

Providing access to Sydney 2000 Olympic Information

Craig Boaden and Sue Halbwirth, SOCOG



Sandy Hollway, SOCOG's chief executive officer, launches the Murray Rose Sydney 2000 Olympic Information Centre while Murray Rose looks on

With 1001 days to go to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Sandy Hollway, chief executive officer of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) officially opened the Murray Rose Sydney 2000 Olympic Information Centre on 19 December 1997. Located in the heart of Sydney, the Centre provides a research and information service for SOCOG and Paralympic Games staff.

Since meeting rooms in SOCOG headquarters are named after Olympic and Paralympic cities or athletes, it was decided to honour one of Australia's most-successful Olympic athletes by naming the information centre after Murray Rose, the winner of six Olympic swimming medals. At the launch, Murray commented 'I was surprised and flattered when SOCOG approached me and asked if they could name the library in my honour'. The Murray Rose Sydney 2000 Olympic Information Centre is an integrated library, research, information, and records management service for Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games staff and is managed by SOCOG's research and information program. The Centre has a role in supporting external information agencies such as public libraries to ensure that the wider community has access to accurate and timely information about the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement.

The research and information program now includes eleven people oc-

cupying ten full-time positions (one position is a job share). Under the management of Craig Boaden, the program has three functional teams: research under Vicki Bates, technical services under Celina McEwen and Dr Fen Zheng, and Sue Halbwirth as project specialist.

'SOCOG is very proud of our library. It's one of the largest Olympic libraries in the world, having been established since 1991. It includes every post-Games report since the first of the modern Olympic Games in 1896', said Sandy Hollway. Now in its new permanent home, the expanded Centre is set to take up the information challenges over the next three years.

As part of our support for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the research and information program has also recently started work on an innovative project to provide SOCOG and the Paralympic Games with a medium for important Olympic information across the organisation. This initiative will allow all SOCOG and Paralympic Games staff to obtain easy access to vital working information on an extensive range of topics.

Research and information staff look forward to providing an outstanding information service from the Murray Rose Sydney 2000 Olympic Information Centre up until mid-2000, when services will be extended to include Games time operations in the main press centre and the Olympic Village at Olympic Park, Homebush. But that's another story. ■

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