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MIKASA

celebrating
50
YEARS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
OF VOLLEYBALL IN
AUSTRALIA

1963 - 2012



President's Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Volleyball Australia's 50th Anniversary celebrations. This is the beginning of our 50th year with the Federation having been founded in April 1963. It seems like such a long time ago and then other times it feels like yesterday.

What was it like back then? What have we accomplished in our first 50 years? Who are the people that made a difference? Tonight – all of that will be revealed in an evening to be remembered.

Volleyball, as the second largest sport in the world next to football (soccer), enjoys a much higher profile in other countries than it does in Australia. We have established ourselves as a strong Federation, are growing in numbers, making a difference in the lives of children who play our great sport, deliver some fantastic events and perform increasingly well on the world stage. All of these factors will help us increase our profile here in Australia. One only has to see how the media have devoured us with our recent Olympic qualification success in women's beach and men's indoor to know that we are headed in the right direction and aiming for further success in London.

But how did it all happen - It has been about continuous improvement at every level.

From the humble beginnings of the Federation run by volunteers to now where we have 21 staff including management, coaching and administrative personnel delivering outcomes. With eight state and territory volleyball associations affiliated to the national body, delivering programs and events at every level. With a professional board, all individuals with not only a commitment to the sport but business skills in their own rights and high quality staff to develop and deliver the operational side of the sport, it is a true growth and success story.

The participants are the key – kids in schools who just play because they love it, individuals who see a future in the sport and give their all, and the full time athletes that play in a very professional environment and succeed at the highest level so the rest of the volleyball community can revel in their success.

Tonight is about celebrating that story – recognising those who have made a difference, athletes who have achieved at the highest level and the volleyball community for making it all happen.

Enjoy the evening and be proud of what we have achieved together as the sport of VOLLEYBALL.

Past Presidents and Chief Executive Officers

Presidents	Executive Directors
1963 John Versteegh (SA)	1979-1982 John Ostermeyer
1964 Ted Kipste (NSW)	1983-1984 John Buchanan
1965 Henn Tonisson (VIC)	1985-1986 Barry Neame
1966-1975 Bob Foot (ACT)	1987-1988 John Dunstan
1976-1982 Eric Hayman (VIC)	1989-1995 Ken Breen
1983 Wally Lebedew (SA)	1996 Geoff Adams
1984-1987 Gordon Duffus (ACT)	1997-1999 Craig Carracher
1988-1997 Barry Couzner (SA)	2000-2007 Andrew Scotford
1997-present Chris Schacht (SA)	2007-present Joan Perry

Life Members



Wally Lebedew
1977



Clarrie Martin
1986



Tomas Santamaria
1993



Steve Tutton
2007



Bob Foot
1978



Joan Peksis
1986



Trevor Williams
1993



Phil Borgeaud
2011



Argod Fricson
1981



Eric Hayman
1989



Barry Couzner
1994



Russell Borgeaud
2011

Wolfgang Gollong
1985



Jozef Hiller
1989



Dave Flatt
2004



David Eldridge
2011



Jeff Kostas
1986



John Barker
1992



George Mraz
2004



Peter McConnon
2011

1973-1982 The Birth of the National Teams



1973

- The first Oceania Championships are held in Sydney. Both Australian teams won the tournament against New Zealand, French Polynesia, Fiji, Guam and American Samoa.

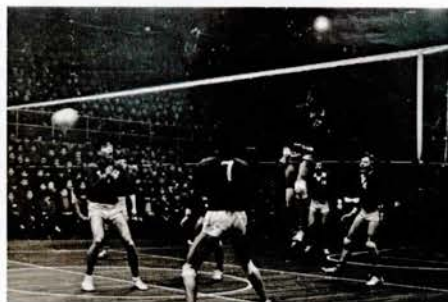


1974

- Japanese Men's team Asahi Kasai tour Australia, playing in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

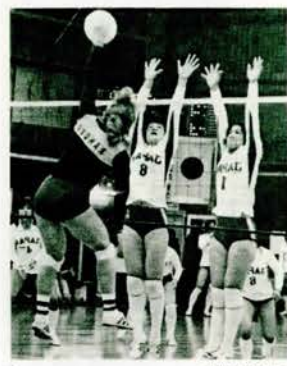
1975

- The first Asian Championships were held in Melbourne, with both the Australian men's and women's team achieving fourth place. A government sponsored tour of China was organised for both Men and Women.



1976

- The Second Oceania Championships were held in New Zealand, again with both teams winning gold. Volleyball Journal published by the South Australian Volleyball Association. U20's division was introduced into the competition calendar and the U18's division was changed to U17's. First Australian Volleyball Federation Life Membership was awarded to Walter Lebedew.



