

# **ASSH STUDIES #13**

## **Football, Crowds and Cultures Comparing English and Australian Law and Enforcement Trends**

**By  
Ian Warren, Victoria University**

Ian Warren's research into sports crowd culture and management takes us in new directions. First he is concerned with the audience as an entity in context; a situational and comparative approach indicates a variety of behaviours dependent upon a complex interplay linking the nature of the sport, the culture of the sport, the norms of the society, and the characteristics of the fans. No single, all-embracing theory can anticipate or explain such a panoply of crowd behaviours and contexts. Second, Warren is concerned with the sports crowd in its fullest sense; in other words, he is as much interested in why Australian Rules football has no tradition of segregation as with why English football has developed the capture of 'ends' and formal separation of rival fans. Likewise the author is keen to explore crowd behaviour in its widest sense; in other words, he is as much concerned with spectator harmony as he is with spectator violence. Third, Warren broadens the scholarly debate to take a much greater account of the duties and responsibilities of stadium operators, state police, and private police in managing the environment of the sporting arena safely and responsibly. He argues, persuasively, for pro-active rather than reactive management of the sport stadium, and a preference for low-key, cooperative authority within the environment rather than high profile, intimidatory policing tactics. Yet, quite properly, he does not pretend to have appropriate measures for all sports or situations. With crowds, context is everything.

Daryl Adair, Series Editor

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