

SERIES ONE

**THE GAMES**

EPISODE

**04**

**ROBBO AND THE  
100 METRES**

BROADCAST DATE  
**07/09/98**



*Every now and again in an exercise of this complexity, a serious problems emerge, such as an apparent contradiction in the dimensions of a 100 Metres Track or perhaps a Major Political Figure turning up at a Press Conference with out-of-date research information and wrongly briefed.*

*The odds against both these things happening at the same time are astronomical. Australia is fortunate indeed to have a team of dedicated professionals who can step up to situations of this kind and confront them squarely.*

*John, Gina and Bryan consent to an interview beforehand in John's office.*

**GINA** (to camera) Yes, the marketing is still a worry. We've got 115 authorised products in the shops but they're just not moving. The mascots are doing well. They're selling like hot cakes, these things. (She picks up an attractively designed synthetic marsupial)

**CAMERA OPERATOR** Isn't that good?

**GINA** Yes, it's good but the market they're selling to is the 'Bananas in Pyjamas' market, so basically they're selling to people who don't know what the Olympics are.

**JOHN** (to camera) Yes, that is a concern. I think we might have to have a look at our product at some stage.

**BRYAN** (to camera) Far and away the greatest response we've had from people buying tickets is for the swimming, perhaps because Australia did very well in the swimming in Atlanta.

**JOHN** (to camera) It's hard to know. At the moment, logically, you would have to say we are selling a lot of tickets to people who want to go to the previous Olympics and a great amount of product to people who don't know what the Olympics are.

*Wednesday 9.08 a.m.*

*Bryan approaches the receptionist*

**BRYAN** Richard, would you send this to the Minister's office, please?

**GINA** Bryan, what do you make of this?

**BRYAN** (Reading) The Iranian Athletics Federation is coming here for a fact-finding mission and they want you to book them twelve hotel rooms.

**GINA** You see?

**BRYAN** See what?

**GINA** Iranians speak Arabic. Arabic is written from right to left. Do they want twelve rooms or twenty-one rooms?

**BRYAN** It's written in English.

**GINA** Yes, the words are in English but I don't know what language the numbers are in.

**BRYAN** When do they arrive?

**GINA** January 27th.

**BRYAN** Unless, of course, it's January the 72nd.

**GINA** Yes. Fair point.

**BRYAN** Are you organising Robbo's press conference?

**GINA** Yes. In about three seconds.

**BRYAN** Best of luck.

*John arrives at the office, sweeping through the foyer and greeting his first two appointments as he enters.*

**JOHN** Oh, good morning. (to Mr Wilson and Jasmine) Good morning. Mr Wilson, I gather. Come in. Hello Jasmine. Nice to see you. If you wouldn't mind going down to my office, I'll be with you in a moment.

**BRYAN** Good morning.

**JOHN** Good morning.

**JASMINE** Good morning Bryan.

**BRYAN** Good morning, Jasmine.

*John speaks quietly to Bryan*

**JOHN** Bryan, that is Mr Wilson. Morning Gina. What are you up to?

**GINA** Robbo's doing a press conference at ten.

**JOHN** Is there no end to his talents? Have you got it all organised?

**GINA** Yes. You're expected there, you know.

**JOHN** Oh well, I'll get there as soon as I can. I might be a minute or two. These two could bore for their country.

**GINA** His assistant wants some briefing notes.

**JOHN** Certainly. What on?

**GINA** His speciality today is Environmental Safeguards of the 2000 Olympics.

**JOHN** (Gesturing to an item in a pile of research material) Look. Yonder brochure contains all the information you will need.

**GINA** Oh thank you. I've got to go.

**JOHN** It's only ten past nine.

**GINA** You know what the traffic is like.

**JOHN** I do. It's a good thing we're not expected to run a major sporting event in this city. It could well be complete mayhem.

**GINA** I'll be back.

**JOHN** I'm sure you will. (to camera) We have to speak to Mr Wilson. However, we first have to endure the marketing thoughts of Jasmine Holt. She shares these thoughts with us about once a month and she's from the Federal Government. So just bear with us.