1977

- The first overseas tour by Australian Youth Teams (Under 20) took place 6-15 May 1977 in New Zealand. The Australian teams took a clean sweep of the series, with both teams remaining undefeated.



1978

- U15's Division was introduced into the Annual Competition Calendar.

1979

- First National Executive Director was appointed. Second Asian Championships held in Bahrain (Men) and Hong Kong (Women).



1980

- The first Asian Junior Volleyball Championships are held in Seoul Korea, with Australia sending both a men's and women's team to the tournament. Both teams finish 5th.

1981

- The Australian Junior women are invited to the 2nd Women's Junior World Championships in Mexico City, Mexico. The Australian Men's team participate in the first Commonwealth Volleyball Championships, held in England. The National Volleyball League (NVL) is established, with 10 men's teams participating. The Australian Volleyball News is published replacing the Australian Volleyball Journal as the Australian Volleyball Federations national publication. The Northern Territory applies for Membership to the Australian Volleyball Federation and becomes the 8th and last member state of the Federation.



1982

- Both Men's and Women's Senior Teams compete at the World Championships for the first time, the men in Argentina finishing 22nd and the women in Peru finishing 12th.



1983-1992 The Beach Era

1984

- Australia hosts the 2nd Asian Junior Volleyball Championships for Women in Canberra at the Australian National University. The first Australian Volleyball Schools Cup is held at venues around Canberra, ACT, with 12 high school teams playing.



1985

- An AIS men's team was established for the first time at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, lasting for just over a year as only a few national team members moved to Canberra.

1988

- The first Australian Beach Volleyball Championships are held on Australia Day before a crowd of 50,000 people in New Farm Park, Brisbane. Australia was invited to participate in the 2nd World Beach Volleyball Championships in Brazil in February, with Paul Frisby-Smith and Bruce Surman being selected to represent Australia.



1989

- The summer of 1989-90 saw the birth of a National Beach Volleyball Tour with launch of the Diet Pepsi Grand Prix Beach Series. The first nationally co-ordinated and sponsored beach circuit was launched by international beach stars, Linda Chisholm and Craig Buck (USA) at the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club in November.



1990

- In March, in a joint project between the Federation, the Australian Institute of Sport and the NSW Department of Sport, the full time national men's team was established in Sydney, with Volleyball becoming the AIS's 17th full time sport. The three junior Australian tournaments of age groups U15, U17 and U19, are merged together and reformed as U17, U19 and U21 into the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships (AJVC). The first event is held in Brisbane. The AVP (American Volleyball Professionals) hit Australia shores with a Nescafe Beach Volleyball Pro Tour for Men. The tournament lasts only 2 season, with players threatened with a 2 year ban if they participated in the rebel competition.

1991

- In March Bondi Beach is used to host an FIVB beach volleyball event for Men for the first time.

1992

- Australia hosts the 6th Asian Men's Volleyball Championships in Perth, finishing 4th equalling their best ever finish. Australian Volleyball Magazine hits the news stands.



Hall of Fame



Julien Prosser

1989-2007

145 FIVB World Tour Events-1 Gold, 8 Bronze Medals

1996 Atlanta Olympic Games

2000 Sydney Olympic Games

2004 Athens Olympic Games

14 Australian Beach Volleyball Titles



Uldis "Ozzie" Ozolins

1971

Pioneer of the Men's Volleyball Game in Australia

3 Games for Australia

1st Australian Rep Team



Dan Howard

1994-2008

328 Games for Australia

144 Games as Captain

2000 Sydney Olympic Games

2004 Olympic Games

World Championships-1998, 2002, 2006

Hall of Fame



Kerri Pottharst

1982-1992-50 Games for Australia

1993-2006

93 FIVB World Tour Events-2 Gold, 8 Silver, 10 Bronze Medals

2000 Sydney Olympic Games-Gold

1996 Atlanta Olympic Games-Bronze

2004 Athens Olympic Games

8 Australian Beach Volleyball Titles

FIVB International Team of the Decade 1990-2000



Diane Biebrick

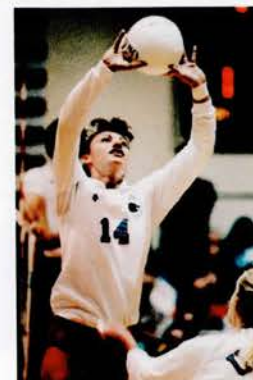
1971-1982

79 Games for Australia

1st Australian Rep Team

Asian Championships-1975, 1979

World Championships-1982



Pauline Manser

1987-1996 - 104 Games for Australia

Asian Championships - 1987, 1993, 1995

1994 World Grand Prix Invitational

1997-2000

31 FIVB World Tour Events

2000 Sydney Olympic Games

1993-2002 The Olympic Era

1993

- International Women's Volleyball comes to Australia when a leg of the FIVB Women's World Grand Prix is hosted in Sydney with Cuba, Russia, China and the USA attending. The AIS women's volleyball programme begin in Perth on July 1.



