

# editorial

## **A MICROCOSM OF THE SOCIETY**

Welcome to another issue of *Sporting Traditions*. Reactions to the new design and format have been uniformly positive, but further changes will be made in order to enhance the quality of the Society's publications. To that end, feedback and constructive criticism are always welcome.

In this edition, the works of three different scholars are featured, in some ways representing a microcosm of how the journal and the Society have functioned over the years. Richard Davis (from the University of Tasmania), in his essay on the Thompson family and sport, has provided an example of biographical narrative. This genre has featured strongly in the conferences and publications of the Society, and in this case his study strikes a further chord as the life and career of J. S. M. Thompson intersects sporting developments in both New Zealand and Australia. Such explorations are to be encouraged, particularly as the Society seeks to forge closer ties with its members across the Tasman Sea. Harald Höbusch (from the University of Kentucky), on the other hand, stretches our sports history horizons even further with his literary analysis of German mountaineering expeditions. As noted over the page, articles on sporting activities in societies other than Australia have always been welcome in the journal, especially when they break new ground or even contest conceptions about the nature of sport itself. In a slightly different vein, Bob Stewart (from Victoria University), a member of the Editorial Review Board, has taken a fresh look at some of the taken-for-granted assumptions surrounding the development of post-war cricket in Australia. In a sport characterised by such a vast amount of attendant literature, Stewart demonstrates that new interpretations can challenge, if not change, our understanding and perceptions of the past, an important and on-going task for historians.

As intimated in the previous issue, the out-going Reviews Editor, Murray Phillips (from the University of Queensland), has stayed on to assist his successor, Bernard Whimpress (from the Adelaide Oval Museum), in compiling the interesting range of material under review in this edition. Authors, editors, publishers and potential reviewers of books or films are now urged to make direct contact with the new Reviews Editor, as the journal intends to expand this area of its operations. Phillips has now joined the Editorial Review Board, along with Dwight Zakus (from Griffith University).

To conclude, it is timely to remind readers that planning for 'Sporting Traditions XV', the biennial conference of the Society, is underway. As indicated elsewhere in the journal (and on the Society's website), the

conference will be held between 11-14 July 2005 in Melbourne. Suggestions for themes, presentations, speakers, and perhaps publication opportunities arising from the conference, are welcome.

**Rob Hess**

Editor