**BRYAN** (to camera) Relative of the Minister.

*They enter the office where Mr Wilson and Jasmine are waiting for them*

**JOHN** Good morning.

**JASMINE** Good morning.

**JOHN** (to the receptionist) No calls, thank you, for five minutes. (turns to Mr Wilson) Mr Wilson.

**JASMINE** Now John...

**JOHN** Or Jasmine of course. That's the other obvious alternative.

**JASMINE** John. I've made a list of a few things I think we ought to be looking at from a corporate relations point of view. I see the Games in the new millennium as a chance to clear out some of the dead wood that we've accumulated over the last century. Some of these things have got a bit of a limp up over the years and I think we could safely wheel them behind the canvas screen for the final round up, if you get my drift.

**JOHN** What sort of things?

**JASMINE** The Olympic Oath.

**JOHN** The Olympic Oath given by the athletes at the start of the Games?

**JASMINE** Yes.

**JOHN** The one written by the founder of the modern Olympics, the one that's been in use for about a thousand years?

**JASMINE** And doesn't it show?

**JOHN** 'I promise to compete in these Olympics for the glory of sport and the honour of the teams.' That one? Noble sentiments, Jasmine.

**JASMINE** Now, the medals.

**JOHN** Gone?

**JASMINE** A bit of a rework.

**JOHN** Ah. Brighter colours perhaps?

**JASMINE** The shape needs work.

**JOHN** Round obviously being...

**JASMINE** A cliché.

**JOHN** Of course

**JASMINE** Now, the Parade of Nations. Greece first, Australia last? Alphabetically it's all over the shop. Needs work. Anyway we'll get back to that one because there's this one. Yes, this one. The traditional release of the doves on their flight of peace. Frankly, I was hoping for something a little more Australian.

**JOHN** Australian?

**JASMINE** Emus, perhaps?

**JOHN** Emus?

**JASMINE** Yes.

**BRYAN** Emus don't fly, Jasmine.

**JOHN** A walk for peace?

**JASMINE** Exactly.

**JOHN** A long-necked waddle for peace?

**JASMINE** Lovely.

**JOHN** Can you leave these ideas with us Jasmine, because they're substantial and very interesting.

**JASMINE** Yes, by all means

**JOHN** Thank you very much for coming by.

**JASMINE** Good to see you. Bye now.  
*Jasmine leaves the room.*

**MR WILSON** Nice seeing you.  
*John turns to welcome the next contestant*

**JOHN** Now, Mr Wilson. We've got a problem, haven't we?

**MR WILSON** Il problemo. This is not good.

**JOHN** No, this is not good at all, Mr Wilson.

**MR WILSON** So what is the problem?

**JOHN** I'm right, aren't I, in assuming you put that athletic track in?

**MR WILSON** Yes, that's right.

**JOHN** Yes. Did you do this to specifications, Mr Wilson?

**MR WILSON** Yes.  
*John points to some figures*

**BRYAN** Are these the specifications, here, Mr Wilson?  
*Mr Wilson recognises the figures*

**MR WILSON** Yes. That's them.

**BRYAN** Good.

**JOHN** Mr Wilson, have you measured the 100-metre track?

**MR WILSON** Yes, of course.

**JOHN** Well, let me ask you, how long is it?

**MR WILSON** How long is the 100-metre track?

**JOHN** Yes.

**MR WILSON** It's a 100-metre track.

**JOHN** I know what it is, Mr Wilson. I'm asking you how long it is.

**MR WILSON** It's about 100 metres long.

**JOHN** About 100 metres long. How long should it be, Mr Wilson?

**MR WILSON** That's about the length it should be.

**JOHN** About 100 metres long.

**JOHN** Is the 200-metre track about 200 metres long?

**MR WILSON** Well, the 200-metre track is different.

**BRYAN** Isn't it twice as long as the 100 metres?

**MR WILSON** The 200-metres is different.

**JOHN** No, no, no, you've lost us.

**MR WILSON** The 200-metre track is part of the 400-metre track.

**JOHN** How long is the 400-metre track, Mr Wilson?

**MR WILSON** Well, the 400 metres starts around here in the back straight and it finishes up here at the finish line. It's a staggered start.

**JOHN** Yes, I'm familiar with the event itself, Mr Wilson. What I'm trying to ascertain is; are you absolutely sure that the 200-metre track is 200 metres long?