1995

- The first FIVB Beach Volleyball event for women in Australia is held at the South Bank Piazza in Brisbane.



1996

- Two-person beach volleyball was added to the Olympics. Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook win the Bronze medal (as well as the country's first volleyball medal) for Australia. Australia hosts the Lux Cup, the Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament between Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia at the Palace in Canberra. Australia don't win a set and finish 4th.



1997

- Both the men's and women's AIS volleyball programmes were moved to the AIS Canberra campus in January. The Gillette FIVB World Women's Beach Volleyball Tour comes to Melbourne in March.

1998

- Australian Volleyball League (AVL) started by the Australian Volleyball Federation (AVF). The Volleyball Team Australia Men reached the World Championships in Japan (November 13-29) for only the second time (the first in 1982). They defeated Turkey in five sets during the first round and ended up in 18th place.



1999

- Volleyball Team Australia Men compete in the World League for the first time, hosting matches in Adelaide and Sydney and winning sets off Russia and Poland. The Men also record their best finish Asian Champs with 2nd place.

2000

- Sydney hosts the 2000 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. This is the first time in the Olympic Games for both the Australian men's and women's indoor volleyball teams. On the Beach we have 3 women's and 2 men's teams competing, with Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook becoming Australia's first Olympic Gold medallists in beach volleyball.

2001

- The 2001 Goodwill Games feature Beach Volleyball competitions from August 29 to September 4 in Brisbane.

2002

- Both the Volleyball Team Australia men's and women's teams qualified for the World Championships. The Australian pro-beach volleyball tour secured new sponsorship for events in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales and becomes the Peters Ice Cream Beach Volleyball Tour.



2003-2012 Making our Mark



2003

- The Youth Men's team compete in the 8th World Youth Men's Volleyball Championships finishing 8th out of 16 teams. The new partnership of Nat Cook and Nicole Sanderson wins Australia's first medal at a Beach World Championships. With funding from the Australian Sports Commission, Spikezone is launched as the AVF's junior level participation program.



2004

- Volleyball Team Australia Men qualify for the Athens Olympics, and our Beach teams of Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson, Kerri Pottharst and Summer Lochowicz, Julien Prosser and Mark Williams, Andrew Schacht and Josh Slack all attend the 2004 Athens Olympics. A new sponsor for the Beach Tour sees the naming rights given to Vodafone under a 3 year agreement.

2005

- The AIS Women's Program was discontinued in January, 2005. In July 2005, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) joined with the AVF and SASI to establish the AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball National Centre of Excellence (NCE) in Adelaide. Spike Mag is published for the first time as Australia's latest version of a Volleyball Magazine.

2006

- Alice Rohkamper and Becharra Palmer win Gold at the FIVB U19 Youth Beach Volleyball World Championships. A new look Volleyball Team Australian Men competed in its 4th World Championships in 2006, to follow up its appearance in the 1982, 1998, 2002 editions of the tournament.



2007

- Volleyball Team Australia Men despite losing 1 game, are crowned Asian Champions for the first time ever. The result gave them entry into the World Cup later the same year, another first for VTAM. Alice Rohkamper and Becharra Palmer win Silver at the FIVB U21 Junior Beach Volleyball World Championships. Andrew Schacht and Joshua Slack win Bronze Medal at the 2007 Beach Volleyball World Championships. The Women's Australian Volleyball League is re-launched with the competition season running from May to August. The combined Melbourne Monash University Blues team are crowned as champions.



2008

- Only 2 pairs qualify for the Beach Volleyball program at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Australia's No 1 pairs, Andrew Schacht and Josh Slack and Natalie Cook and Tamsin Barnett. Adelaide plays host to an FIVB World Tour Event. Our Indoor Men's and Women's teams compete at the First Asian Cup. The Australian Volleyball Schools Cup celebrates 25 years with record attendances.



2010

- Taliqa Clancy and Karley Hynes win Bronze medal at World Youth Beach Volleyball Championships. FIVB Level 1 Coaching Course conducted after a 20 year hiatus. Volleyball Team Australia Men qualify for their 4th consecutive World Championships (5th overall).



