

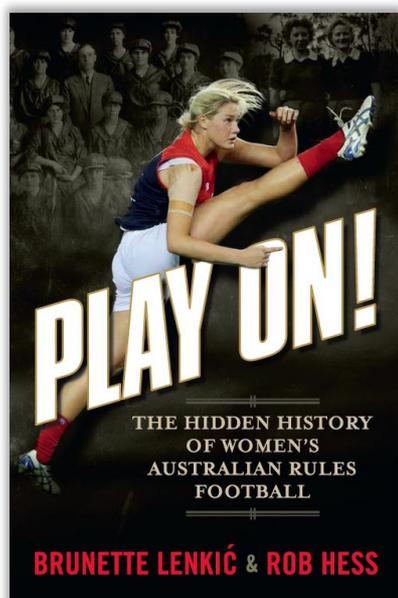
PLAY ON!

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

BRUNETTE LENKIĆ & ROB HESS

September 2016 | Trade paperback | \$32.95 | 336pp

The first book to trace the history, development and popularity of women's football



Every weekend we gather around fields, are glued to TV screens at home or at the pub, or tune into the radio to hear a game that excites spectators and ignites players. While we're aware of the lucrative men's league, for more than 100 years, girls and women have moved off the sidelines and onto the field to play and celebrate their own game. Despite the thousands who have played around Australia, the female game has largely remained in the shadows until recently.

From small beginnings, there are now almost 300,000 girls and women playing Australian Rules football, yet there's not a single book that investigates the barriers and discrimination that female players have had to overcome, and the rich heritage and remarkable resilience that have been a hallmark of their code.

Play On! The Hidden History of Women's Australian Rules Football explores how the game spread from west to east and reveals little-known facts about women in sport and women in society. Featuring fascinating material drawn from interviews with women who participated in games as far back

as the 1930s, plus dozens of unpublished evocative images of players and teams, this is a meticulously researched book that anyone interested in football or history will not want to miss.

About the authors

Brunette Lenkić is a teacher and freelance journalist whose lifelong interest in sport – as a player, umpire, coach and spectator – led her to research the history of women's Australian Rules football. She was the driving force behind the 'Bounce Down!' exhibition, held at the State Library of Western Australia in 2015, which celebrated 100 years of the women's game. Brunette lives in Perth, where her daughters play for the Coastal Titans Women's Football Club.

Rob Hess is an Associate Professor in sport history at the College of Sport and Exercise Science, Victoria University. He is the former president of the Australian Society for Sports History and the current managing editor of the discipline's foremost journal, the *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Rob has a longstanding interest in the history of Australian Rules football, especially the development of the women's code. Rob is co-author of the award-winning *A National Game; The History of Australian Rules Football*, published by Penguin/Viking in 2008. He lives in Melbourne.



MEDIA RELEASE

BRUNETTE LENKIĆ & ROB HESS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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