



# Fact Sheet — Street Signs

Sydney Olympic Park echoes the reflected glories of Olympic spirit, courage and determination with a unique naming program of major streets, a park and two walkways in this historic suburb.

## Olympian and Paralympian naming program

- The naming program recognises the outstanding contributions of an impressive group of Olympians and Paralympians to Australia's sporting achievements, and the Olympic and Paralympic movements.
- A distinctive Olympic 2000 font created specifically for the suburb depicts some of the most prominent names on the street signs around and through the Park, evoking memories of past Games and providing inspiration to the athletes of today and the future.

## Edwin Flack Avenue 1873 – 1935

- Australia's first Olympic Champion Edwin Flack was the sole Australian participant at the first modern Games, held in 1896 in Athens, where he won both the 800m and 1500m races, breaking a pattern of US domination in track and field.
- Edwin Flack epitomised the Australian have-a-go spirit; although no more than a social tennis player, he entered both the Olympic singles and doubles and achieved bronze-medal status in the men's doubles alongside his English partner George Robertson.
- **Medals:** 2 Gold 1 Bronze
- **Games attended:** Athens 1896

## Sarah Durack Avenue 1889 – 1956

- Sarah 'Fanny' Durack was Australia's first female Olympic gold medallist, winning the 100m freestyle at the Stockholm Games.
- Early in 1912, the year of the Stockholm Games, she set world records in the 100 yards and 220 yards freestyle – with her consistent rival, Sydney-based Mina Wylie, close behind in both events.
- This led to public demands that they be included in the team for Stockholm. After huge debate the rules were reversed to allow Australian female swimmers to compete among men. Durack set a world record in her heat of the 100m freestyle. Her victory gave Australia its only individual gold medal at those Olympic Games.
- **Medals:** 1 Gold
- **Games attended:** Stockholm 1912

## Shirley Strickland Avenue 1925 – 2004

- Australia's only track and field athlete to have won back-to-back gold medals, Shirley Strickland, won seven Olympic sprinting and hurdling medals during her career.
- She finished that career with three gold, one silver and three bronze through the Games of 1948, 1952 and 1956. Strickland was a woman of exceptional spirit; when advised by her coach to retire at the age of 23, Strickland thanked him for the advice, and promptly ignored it. One of her proudest moments was winning the 80m hurdles at the Melbourne 1956 Games when she was 31 and a mother. She had won the same event four years earlier, in Helsinki.
- **Medals:** 3 Gold 1 Silver 3 Bronze
- **Games attended:** London 1948, Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956

## Marjorie Jackson Parkway 1931 –

- The 'Lithgow Flash', Marjorie Jackson, was a breaker of barriers and the greatest track sprinter of her time.
- Her pioneering achievements were impressive: she was the first Australian female runner to break a world record; she was the first Australian woman to gain an Olympic athletics gold medal; and she was the first female manager of an entire national team – the 500-strong Australian contingent at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.
- Jackson carried away two Olympic gold medals from the 1952 Helsinki Games, equalling the 100m world record and setting two in the 200m.
- **Medals:** 2 Gold
- **Games attended:** Helsinki 1952

## Dawn Fraser Avenue 1937 –

- Dawn Fraser is regarded as the finest female sprint swimmer of them all: winner of four gold and four silver Olympic medals, holder of 39 world records (27 of them individual), and first in her sport of either sex to win the same event at three consecutive Olympic Games.

- Fraser's greatest victory, against the odds, occurred in 1964, when she came back to win in Tokyo after a car crash that killed her mother and seriously injured her neck and spine. Such was her dominance of the 100m freestyle that she held the world record for 16 years.
- **Medals:** 4 Gold 4 Silver
- **Games attended:** Melbourne 1956, Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964

## Murray Rose Avenue 1939 – 2012

- Murray Rose emerged from the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne as a national hero, winning three gold medals and becoming the first swimmer in 36 years to win both individual events of the 400m freestyle and 1500m freestyle. He was also a member of the winning 4x200m relay team. Rose set 15 world records in the pool in his career, and in Rome in 1960 became the only swimmer ever to have won the 400m freestyle twice in a row. That honour is now shared with Ian Thorpe (2000–2004).
- **Medals:** 4 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze
- **Games attended:** Melbourne 1956 and Rome 1960