**MR WILSON** Yes. That's right.

**JOHN** Yes. Because it's half the 400-metre track which is 400 metres long.

**MR WILSON** That's right. The 200 metres is half the 400 metres – you can measure it.

**JOHN** No, no. But the 400-metre track is exactly 400 metres long, is it?

**MR WILSON** That's right.

**JOHN** So the 200-metre track is exactly 200 metres long.

**MR WILSON** Yes, of course.

**JOHN** But what you're telling me is the 100-metre track is about 100 metres long.

**MR WILSON** Slightly different arrangement, the 100-metre track.

**JOHN** Is a metre a slightly different concept in the 100 metres as against the 200?

**MR WILSON** No.

**JOHN** I don't understand then, Mr Wilson, quite why in the construction of a 100-metre track you would want to depart too radically from the constraints laid down for us by the conventional calibration of distance.

**MR WILSON** The 100-metre track is not part of the 400-metre track. It starts way out there.

**JOHN** Mr Wilson, it doesn't matter whether it's horizontal or vertical, 100 metres is 100 metres.

**MR WILSON** No two 100-metre tracks are ever the same. Everybody knows that.

**JOHN** Well how long is our 100-metre track?

**MR WILSON** Look, what's your point?

**JOHN** The point, Mr Wilson, is that in 739 days we are going to hold the Olympic 100-metres final on that track. This is an event that will be watched by about 600 million of the world's most dedicated rugged individualists. You and I both know it's going to be run on a track that's not 100 metres long.

**MR WILSON** How do you know that?

**JOHN** Mr Wilson. Do you know who is the current 100 metres all-comers Australian record holder?

**MR WILSON** Can I guess?

**JOHN** There's not much point in guessing, Mr Wilson.

**MR WILSON** Is he an African American?

**JOHN** He's not an African American, no.

**MR WILSON** Is he that Canadian from Jamaica?

**JOHN** No, he's not a Canadian from Jamaica.

**MR WILSON** I give up.

**JOHN** The 100-metre record in this country, Mr Wilson, is currently held by Bryan.

**MR WILSON** Bryan?

**BRYAN** Yes.  
*Mr Wilson extends his hand*

**MR WILSON** Congratulations.

**BRYAN** Thank you.

**JOHN** A new mark, Mr Wilson, set at a blistering session last Wednesday. I wish you'd been there. We were down there and we had a bet.

**MR WILSON** Was this wind assisted?

**JOHN** No, and we'd had a couple, and in my view, Bryan is not in quite the nick he was in the same stage of last season.  
*Mr Wilson considers the position*

**MR WILSON** So you've measured the track?

**JOHN** Yes, we've measured the track, Mr Wilson.

**MR WILSON** So you know how long the 100-metre track is?

**JOHN** Yes, we do.

**MR WILSON** Okay.

**JOHN** How long is it, Mr Wilson?

**MR WILSON** You know how long it is.

**JOHN** I want to hear you say it.

**MR WILSON** Ninety-four metres.

**JOHN** Ninety-four metres. Ninety-four metres. We've got a new event, haven't we, Mr Wilson?

**BRYAN** The 94 metres.

**JOHN** In fact we've got two new events haven't we? The 94 metres for men and the 94 metres for women.

**BRYAN** Hang on. Would that replace the 100 metres or would this be a new event, because there'd be a cost element there, wouldn't there?

**MR WILSON** No. That'd be in place of the 100 metres.

**JOHN** Why?

**MR WILSON** You don't have a 100-metre event. You haven't got a 100-metre track.  
*Media centre, Wednesday 9.34 a.m. Mr Robertson's press conference is about to start.*

**GINA** Fran, hi! Here's that information Robbo asked f. . . Mr Robertson asked for.

**FRAN** John Clarke?

**GINA** Not last time I looked. Gina Riley.

**FRAN** John?

**GINA** No. John not here. Brochure here. Environmental Aspects of the Staging of the Olympic Games. Everything Robbo... Mr Robertson needs.

**FRAN** I'll put it out there for him.

*Back at the office.*

**BRYAN** You know, we could add some metres to the 200 metres, John. Make it 206 metres. That way, anyone having a crack at the double will cover the right amount of ground.

**JOHN** Yes, but after two races, you mean.

**BRYAN** Yes. Amortise it over 300 metres.

**JOHN** And make it compulsory to go in both.

**MR WILSON** Problem solved.

*Phone rings.*

**JOHN** (answers phone) Hello, Dead Builder Pty Limited. Yes. Oh good. Thank you very much. (hangs up, turns to Mr Wilson and Bryan) Ladies and gentlemen, Robbo has commenced. (picks up remote control and turns television on) Stay there, Mr Wilson. Haven't finished with you yet.

