



MEDIA RELEASE

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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MATILDAS

An A–Z guide of every player who has played for Australia’s favourite national team

Just weeks ahead of Australia taking part in its seventh successive Women's World Cup, a new book sheds light on the facts, figures and history of the 239 women who have pulled on the green-and-gold for Australia as a 'Matilda'.

Precisely 200 pages, and running to 100,000 words, the first ever *Encyclopedia of Matildas* is a labour of love from statistician, Andrew Howe, of Adelaide and football historian, Greg Werner of Sydney.

It complements the *Encyclopedia of Socceroos*, also by Howe, published this time last year.

The *Encyclopedia of Matildas* lists each of the women who had played for Australia in official matches up to the end of 2018, giving facts and figures on their games, goals, their opponents, and biographical information. There are also detailed tables showing who Australia has played, where games have taken place, where players have come from, the coaches, and the record holders.

In contrast to the Socceroos whose early history reflected Australia’s migration and settlement patterns, the Matildas have been more 'homegrown' with almost all players born in Australia, or moved to Australia at a very young age.

While Sydney dominates as the home of most Matildas players since their first game in 1978, regional areas of Australia are also well represented from every state and territory.

The *Encyclopedia of Matildas* is published by Fair Play Publishing, a niche publisher of football books that tell Australian stories and impart Australia’s football history and heritage – one book at a time.

The Encyclopedia is available from good bookstores and direct from Fair Play Publishing.

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Further information:

Media Backgrounder with Points of Interest via region is attached. Please note attribution requirements. Pre-press copies of the Encyclopedia are available for interested media via Fair Play Publishing.

Authors:

Andrew Howe has been Australia's premier football statistician since the 1990s. His stats, facts and historical analyses are relied upon by FFA, the PFA, FOX Sports and all media. He is the author of the annual media guide for the W-League and A-League; before that, the national soccer league; and is the 'go-to' man for official stats and data.

Greg Werner is a writer, former producer and announcer with Sydney radio with a lifelong love of football as a player, coach, administrator and fan. In 2014, he began the 'Grassroots Football Project' tracing and documenting the grassroots football club of every Matilda and Socceroo.

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But wait, there's more:

A free launch event with presentations from the authors will be held in Sydney and Melbourne. All are welcome to attend.

15 May 2019 6pm–8pm	Launch of the <i>Encyclopedia of Matildas</i> with a presentation from Andrew Howe and Greg Werner, with former Matilda Heather Garriock. MC: Melanie McLaughlin
Gleebooks 49 Glebe Point Road Glebe, Sydney	Media are invited to attend for photos and interviews with Andrew Howe, Greg Werner and Matildas players present.

16 May 2019 6pm–8pm	Launch of the <i>Encyclopedia of Matildas</i> with a presentation from Andrew Howe and Greg Werner, with former Matilda Theresa Deas. MC: George Donikian
Hennessy Room Bells Hotel 157 Moray Street South Melbourne	Fair Play Publishing will present a special, numbered 'Souvenir Edition' of the <i>Encyclopedia of Matildas</i> to the FFA Chairman, Chris Nikou.
	Media are invited to attend for photos and interviews with Andrew Howe, Greg Werner and Matildas players present.



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MATILDAS

Overview

In just a few weeks' time, at the FIFA Women's World Cup in France, the Australian women's national football team will be taking part in their tenth major world tournament. It will be the seventh (consecutive) World Cup for the Matildas, who have also played in three Olympic Games.

The Matildas played for the first time in 1978, against strong club sides at the Women's World Invitational Tournament in Taiwan. In 1979 the Matildas played against its first national team opponent, drawing 2-2 against New Zealand at Seymour Shaw Park in Sydney.

Australia's **biggest wins** of all-time were in Oceania World Cup qualifying games: 21-0 over American Samoa in 1998, 19-0 over Samoa in 2003, and 17-0 over Fiji in 1998.

When **FIFA rankings** commenced in 2003, the Matildas were ranked 15 in the world. By 2011 the team entered the top ten, and at the start of 2019 the Australian women's side is ranked six.

Leading into the 2019 Women's World Cup, the Matildas have played well over 400 international games, with **239 players** taking the field for the national side.

The Encyclopedia of Matildas, launched in May 2019, showcases the 40-year history of the Australian women's national football team through every one of its players. The 100,000-word volume profiles all of the team's 239 players with a biography and their stats.