## Herb Elliott Avenue 1938 –

- Many Olympic athletes have won more gold medals than Herb Elliott. But few people have ever exercised such absolute authority in any branch of sport as Elliott did in middle-distance running. In 42 races from 1957 to 1961, he was never beaten over 1500m or a mile. Testimony to his greatness is the fact that, although he won the Olympic 1500m in 1960, his winning time then would have still been good enough to win gold medals in seven later Olympics — Tokyo (1964), Munich (1972), Montreal (1976), Moscow (1980), Seoul (1988), Barcelona (1992) and Atlanta (1996).
- **Medals:** 1 Gold
- **Games attended:** Rome 1960

## Shane Gould Avenue 1956 –

- Shane Gould was still only 15 when she did what no Australian, male or female, had ever done: in 1972 in Munich she won three individual gold medals at a single Olympic Games, all of them in world record time. Appropriately, it had been Gould, aged 15, who finally prised the world 100m freestyle record from the grasp of another Australian wonder woman, Dawn Fraser.
- **Medals:** 3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze
- **Games attended:** Munich 1972

## Kevin Coombs Avenue 1941 –

- One of the most distinguished Paralympic athletes, Kevin Coombs, represented Australia at five Paralympic Games, including the first Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960. He was the first Australian Aboriginal Paralympic competitor. Kevin became a paraplegic at the age of 12 when he was accidentally shot in the back while shooting rabbits.
- **Games attended:** Rome 1960, Tel Aviv 1968, Heidelberg 1972, Arnhem 1980 and New York 1984

## Cathy Freeman Park 1973 –

- Cathy Freeman's role in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games embedded her name forever in Olympic history. She lit the cauldron in the Olympic Stadium, in an Opening Ceremony that celebrated both a century of women's participation and the heritage of indigenous Australians. Eleven nights later she fulfilled a mission that had absorbed her life: she won the 400m final, becoming the first Aboriginal athlete ever to win an individual gold medal. She danced through a victory lap, carrying Australian and Aboriginal flags. Not since 1964, when Betty Cuthbert was successful over the same distance in Tokyo, had an Australian woman won a flat race on the track at the Games.
- At the Atlanta 1996 Games she became the first Aboriginal individual medallist, by finishing second to Marie-Jose Perec in the 400m.
- **Medals:** 1 Gold 1 Silver
- **Games attended:** Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000

## Louise Sauvage Pathway 1973 –

- Louise Sauvage is regarded as the most renowned sportswoman with a disability in Australia. With an impressive medal tally, Louise has dominated track events, winning gold and setting world records.
- At the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Louise's profile as a sporting icon was recognised as she lit the cauldron at the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony.
- Other titles held by Louise include Australian Female Athlete of the Year in 1999, and International Female Wheelchair Athlete of the Year in 1999 and 2000.
- **Medals (Paralympic Games):** 9 Gold 4 Silver
- **Medals (Olympic Games):** 2 Gold 1 Bronze
- **Games attended:** Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004

## Lorraine Crapp Sports Walk 1938 –

- Lorraine Crapp was a leading member of the Australian swimming team that dominated the sport at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games — and a great early rival of Dawn Fraser. Crapp set the first of 23 world records in January 1954. Coming into the Melbourne 1956 Games, Crapp and Fraser shared the world 100m record, and Crapp held six others over longer distances. In the 100m Olympic final, Fraser defeated Crapp in a tight finish, with both under world-record time. Faith Leech made it a 1-2-3 victory for Australia. In the only other individual women's freestyle event, over 400m, Crapp drew away from Fraser after two laps to win easily in Olympic record time. Fraser finished second.
- Australia's squad of Fraser, Leech, Sandra Morgan and Crapp, swimming in that order, set a world record to win gold in the 4 x 100m relay. That gave Crapp and Fraser each a 1956 haul of two gold medals and a silver. Crapp also won a silver medal with the 4 x 100m relay team in Rome in 1960.
- **Medals:** 2 Gold 2 Silver
- **Games attended:** Melbourne 1956 and Rome 1960