2011

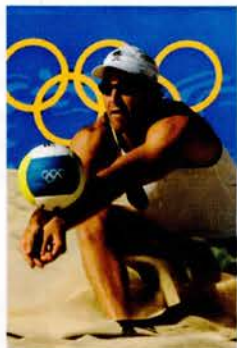
- WA Pearls win their third consecutive Australian Volleyball Title, under the guidance of Pauline Manser. National Beach Tour is reborn with the Renault Beach Volleyball Series running from November-March.



Teams of the Half Century



MENS BEACH
 Julien Prosser
 Lee Zahner



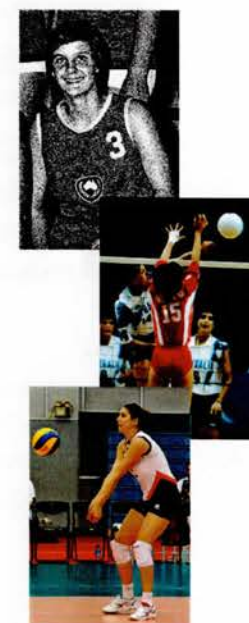
WOMENS BEACH
 Kerri Pottharst
 Natalie Cook



MENS INDOOR
 Uldis Ozolins
 George Mraz
 Steve Tutton
 David Beard
 Ben Hardy
 Dan Howard



WOMENS INDOOR
 Di Biebrick
 Sally Gray
 Pauline Manser
 Priscilla Ruddle
 Tamsin Barnett
 Anna Maycock



Olympic Honour Roll

1996 Atlanta Olympics

Men's Beach

Julien Prosser (WA)
Lee Zahner (QLD)

Women's Beach

Natalie Cook (QLD)
Liane Fenwick (NSW)
Kerri Pottharst (SA)
Anita Spring (QLD)

2000 Sydney Olympics

Men's Indoor

David Beard (VIC)
Benjamin Hardy (ACT)
Daniel Howard (WA)
Nathan Jakavicius (QLD)
Steven Keir (QLD)
Benjamin Loft (VIC)
Spiros Marazios (NSW)
Scott Newcomb (QLD)
Daniel Ronan (QLD)
Hidde Van Beest (QLD)
Russell Wentworth (ACT)
Mark Williams (QLD)

Women's Indoor

Tamsin Barnett (VIC)
Louise Bawden (VIC)
Sandra Bowen (VIC)
Elizabeth Brett (QLD)
Majella Brown (QLD)
Angela Clarke (QLD)
Beatrice Daly (SA)
Renae Maycock (SA)
Christie Mokotupu (NSW)
Priscilla Ruddle (VIC)
Selina Scoble (QLD)
Rachel White (ACT)

Men's Beach

Matthew Grinlaubs (QLD)
Julien Prosser (WA)
Joshua Slack (QLD)
Lee Zahner (QLD)

Women's Beach

Natalie Cook (QLD)
Tania Gooley (SA)
Annette Huygens Tholen (QLD)
Pauline Manser (WA)
Kerri-Pottharst (SA)
Sarah Straton (SA)

2004 Athens Olympics

Men's Indoor

Brett Alderman (QLD)
David Beard (VIC)
Luke Campbell (VIC)
Zane Christensen (QLD)
Andrew Earl (SA)
David Ferguson (WA)
Benjamin Hardy (ACT)
Daniel Howard (WA)
Travis Moran (SA)
Grant Sorensen (QLD)
Hidde Van Beest (QLD)
Matthew Young (QLD)

Men's Beach

Julien Prosser (WA)
Andrew Schacht (SA)
Joshua Slack (QLD)
Mark Williams (NSW)

Women's Beach

Natalie Cook (QLD)
Summer Lochowicz (QLD)
Kerri Pottharst (SA)
Nicole Sanderson (QLD)

2008 Beijing Olympics

Men's Beach

Andrew Schacht (SA)
Joshua Slack (QLD)

Women's Beach

Natalie Cook (QLD)
Tamsin Barnett (VIC)

2012 London Olympics

Men's Indoor

Thomas Edgar (QLD)
Andrew Grant (QLD)
Travis Passier (QLD)
Harrison Peacock (SA)
Nathan Roberts (SA)
Luke Smith (WA)
Greg Sukochev (SA)
Aden Tutton (SA)
Adam White (QLD)
Lincoln Williams (QLD)
Igor Yudin (VIC)
Aidan Zingel (NSW)

Women's Beach

Louise Bawden (VIC)
Becharra Palmer (SA)
Natalie Cook (QLD)
Tamsin Barnett (VIC)



Autographs



Autographs