

TIM'S WORST TASTE AWARDS

Spring came to Australia last week, on Tuesday 1st September. This is also National Wattle Day and celebrates the famous acacia wattle tree which flowers prolifically across our continent at this time each year. I have one planted in my front garden and it's in flower right now.

And that brings me to this little opinion piece. Our national sporting colours are 'Green and Gold'. For many years, that ALWAYS corresponded to the beautiful rich dark "bottle green" and the eye catching 'wattle gold'. In my competitive days, those were still the colours of choice for our international teams, and my most prized uniform possession is my bottle green Australian blazer, a real collectors item nowadays.

Alas, over the years, Athletics Australia has not always been up the task in maintaining this tradition, so I thought it was time I pushed out my Worst Taste awards for what I think were our worst pieces of uniform ever.

First to tracksuits and my mind immediately turns to the 1997 World Cup team. See below for that particular AA reworking of the 'Green and Gold'. And the cut is such a nice once – NOT! I am reminded more of Santa's little elven helpers than of elite walkers.



And let's not forget some of the memorable competition uniforms our athletes have been forced to wear in times past. Consider the 2007 World Athletics Championships uniform worn in Osaka (see below) – ill fitting fluoro green shorts (which left nothing to the imagination), along with a white singlet with a red vertical stripe down the side. Green and Gold – I think not!



I am pleased to report that the current Athletics Australia team seem more conscious of our history, with recent uniforms showing a welcome return to tradition.



As always, I welcome contributions from our readers as to their own worst evers.

Tim Erickson
Monday 7th September 2020