**ROBBO** (on TV)... Requiring prospective designers and builders to include an environmental tender specification when bidding for work. This specification must include all environmental aspects such as design, construction and project operation. Furthermore as part of the opening ceremony we plan to release dove-shaped balloons in three sizes. These balloons will be made from recyclable material and will disintegrate on contact with water.

*At the media centre where the press conference is actually happening, things seem to be going well...*

**FRAN** Very impressive.

**GINA** Cutting edge.

**ROBBO** Furthermore, the tableware at the Olympic village will be made of apple fibre and potato. The plates are being made up of 25 per cent apple pulp, which is ideal for later use as solid fuel or compost.

*At the office, there is some concern about this*

**BRYAN** That was Nagano.

**JOHN** Yes, he's got that wrong.

*At the media centre, Gina freezes.*

**GINA** That was Nagano.

**ROBBO** And central to our catering arrangements for the Games, 100 000 plates will be made out of potato starch for the serving of traditional meals such as seaweed and sushi...

*At the office.*

**JOHN** That's the wrong brochure.

*At the media centre.*

**GINA** Wrong brochure. John's really stuffed this up.

*At the office.*

**JOHN** Gina's really stuffed this up.

*At the media centre.*

**GINA** That was Nagano.

**FRAN** (whispers from off-stage to Robbo) That was Nagano.

**ROBBO** ...very much in the manner of the measures undertaken at the recent winter Olympics in Nagano.  
*At the office, Robbo's silken sidestep is impressive.*

**JOHN** He's good.  
*At the media centre, Gina is also impressed.*

**GINA** He's good.  
*At the office.*

**JOHN** He's very good.  
*At the media centre.*

**ROBBO** I have met President Samaranch and I find him a very upstanding man.  
*At the office.*

**JOHN** He's a bloody genius, this bloke. Oh well, Gina's got that in hand. (turns off the television. Bryan addresses Mr Wilson)

**BRYAN** How can there not have been enough land?

**MR WILSON** Well, the starting area for the 100 metres isn't on the actual track itself.

**JOHN** No, of course it isn't. It never has been.

**MR WILSON** The 100 metres starts out here, joins the track here and finishes at the finishing line here. Now, there's a problem with enough ground at the starting area and the first part of the track. Everyone tried to fix it. No-one could. There is simply not enough land out there.

**JOHN** There's a bucketload of land out there.

**MR WILSON** There is now. But there wasn't when we started. All the cabling for the whole stadium comes in there.

**BRYAN** What cabling?

**MR WILSON** Television, Internet, you name it. Comes in at that corner – the masts are out there – it goes in there. There's a ton and a half of cabling under that land. They didn't get it all installed by April. We had to finish by March 15th. We couldn't wait. We couldn't use it.

**BRYAN** Mr Wilson, how long was the track supposed to be in the contract?

**MR WILSON** A hundred metres.

**JOHN** Have you signed a completion document?

**MR WILSON** Yes.

**BRYAN** And who else has signed it?

**MR WILSON** The Minister.

**BRYAN** And does he know how long it is?

**MR WILSON** No.

**JOHN** How do you know that?

**MR WILSON** I tried to tell him but he didn't want to know about it.

**JOHN** What did he say?



**MR WILSON** He said he saw the sporting events themselves as a seamless cloth.

**JOHN** Very helpful of him.

**BRYAN** Well, he's not going to deal with it, is he?

**JOHN** See, next Wednesday Mr Wilson, we've got the New South Wales School Championships out here. Someone's going to break a world record.

**MR WILSON** Couldn't we find some way of slowing the runners down?

**JOHN** What's this 'we' stuff?

*Back at Robbo's press conference, Wednesday 10.09 a.m.*

**REPORTER** There are concerns that you are not living up to some of the green commitments that you've made to the IOC.

**ROBBO** You're from the ABC, aren't you?

**REPORTER** They say you've reneged on your commitment to use totally recycled water within the Olympic village.

**FRAN** (from off-stage to Robbo) There is a good reason for that.

**ROBBO** There is a good reason for that, and it is this:

**FRAN** (off-stage to Robbo) The Hindus won't touch recycled water.

**ROBBO** The Zulus won't torch it.

**REPORTER** The Zulus won't torch it?

**ROBBO** Not in a million years. We asked them. We're not idiots.

**FRAN** (off-stage to Robbo) The Indians won't drink it.

**ROBBO** West Indians want trinkets. What can I do? My hands are tied.

*Fran looks at Gina in horror.*

*Back at the office.*

**MR WILSON** We could actually dig up all the cabling and relocate and reset the 100-metre track so it's exactly 100 of your precious metres.

