

Message from Dr. John Bloomfield

Illawarra Academy of Sport on its 30th Birthday.

It's almost 32 years since Tom Penrose and I proposed the establishment of an Illawarra Institute of Sport, to Professor Ken McKinnon, the then Vice Chancellor of the University of Wollongong. Ken was pleased to have the Institute housed at the university and two years afterwards it became a reality and was launched in December 1985.

I was able to assist in the period in which the 'nuts and bolts' were tightened, but it was Tom Penrose, assisted by Ted Tobin and Ian Richardson, who were really responsible for 'getting the show on the road', so to speak.

I remember delivering the cheque for \$18,000 to Wollongong in the planning phase. I'd been in Canberra and as I was leaving to come home to Perth via Wollongong, thought that the above amount would be a nice little present from the AIS, to help IAS cover some set-up expenses. I asked John Cheffers to sign it, but didn't realize at the time that commonwealth money could not be passed to a state government organization in this way. However, the cheque was very smartly cashed and 'got lost' in the new Academy's system. Later, John Cheffers was reprimanded by the Commonwealth Auditor — and he may have passed that on to Peter Bowman, our 'money man' in Canberra at that time.

I was able to follow the Academy's development through regular contact with Tom Penrose through the 1990s, and later various friends from the Illawarra kept me updated when I visited my old home-town, Kiama. Peter Bowman — I'm told that he's the self-appointed Mayor of Kiama — also gave me a report or two when we met.

As the person who was the architect of the Institute system in Australia, at the Commonwealth, State and Regional levels, I'm very pleased that the IAS has added some real 'starch' to the Australian Sports system.

Being a Kiama boy, I have always kept contact with Illawarra sport and the Academy and will continue to do so as long as I am able. At this time of celebration, I know you will be planning your next 30 years and I wish you all **Good Luck** and **Good Management** for the future.

Dr. John Bloomfield

Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister on Sport (1985)