took part in 550 medal events across 19 sports and broke more than 300 world and Paralympic records.

Sports included at the Sydney games were: archery, Para athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian, football 7-a-side, goalball, judo, Para powerlifting, sailing, shooting

Para sport, Para swimming, table tennis, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

The mascot for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games was Lizzie the Lizard. Its frill is in the shape of Australia and is green and gold in colour.



Lizzy the frill-necked Lizard. (Image source: IPC)

During the Paralympic torch relay, a total of 920 torchbearers carried the flame for an average of 500 meters each. Below are photos of the flame which passed through Parramatta on 12 September 2000 before being carried across Parramatta River from the Charles Street wharf (now Parramatta wharf) to Homebush Bay by the Rivercat ferry.



A torchbearer carrying the Paralympic Games torch along the Parramatta wharf. (Image source: City of Parramatta Council).



Torchbearer lighting the cauld Paralympic Games torch along the Parramatta wharf. (Image source: City of Parramatta Council).



Yothu Yindi performs at the Sydney Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony opening ceremony. (Image source: Australian Paralympic Committee/Australian Sports Commission)

Australia did exceptionally well with an overall total of 149 medals including 63 golds. Great Britain, finished second in the medal count, followed by Canada, Spain and the USA.

Some of the individual achievements seen by the Australian team include: swimmer Siobhan Paton's six gold medals in the 200m SM14 individual medley, and S14 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 200m freestyle, and 50m freestyle. This gave her nine world records.

Tim Sullivan was first in the track and field medal tally with five gold medals. Sullivan won three gold medals in the T38 200m, 100m, and 400m events. Another medal winning athlete was Lisa Llorens. Llorens won three gold medals from the F20 high jump, long jump and T20 200m and also a silver medal in the T20 100m.

Cyclist, Matthew Gray won two golds in the velodrome in the individual cycling mixed 1 km time trial LC1, and a gold in the mixed team sprint with Paul Lake and Greg Ball. Sarnya Parker and Tania Morda also won two golds in the women's cycling tandem 1 km time trial and women's tandem cycling individual pursuit open.

Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, multiple Paralympic gold medallist for Great Britain, later said of the Sydney Games:

"Sydney 2000 will always hold a special place in the hearts of everyone who was there. The Aussies love their sport and they treated us simply as sportsmen and women. We weren't regarded as role models or inspirations, we were competitors. Some of us won gold medals, most didn't, but, hey, that's life. Sydney was phenomenal because, from day one, you felt there was something extraordinarily special in the air. Sydney was an athletic Disneyland, it was where magic happened. It probably marked the time and place when Paralympians genuinely became part of the Olympic Movement."

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Back cover image: Countdown/My Island Home performance during 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics Games Closing ceremony on 1 October 2000. (Image source: Populus, 2020)