The Encyclopedia also includes a history of the Matildas team, including all results and performances in tournaments, team and player records, regional analyses, coach profiles, and a never-before published record of all 20 Australian women's national league seasons to date.

Newcastle's **Cheryl Salisbury** holds the record for most international games played for Australia, with 171 appearances against all international opposition (including clubs) including 151 games against other national teams. Salisbury had a 15-year national team career that started in 1994.

Lisa De Vanna's goal against the United States in April 2019 was her 47th for the Matildas, which is the most of any Matildas' player. Perth-born De Vanna scored her first international goal in 2004.

Attribution: Information from the 'Encyclopedia of Matildas' by Andrew Howe and Greg Werner, available now from Fair Play Publishing, www.fairplaypublishing.com.au



Three players made their debut with the Matildas aged just 14 - **Sharon Wass** (in 1981), **Claire Nichols** (1989), and **Kelly Golebiowski** (1996).

Goalkeeper **Melissa Barbieri** from Melbourne, a veteran of four World Cups, was the oldest Matilda, making her final appearance at the 2015 Women's World Cup aged 35.

Sydney has been the most prominent city of origin of Matildas, with just over 60 players hailing from Australia's largest city. Brisbane (27 players), Adelaide (21), the Hunter region (21) and Melbourne (16) have also produced a significant number of players, with Canberra and Perth (both 14) also having noteworthy amounts of Matildas.

Many **regional and remote** areas of Australia have also produced Matildas. National team players have originated from Darwin, Hobart and from all along the country's eastern coastline, plus inland centres of New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Since 1996, Australian **women's national leagues** have helped develop almost all of the country's national team players active over this time. With the presence of many Matildas, Sydney FC, Melbourne City, Brisbane Roar and Canberra United have won multiple W-League championships since the commencement of the W-League in 2008.

Points of Interest by Region

Sydney

Just over one-quarter of all Matildas players (around 60) hail from the Sydney metropolitan area, with the surrounding areas of Wollongong and the Central Coast also well-represented.

Experienced Matildas Heather Garriock (139 national team appearances, 1999–2011) and Anissa Tann (123 appearances, 1988–2002) come from Sydney, with Australia's first two captains Connie Byrnes (who made her debut in 1978, against club teams) and Julie Dolan (1979) both also born in Sydney.

Sydney hosted Australia's historic first women's international game against another country, against New Zealand at Seymour Shaw Park in Miranda on Saturday 6 October 1979. The game ended two-all.

Sydney-based national league clubs have always been prominent for Matildas players. Reigning champions Sydney FC have had 35 Matildas play for them since the first W-League season 2008-09, while Western Sydney Wanderers have played 20 Matildas in their seven seasons of existence.



Newcastle / Northern NSW

Around 35 Matildas have emerged from Northern New South Wales, mostly from Newcastle. The Hunter's most famous female footballing export is Cheryl Salisbury, who made a colossal 171 appearances with the women's national team from 1994 to 2009 - the highest number of senior national team appearances by far of any Australian women's or men's player.

Other notable Northern NSW Matildas include Alison Forman (95 national team appearances, 1989–2002), Kate Gill (91 appearances, 2001–2015) and Lisa Casagrande (64 appearances, 1994–2002) from Lismore, who scored against the United States at the 1995 World Cup aged just 17.

Current Matilda Emily van Egmond is approaching 90 national team appearances despite being just 25 years old.

Regional NSW

Regional New South Wales has produced a significant number of Matildas over the past forty years, including Joanne Peters from Young (116 national team appearances, 1996–2009), Tumut-born/Wagga-raised Sally Shipard (66 appearances, 2004–2011) and current teenage sensation Ellie Carpenter from Cowra.

Victoria

Sixteen Matildas have hailed from Melbourne, including current player Steph Catley who has made more than 70 national team appearances since 2012.

Angela Iannotta (42 national team appearances, 1989–1999), born in Myrtleford near Wodonga, was one of the first Australian women win a championship abroad as part of Italy's ACF Agliana side who won the 1994-95 Italian title.

Melbourne-born Melissa Barbieri's 93-game career with the Matildas is extraordinary. Between 2002 and 2015 she played in four World Cups, captained Australia to its first senior Asian Cup triumph in 2010, and as a goalkeeper she holds the record for most Matildas clean sheets with 34 games without conceding a goal.