**BRYAN** When can we do that?

**MR WILSON** But you'll lose the entire first three rows right round the entire stadium.

**BRYAN** What, the whole way round?

**JOHN** Consider them lost.

**BRYAN** We can't do that.

**JOHN** We've got to do something, Bryan. Take them out.

**BRYAN** John, we can't do that. We can't afford it.

**JOHN** Take them out. Take them out.

**BRYAN** John, John, listen to me. We're talking about 3000 tickets times fifteen days. Think about that. Think about the revenue we're going to lose here. The media's already measuring us up for a very big necktie over the ticketing issue. On top of that I've got the IOC with their hand out for their share, the International Federation's begging for an increased allotment and I've got the Federal Government going through my rubbish bin for what's left. I was actually hoping at some stage to squeeze a member of the public through a hole in the fence, given that they partake in the rather old-fashioned pastime of actually paying for their tickets.

- JOHN** I'm a humble man, Master Copperfield, but I refuse to be remembered as he who ran the 100 metres at the Sydney Olympics over 94 metres.
- BRYAN** Oh, preferring to be remembered, John, as the man who left his children and grandchildren with so much public debt that they were forced to go through their lives denying themselves the small luxuries of schools and hospitals? Come on!
- JOHN** The Sydney Olympics will have a 100 metres that is run over 100 metres.
- BRYAN** And my grandchildren will spell.
- JOHN** Bryan, if you run the 100 metres over the correct distance I'll give you a personal guarantee you're not going to lose the front three rows.
- MR WILSON** No, you will lose them.
- JOHN** No, no. Bear with me Mr Wilson. If I go to the final of the 100 metres and I go right down here and I sit in the front, in the front row, there's no-one sitting in front of me, I've got a completely unimpeded view of the track, what row am I sitting in?
- MR WILSON** Is this the 100 metres or the 94 metres?
- JOHN** This is the 100 metres, Mr Wilson.
- MR WILSON** You'll be in about the fourth row.
- JOHN** No, no, I'm in the front row. There's no-one in front of me.
- MR WILSON** The fourth row.
- JOHN** No, no, no. There must, by definition, be a front row. That's where I'm sitting. The second row's behind me. The third row's behind that, and the fourth row's behind that. Bryan, if you take out three rows they're not going to be the front three rows, they're going to be the back three rows.
- BRYAN** John, we can't afford it. You're going to lose three rows of seats. Simple.
- Back at the press conference.*
- REPORTER** Are you concerned that there's a perception overseas that Sydney has a pollution problem?
- ROBBO** Can you believe that? Do they think that Sydney is an outer suburb of Kuala Lumpur? I hope you're all going to the Asian Games in Thailand in December. You cannot see it for smog. They're planning to have the marathon finish in the respiratory ward of Bangkok General Hospital to save on ambulances.
- REPORTER** The green-and-gold bell frog that is native to the Homebush area is on the endangered species list. There was talk at one stage of it being added to the list of Olympic mascots.
- ROBBO** No, no, Paul. I think I can say without fear of serious contradiction that the endangered green-and-gold bell frog will not be added to the ongoing list of Olympic mascots for a very simple reason.
- REPORTER** Why not?
- ROBBO** Paul, if you'd done your reading you would have noted that the green-and-gold bell frog has been removed from the official endangered species list, a fact that was announced at a ceremony last week on the shores of Homebush Bay.
- REPORTER** Who was there?
- ROBBO** Oh, everyone was there, Paul. People from the Environment Department, the Minister, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Soil Erosion Authority and representatives of the major green organisations.
- REPORTER** Were the frogs there?

