

Australian Open Trophy Tour – fact sheet

- The Australian Open trophies are touring Australia and the Asia Pacific, and fans will have the opportunity to feel like a Grand Slam champion as they enjoy their very own photo opportunity with the **Norman Brookes Challenge Cup** (men's trophy) and **Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup** (women's trophy) before they are presented to the 2012 champions.
- The Trophy Tour is scheduled to visit at least 20 host destinations throughout Australia and Asia, including regional areas and capital cities.
- Wuhan in China was the first stop on the tour on Monday 10 October 2011.
- Other tour destinations include Shanghai, Beijing, Adelaide, Barossa Valley, Launceston, Davenport, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Alice Springs, Perth, Canberra, Bowral, Sydney, Victorian Surf Coast and Melbourne.
- Australian tennis greats, past and present, will join the tour as ambassadors to meet fans.
- Fans can follow the trophies around the region online by visiting australianopen.com.au/trophy
- 2012 is a very historic year for the Australian Open, as it will be the 100th time the men's singles title is contested.
- For the second consecutive year the winner of the Australian Open men's and women's singles titles will take home an exact full-size replica trophy instead of a miniature replica, which past champions have received.
- The trophies are the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup (men's singles trophy) and the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup (women's singles trophy)
- The perpetual Australian Open Trophies are awarded to the men's and women's singles winners during on-court ceremonies after the finals each year
- The Australian Open Trophies are engraved with the name of the Australian Open Champions each year.

About the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup:

- The Norman Brookes Challenge Cup is named after Australian tennis champion Sir Norman Brookes and was modelled on an eight-tonne marble vase sculpted in the second century AD.
- The Norman Brookes Challenge Cup was first awarded to Fred Perry at the Australian Championships in 1934.
- The large silver trophy was made in England and financed by the state tennis associations in Australia.
- Also known as 'The Wizard', Brookes made history in 1907 when he became the first non-British male to win Wimbledon. Winner of the Australian title in 1911, he also captured the singles and doubles titles at Wimbledon in 1914.

- Brookes was known for his all-court game, which was a mixture of solid ground strokes backed up by a well-varied serve.
- Brookes won his first home major in 1911 (Australian Open) and three years later when he captured the singles and doubles titles at Wimbledon. It was his first visit to the All England Club since his first major win on the hallowed turf seven years earlier.
- More doubles success followed Brookes in the United States in 1919 and in Australia in 1924.
- Following his retirement, Brookes became a renowned tennis administrator. In 1926 he became the president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, a position held until 1955.
- Sir Norman Brookes was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame in June 1996, and was also inducted into the International Hall of Fame in 1977.

About the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup:

- The Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup is named after the first woman to dominate the Australian Open.
- Born in 1903, Daphne Akhurst was a pioneer of the women's game before her premature death in 1933 at the age of just 29 following an ectopic pregnancy.
- Akhurst captured five Australian singles (1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930) and double titles (1924, 1925, 1928, 1929, 1931) and the mixed four times (1924, 1925, 1928, 1929).
- Akhurst also showed promise as a pianist growing up, and studied music at the State Conservatorium of Music and worked as a music teacher.
- In 1925 Akhurst was a member of the first women's team to travel overseas. She competed at Wimbledon and made the quarterfinals. In 1928 she made the semifinals in singles and doubles, and the final of the mixed doubles at the All England Club.
- The Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup was donated by the NSW Tennis Association and was first won by Joan Hartigan in 1934.