

Confirmation Seminar

Robin Poke, PhD candidate

Thesis Proposal

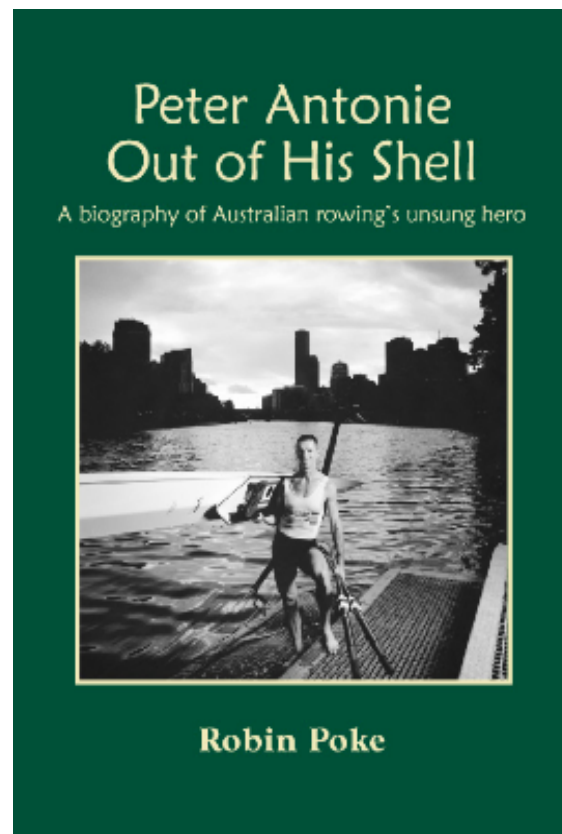
- A Sociocultural History of Australian Rowing, 1770 - 2012:
From professional to amateur and at least halfway back
- Supervisors: Professor Keith Lyons
Professor Greg Battye

Context

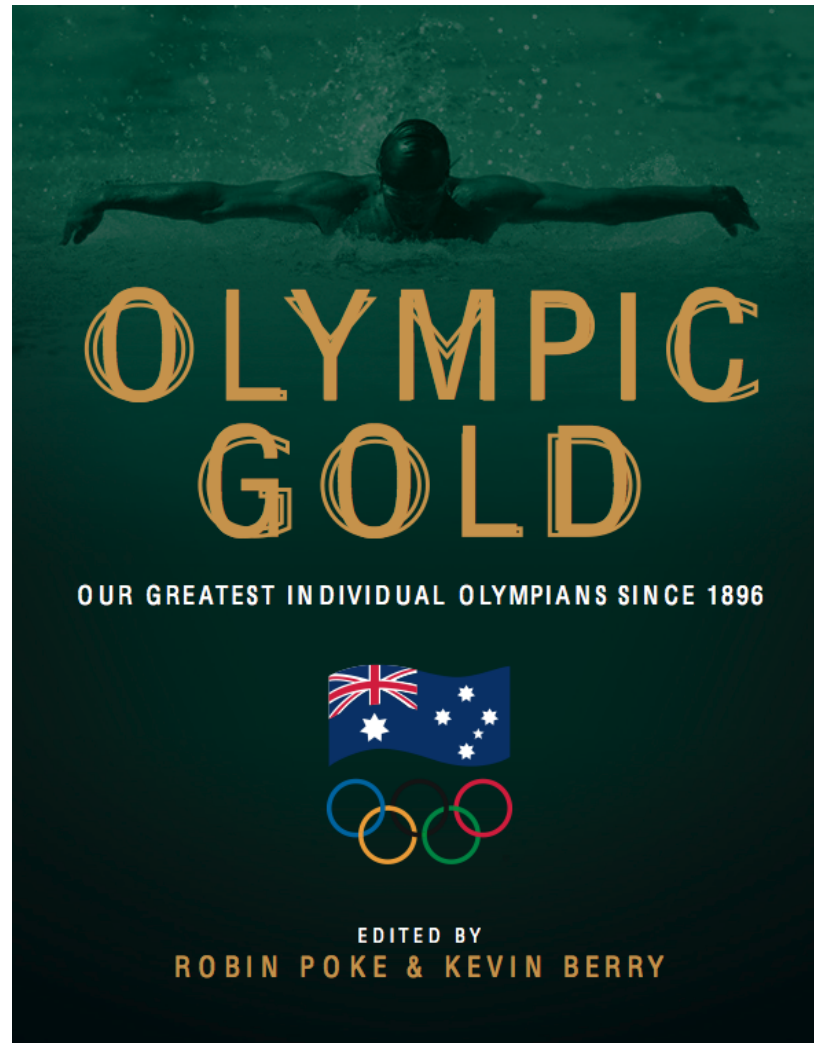
- ... that that most pervasive of myths – sport is not culture – is as insulting historically as it is utterly false now. Consign its stupidity to the dustbin of cultural cringe history. Sport in Australia just might be more deeply and meaningfully cultural than in any country in the world.