- REPORTER** No, no, the frogs weren't there, Paul. We didn't send them an invitation. We assumed, obviously erroneously, that frogs can't read.
- REPORTER** Robbo, the World Wildlife Fund and other green groups that were excluded from the ceremony suggested the reason the frogs weren't there is that the frogs are now extinct.
- ROBBO** Well, either way, they're off the endangered list.  
*Back at the office.*
- BRYAN** We could run the 100 metres in a circle.
- JOHN** No, you can't do that.
- BRYAN** Yes you can. You put a circular 100 in the middle of the track out there.
- JOHN** You can't do that.
- BRYAN** Yes we can. If we can fit in a circular 400, we can fit in a circular 100.
- JOHN** No, you can't have a 100 with a bend in it.
- BRYAN** Of course you can. The 200's got a bend in it. The 400's just one dirty big bend all the way round. Why would someone object to the 100 metres having a bend in it?
- JOHN** Well, they won't run in it.
- BRYAN** Who won't?
- JOHN** The athletes. They'll refuse.
- BRYAN** Well, I'd run in it.
- JOHN** The best athletes won't run in it, Bryan.
- BRYAN** All the better for me. I'm the current Australian champion.
- JOHN** Try and be serious.
- BRYAN** I am being serious. There are no rules saying the hundred metres has to be run in a straight line.
- JOHN** They will get dizzy.
- BRYAN** But it's exciting. Think about this, John. The problem with the 100 metres at the moment, is you know who's going to win because you know who's in front. Now, the 400 metres – you don't know who's in front until they straighten up at the top of the straight. It's fantastic. The crowd loves it.
- JOHN** If you run the 100 in a circle, Bryan, they're not going to straighten up till they get home.
- BRYAN** Wouldn't that be a ball-tearer?
- JOHN** Bryan, if the world champion draws the outside lane in your event the centrifugal force acting on him when he comes off the home turn will be absolutely enormous. He'll rip his freckle out. He'll be up over here like a bloody sheep dog across the top of the crowd. We'll be going to guarantee the safety of the public.
- BRYAN** It would be a ball-tearer, though.
- JOHN** It'd be a bloody sight worse than that, Bryan.  
*They consider their options for a moment*
- JOHN** Perhaps we shouldn't be thinking about these things solely in terms of distance. These aren't questions of distance, are they? They're questions of time.
- BRYAN** What are?

**JOHN** Athletics. I mean, races are not really a question of distance. They're a question of time.

**BRYAN** No, they're not.

**JOHN** Yes, they are. How long is a marathon?

**BRYAN** It's a set distance.

**MR WILSON** Twenty-six miles and something.

**JOHN** Yes. Are they all flat?

**BRYAN** No, there are hills.

**JOHN** Where are the hills in the Amsterdam marathon?

**MR WILSON** There aren't hills in all of them.

**JOHN** So they're not all the same. There's the 26 miles with the hills and the 26 miles without hills.

**MR WILSON** It's the same distance.

**BRYAN** It's a very long race, John.

**JOHN** Oh yes, the one with the hills is a hell of a thing, Bryan.

**MR WILSON** What about the 1500 metres?

**BRYAN** Yes, the 1500 metres race is the same all over the world.

**JOHN** Completely different. Completely different.

**BRYAN** How is it different?

**MR WILSON** Surely a metre is a metre anywhere in the world?

**JOHN** I beg your pardon?

**MR WILSON** A metre is an internationally agreed standard unit of measure.

**JOHN** Listen pal, you'd want to be on my side on this, wouldn't you? I'm trying to dig you out of a very deep bear-pit.

**MR WILSON** I appreciate that.

**JOHN** Lift your game, son. We're going to get cleaned up by the Australian sprint champion here if you're not careful.

**MR WILSON** So what's your point?

**JOHN** Have you ever been in a 1500-metre race?

**MR WILSON** No.

**JOHN** Why do you think the runners like running along the inside lane?

**MR WILSON** So they don't have to run as far.

**JOHN** That's my boy. I thought I'd lost you for a moment there.

**MR WILSON** That's not the point here though, is it?

**JOHN** In the 94 metres? No, the 94's a straight event. You just run it in your lane. (A ghastly thought occurs to John) You did put the lanes in, didn't you?

**MR WILSON** Of course I did.

*Back at the press conference, Wednesday 10.32 a.m.*

**FEMALE REPORTER** Mr Robertson?

**ROBBO** Yes, sweetheart?

**FEMALE REPORTER** While a woman heads the organising committee for Athens 2004, there are only a handful involved in the Sydney organising committee.

**ROBBO** You have authority for that proposition do you, darling?

**FEMALE REPORTER** How did they come to be breached in the first place, Robbo?

**ROBBO** How did what come to be breached, Nicole?

**FEMALE REPORTER** The guidelines.

**ROBBO** According to whom, Nicole?

**FEMALE REPORTER** Greenpeace.

**ROBBO** Oh Greenpeace. Yes well. All right, let's get Greenpeace to organise the Games, shall we? We'll all snuggle up and watch the 4 × 100 bottle recycling. Now, let's get this straight once and for all. Hands up all those who at some stage of their life have been the Federal Minister for the Environment. (He looks around) Oh, just me? Let me tell you something then. For three years I had to climb into a kaftan once a fortnight and belt out a few verses of the old 'Kumbaya'. You know why?

