

Published based on [Australian Football Boosted By 2011 Asian Cup Performance](#)

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The way things have gone this month, anyone looking to [Fly Drive Australia](#) would do well to invest in a yacht. But January has also been a big month for Australian Football (or Soccer, here as opposed to Rules). The rise of Football in Australia has been something of a slow burn, but the last half decade has seen them become something of a world power, ranked 14th in FIFAs list. However, after crashing out of the World Cup in the group stage, it was worried that Australias new found mediocrity might take hold.

Silencing their critics, Australia are showing some considerable talent at the 2011 AFC Asian Cup. Australia werent always AFC members: their membership was previously with the OFC (Oceania Football Confederation), easily the worlds least important association (with Australia gone, no team in the association even has a professional league). This offers them greater assurance of a World Cup place, despite the presence of other emerging World powers like Japan and South Korea. It will be against Japan that Australia will play in the AFC Asian Cup final. An Australian win would prove the team are world class, but the Japanese are unlikely to let a significant fourth AFC title just slip through their fingers. Considering the 6-0 drubbing of Uzbekistan in the Semi Finals, this has been among the smoothest of [Australia tours](#).

Theres also more good news to be had for future world football power Qatar, who have hosted the AFC tournament as a warm up for the 2022 World Cup. The home team have actually distinguished themselves at the event, though all attention was on the (absolutely fine) stadiums. They fought bravely in a quarter final defeat against the Japanese, losing only two goals to three. Back with Australians, the issue of hosting has a lot to do with their motivation in this cup. Australia are hosts for the next Asian Cup, held in 2015. Being defending champions on home soil would assure the longevity of Australian interest in the sport, probably well beyond the invitation of foreign teams to this most footballing of [Australia holidays](#). Australian football can only go from strength to strength, and it seems likely that the days of the constant player drain to other nations will finally draw to a close.

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