**Australian
Society for
Sports
History
1977**

RP book #1



RP book #2



Justification

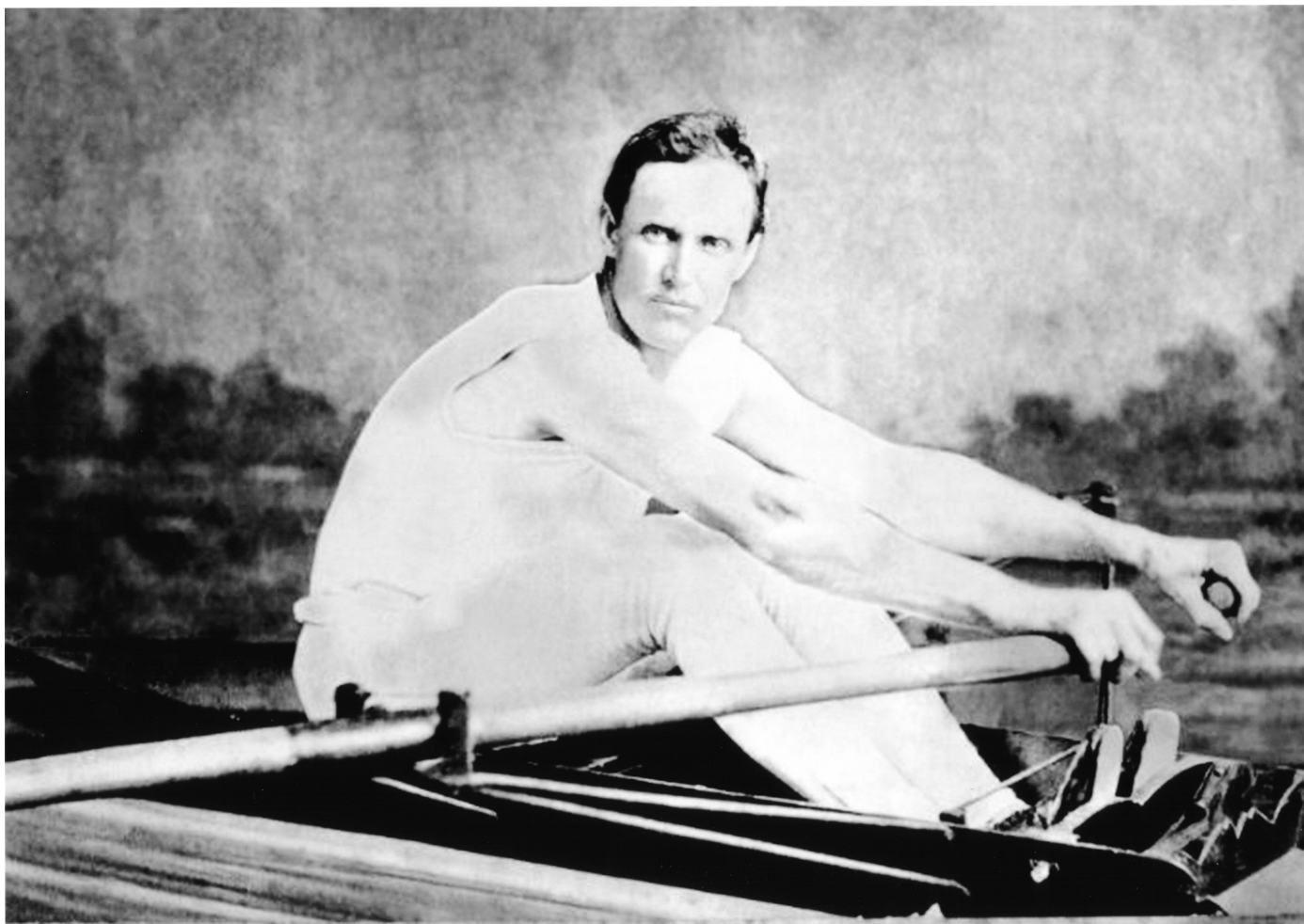
- A recording of a history of Australian rowing is a 'missing link' in the field of scholarly sporting research