**FEMALE REPORTER** Because of your commitment to the environment, Robbo?

**ROBBO** I had to stop at every third mud-brick hut in the jungle and glad hand every dead-beat who poked a stick of incense in my direction, so you can believe me when I tell you that I am more than well and truly qualified to ignore everything that Greenpeace has to say about anything.

**FEMALE REPORTER** You've still breached the guidelines.

**ROBBO** I'm glad you've got such a high opinion of me, Nicole, but I'm not responsible for everything that happens in the preparation of these games. Nor can I do everything. Kevin Nowra of my office is in charge of the day-to-day operations at Homebush.

**NICOLE** There's talk that his position is under review.

*Fran makes a call on her mobile phone.*

**ROBBO** Look, I'll make this clear enough, even for you, Nicole. Kevin Nowra has my complete support.

*Back at the office.*

**BRYAN** That's it for Kevin then.

**JOHN** Yes. Say goodnight to the folks, Kevin.

**MR WILSON** He'll be right. He's got Robbo's complete support.

**JOHN** Having Robbo's full support is often the last sound people hear. They just hear they have Robbo's full confidence and a nice man pops a bag over their head.

*Back at the press conference...*

**FRAN** (on mobile phone) Hold on, hold on a minute. (to Gina) What did he say?

**GINA** He said Kevin Nowra has his complete support.

**FRAN** (on mobile phone) Forget that. Call Nowra and get his carpark pass. He's gone apparently.

*At the office.*

**ROBBO** (on telly) And we took that background into the ALP.

*John turns off the television.*

**BRYAN** We'll have to talk to the media.

**JOHN** Well, only if they find out something about this.

**MR WILSON** They don't know anything at the moment.

**JOHN** Did you register a formal complaint about not being able to use that land?

**MR WILSON** No. We were just told to start there. (gestures)

**JOHN** It might be worth getting something in writing about that.

**MR WILSON** Well what's the point? The thing's bloody built.

**BRYAN** It's always a good idea to get something in writing though.

**JOHN** Perhaps not a formal complaint, just something that registers that it's not our fault.

**MR WILSON** It's not my fault either.

**JOHN** Oh no.

**MR WILSON** We need to talk to someone at broadcasting. There's a minister, isn't there?

**BRYAN** Yes, but we need to speak to the person who actually runs it.

**JOHN** No question about that. We'd want to go to the top.

**BRYAN** Robbo.

**JOHN** Yes, I'll talk to Robbo. (extension buzzes) No calls, thank you.

**RECEPTIONIST** Robert Walkley on the phone.

**JOHN** Robert Walkley? Robert Walkley? Panel?

**BRYAN** Writes for the Star.

**JOHN** Star?

**BRYAN** Weekly tabloid. Light-hearted mixture of racism and pornography.

**RECEPTIONIST** He says it's important.

**JOHN** Tell him to take a number.

**RECEPTIONIST** He says it's to do with the measuring of the 100 metres.

**JOHN** Tell him I'll ring him back when I get time. (pushes a button on the phone)  
Am I doing the right thing here, Bryan?

**ROBERT WALKLEY** Hello.

**JOHN** Hello.

**WALKLEY** Hello.

**JOHN** Hello. Who's that?

**WALKLEY** Robert Walkley, the Post.

**JOHN** Oh Robert! Nice to hear from you. How are you?

**WALKLEY** Am I on the speaker phone?

**MR WILSON** No.

**BRYAN** No.

**WALKLEY** What?

**JOHN** No.

**WALKLEY** Doesn't matter. Listen, John, it's about the 100-metre track.

**JOHN** Yes. What about it in particular, Robert?

**WALKLEY** Well there's a strong story going around that it's not the full 100 metres.

**JOHN** Oh well...

**WALKLEY** The second part of the story, mate, has it that the man with sole responsibility for the measuring of the track was Kevin Nowra from Robbo's office. Do you have any comment to make?

**JOHN** Robert, I'm obviously extremely limited in what I can say on this subject at this particular time and I'll say to you only what I've said to our people and I speak for everyone here on this issue, and you can quote me on this Robert, Kevin Nowra has our complete support.