W-League side Melbourne Victory have had 20 Matildas play for them since the W-League kicked-off in 2008, while the younger Melbourne City club played 16 Matildas in their short but impressive existence which included three successive Championship-winning seasons 2015-16 to 2017-18.



Queensland

Around 50 Matildas, or just over one in five women's national team players, have come from Queensland. Almost half of the state's Matildas grew up outside of Brisbane, including many from the Gold Coast, several from far north Queensland, and others from Mackay, Rockhampton and Toowoomba.

Australia's 2015 Women's World Cup squad, who reached the quarter final stage, included eight players from Queensland. Current Matildas Clare Polkinghorne (born in Brisbane) and Elise Kellond-Knight (Gold Coast) have each played over 100 times for the national team, while one of Australia's best young products in 16-year-old Mary Fowler was born in Cairns.

Queensland-based teams have been the equal most successful team in Australian women's national league history with six titles in twenty years (equal with NSW clubs) - four championships in the Women's NSL (1996 to 2004) and two more championships in the W-League era including the first W-League title in 2008-09.

Western Australia

Western Australian players featured prominently in the pioneering Matildas sides, with seven WA players in Australia's 1978 World Invitational Tournament campaign in Taiwan, the first international matches ever played by the Matildas.

Three of Australia's most prominent current players originate from Western Australia - leading goalscorer Lisa De Vanna, international luminary Sam Kerr, and goalkeeper Lydia Williams who was born in rural Katanning. This trio of WA-born players have made a combined 300-plus appearances for the Matildas leading into the 2019 Women's World Cup.

Sam Kerr is truly a superstar. Leading into the 2019 United States' NWSL season the 25-year-old simultaneously held the record for all-time most goals in the NWSL (59 goals) and Australian W-League (70). Her 70+ national team appearances so far include several World Cup and Olympics matches. She has taken out several national football awards and she was 2018 Young Australian of the Year.

Canberra

Matildas from the nation's capital are over-represented - while just one in 60 Australians live in Canberra, around 1 in 16 Matildas come from the city.

Prominent players raised in Canberra include Julie Murray (87 national team appearances, 1986–2000), Sacha Wainwright (81 appearances, 1994–2004) and current Matildas' goalkeeper Lydia Williams who moved to Canberra as an 11-year-old.



Canberra has hosted 23 Matildas games, including an Olympics match against Germany in 2000, and the 2003 Oceania World Cup qualifying tournament. Only Sydney has hosted more Matildas games.

Canberra teams have won four premierships and three grand finals in the twenty-year history of Australian women's national leagues. Canberra United's 2011-12 W-League season was extraordinary - the team finished first on the ladder, won the grand final, and its Matildas players Sally Shipard, Michelle Heyman and Lydia Williams respectively won the league's player of the year, top scorer and goalkeeper of the year.

South Australia

Twenty-one Matildas were in Adelaide - only Sydney and Brisbane have had more players born in their cities.

Perhaps Adelaide's most famous Matilda is Dianne Alagich, who played almost 100 times for the national team from 1995 to 2008 including in three Women's World Cups and two Olympic Games.

Other prominent South Australian-born Matildas include Sonia Gegenhuber (75 national team appearances, 1989–1999) and Sharon Black (66 appearances, 1991–2002).

In 2018 Adelaide-raised Alex Chidiac broke new ground becoming the first Australian woman to sign for a Spanish club. Chidiac made 19 appearances in Atletico Madrid's 2018-19 championship-winning season.

Adelaide-born Kristy Moore won an English championship-cup double with Fulham in 2002-03, topping off the season with a goal in Fulham's 3-0 FA Cup final win over Charlton Athletic. After playing nine times for the Matildas in the late 1990s, Moore made 12 appearances for England - including a game against Australia in 2003.

Northern Territory

Darwin's most famous Matilda is Sarah Cooper, who played 67 times for the women's national team from 1991 to 2001 including two Women's World Cups.

Four Alice Springs-based players played some games for the Matildas, Sabine Buschmann (who played for Australia in 1986), Amanda George (1987), Tanya Dyer (1989) and Nicole Green (1989–1994).



Tasmania

Two Tasmanian women have played for the Matildas: Lisa Rader (who played twice for Australia in 1986) and Zoe Nolan (two appearances, 2001–2002).