Centre for Olympic Studies,
UTS
2006

A brief history of Australian rowing

- First race 16 May 1818
- First regatta 5 January 1827
- 'Foundation' regattas began 1837
- First club - Melbourne University Boat Club - founded 1859
- First inter-colonial race, in fours, 1863
- First inter-colonial sculling championship, 1868

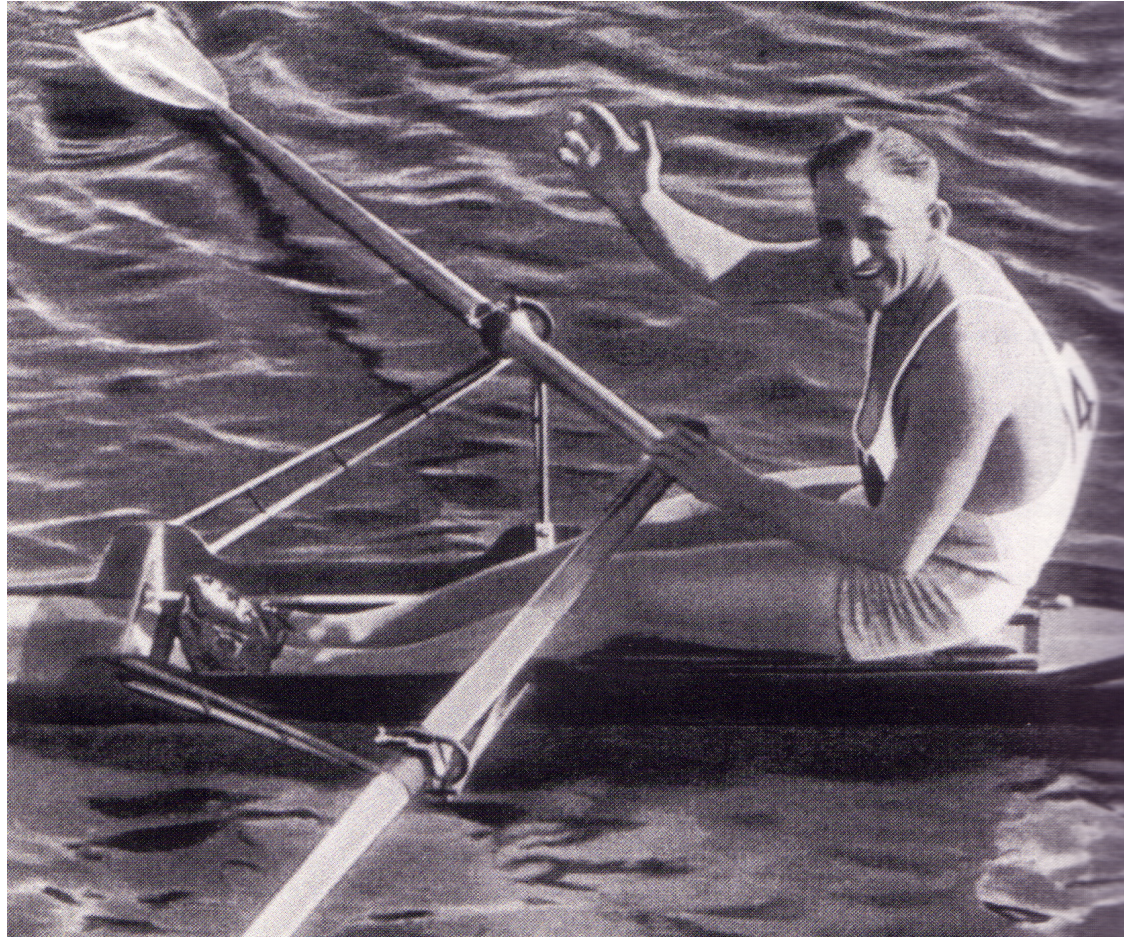
Ned Trickett



Modern Olympic Games 1896



Bobby Pearce



Merv Wood



John Coates



Barcelona Gold (1)



Barcelona Gold (2)



Atlanta Gold



Research Questions: Aims and Objectives

Three Eras

- Professional/Artisan
- Amateur/Elitist
- Semi-professional/Government-funded - but not elite/'silvertail'

Themes

- Heritage and foundations
- Status: Professionalism/Amateurism
- Class: Proletarian/'Silvertail'

Sub-Themes

- Administration
- Gender (Masculinity/hegemony, women)
- Participation and events
- Political developments: funding, institutes/academies, international events
- Commercialisation/media
- Equipment and technology
- Sports science/sports medicine
- Infrastructure: courses, venues

Literature Review (1)

- Existing knowledge sparse
- *En passant*
- National Library of Australia
- Mitchell Library, Sydney
- <http://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/>
- Rowing Australia, state associations
- State institutes, academies, clubs

Literature Review (2)

- Annual reports
- Magazines, newsletters
- National regatta programs, results
- International team handbooks, results, reports
- Media releases, press clippings, electronic media
- Greater body of English literature

Methodology

- Grounded theory
- Qualitative and Quantitative
