

Sportswomen of Australia

The Game is up!—an educational resource kit from the NFSA

The National Film and Sound Archive has just released a new kit, *The Game is up!*, as a resource for senior, secondary and tertiary students. The kit consists of a video and an explanatory booklet. The material follows the evolution of Australian women in sport, from being spectators and trophy-givers in 1896 to their participation in team sports such as cricket and hockey at the start of this century, and then to becoming Olympic medallists and national heroes by the 1950s.

The video shows more than 50 minutes of film from vintage newsreels, home movies, advertisements and feature film footage held in the Archive's collection. The material includes married ladies and single ladies foot races at

a work picnic in 1908; children's callisthenics at the Hobart Carnival in 1910; the first national women's athletic carnival from 1933; wartime women lifesavers; Australia's first swimming gold medallist from the 1912 Olympics, Fanny Durack (still swimming for health in 1948); and the emergence of the legendary careers of Marjorie Jackson and Shirley Strickland at the Empire Games in Auckland in 1950.

And of course, Dawn Fraser, who 'more than any other of our Olympic champions is remembered with a devotion that verges on national adoration' and who is still the only Australian swimming Olympian to have won Gold for the same event (100 metres freestyle) in three



successive games. She is seen here after setting a new world record for the 100 metres freestyle in February 1956—a record that she was to break ten times more during the next eight years. ■

Australian skies for all

A new popular book on the stars combines elegant design with a practical guide to observation in both hemispheres

It is no surprise to find that a Reader's Digest book is beautifully produced and lavishly illustrated. Robin Kerrod's *The Star Guide—learn how to read the night sky star by star* (Reader's Digest, Sydney, 1993. RRP \$35. ISBN 0 86438 569 2) is a model of its kind. Every page carries full-colour photographs, charts or diagrams. For good measure, a Planisphere of the southern hemisphere is slipped into a pocket in the back cover, providing a map of

the heavens printed on strong plastic that you can dial to a specific time in any week of the year.

The author is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and a prolific writer on astronomical matters. He has produced a text which combines accuracy with great clarity. The main 'text spreads' in the book deal with observation and practical astronomy. If you need more information on any topic, each chapter has a number of 'reference spreads'

which are indicated by icons on the observation pages. The book proceeds from the more general to the more detailed, so that it is easy to work through it, learning more about astronomy as you go.

This is a superb reference book with its star charts. It would also be just the thing to excite young people in this absorbing science, or as the basis for a family or school project. (Review copy from the distributor, Hodder Headline Australia, fax (02) 684 4942). ■

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