

Associate Professor Lesley Ferkins

PhD, MA(Applied), BA

Research specialisation: Leadership and governance of sport organisations.

Experience: 18 years' as an academic in sport management in Australia and New Zealand. Prior to joining AUT in 2015, Associate Professor and Programme Director at Unitec, senior lecturer at Deakin University, Melbourne, and previously Postgraduate Head in the School of Sport and Recreation at AUT. Teaching involvement spans postgraduate and undergraduate courses that include sport leadership and governance, strategic sport management, sport organisation, and work integrated learning. Prior to academia, held leadership positions within the sport sector in New Zealand. Previously Executive Director of the New Zealand Recreation Association, and Executive Director of the newly formed netball franchise, Netball North Harbour/Northern Force (now Northern Mystics). Previously worked for the government agency in sport (then Hillary Commission now Sport NZ), and for Tennis New Zealand. President of the Sport Management Association of Australia and NZ (SMAANZ), a board member for six years, holds three current board roles, and has previously sat on/advised to eight different non-profit and sport boards. Currently at AUT Millennium within the Sports Performance Research Institute New Zealand (SPRINZ) focusing on developing practice contribution to sport leadership, management, and governance within the sport sector. As an athlete, former US tennis scholarship recipient and top ranked junior in New Zealand. Competed in Coast to Coast Longest Day, placing in top ten. Now a recreational multi-sporter.



Research overview: Worked closely with boards of national sport organisations in New Zealand (Football, Tennis, Squash), as part of action research interventions to develop board strategic capability, and more latterly with Rugby to consider ownership options. In Australia research involved global sport governance and work with Australian state and national sport organisations in developing governance capability. A current ongoing programme of research in board leadership and governance, and evaluation of action research impact that encompasses projects in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Postgraduate supervision: 6 Masters and 4 PhD research students to completion. Currently supervising 3 Masters and 5 PhD. Topics contribute to research and practice in leadership, governance and management of sport/sport organisations using action research with a strong qualitative orientation.

Research publications: 27 peer reviewed publications and 14 invited book chapters. Editorial board member of the *Journal of Sport Management* and *Sport Management Review*. Example publications:

Shilbury, D., O'Boyle, I., & Ferkins, L., (2016). Toward a research agenda in collaborative sport governance. *Sport Management Review*. Advance online publication DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2016.04.004>

Rowe, K., Shilbury, D., & Ferkins, L. (2016). Influences on women's cycling participation in Australia: Implications for sport development. *Sport Management Review*. Advance online publication DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2015.11.001>

Meiklejohn, T., Dickson, G., & Ferkins, L. (2016). The formation of interorganisational cliques in New Zealand rugby. *Sport Management Review*. Advance online publication DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2015.08.002>.

Zornes, D., Ferkins, L. & Piggot-Irvine, E. (2015). Action research networks: Role and purpose in the evaluation of research outcomes and impacts. *Educational Action Research Special Issue*. Advance online publication DOI: 10.1080/09650792.2015.1045538. (B)

Ferkins, L. & Shilbury, D. (2015b). The stakeholder dilemma in sport governance: Toward the notion of 'stakeowner'. *Journal of Sport Management*, 29(4), 93-108.

Ferkins, L., & Shilbury, D. (2012). Good boards are strategic: What does that mean for sport governance? *Journal of Sport Management*, 26, 67-80.



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