- Survey of clubs, state and national administrations
- Oral history: semi-structured interviews
- Master's thesis

Summary (1)

- *“We must discover the forms of discourse through which elements of knowledge about socio-historical processes will find their way into living cultures and thus, coming to public life, become at last common knowledge”.*

Daniel

Bertaux

Summary (2)

- “...history is not one, long continuous story that is told over and over ... history is a conversation. And we don't have a fully-fleshed historical culture until we let that conversation rip ... Our history needs to be a library ... full of stories told by people of all walks of life ... and the result won't be chaos: it will be a rich sense of who we are and what we might become”.

Michael Cathcart

Plan and Timetable (1)

2012

- Complete Research Proposal
- Establish Topic and Title of the Research
- Determine Research Question(s)
- Complete Learning Plan
- Establish and become comfortable with methodology
- Conduct field work
- Attend relevant conferences, present paper(s)
- Attend Linda Li seminars on thesis writing
- Draft First Era (Chapters 1 - 4)

Plan and Timetable (2)

2013

- Draft Literature Review
- Draft Methodology
- Draft Second Era (Chapters 11 -17)
- Attend relevant conferences, present paper(s)
- Present work-in-progress seminar

Plan and Timetable (3)

2014

- Draft Third Era (Chapter 5: Results)
- Prepare Front of Thesis (Abstract, Contents etc) and Back of Thesis (Bibliography etc)
- Complete final write up of thesis
- Present findings at final seminar
- Present research at a conference
- Publish thesis