

Archive No. 134

Amazon Games

The first Amazon Games was organised by a collective of women who wanted to provide a sports day for women and girls to experience a range of games in a non-competitive atmosphere and without interference from patriarchal structures and sexist prejudices. The first Amazon Games was held on 1 April 1995, at the Northcote Oval, with an eclectic assortment of games on offer including archery, tunnel ball, nail hammering, tug-an-Amazon and the very popular arm wrestling. There were also market stalls, community displays, exhibitions, dog trials hosted by the Topp Twins and a Performing Older Women's Circus performance.

The second Amazon Games were also held at the Northcote Park Oval on 30 March 1996 where 300 women and girls enjoyed a range of games designed to empower and engender fun.

The third Amazon Games were held on 16 August 1997 at Collingwood College with a similar program. And the fourth and final Games were held a couple of years later at the Northcote Aquatic and recreational Centre on 22 January 2000 with a range of water sports, including scuba diving and synchronised swimming, as well as a display of judo wrestling.

Amazon Games won a Rainbow Award for excellence in the category of Sport and Recreation under the Community Development section in November 1997.