



We have lots to share with you, and encourage you to share your news with us.

Send through any updated contact details or newsletters suggestions to email [olympians@olympic.org.nz](mailto:olympians@olympic.org.nz)

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## Message from the Olympians Commission

Welcome to the first edition of the Olympians' newsletter for 2019. It's a bumper issue, to keep you up to date with the happenings at the NZOC and the wider international Olympic movement.

While many of you know that the NZOC's Olympians' Commission is made up of eight summer and



winter Olympians and was established to provide NZ Olympians with an opportunity to celebrate their Olympic experience and continue their involvement in the Olympic Movement, we're aware that many of you may not know who the members are. So, following on from the profile of our Chair, Chantal Brunner (Olympian 692) in the last newsletter, we're pleased to introduce Commission member, Sydney 2000 Olympian, Tim Slyfield. Read more about Tim [here](#).

Although 2019 is not a "big" Games year, there's plenty of activity happening. Planning is well underway for Tokyo 2020 and we will share some updates with you in the next newsletter. Prior to Tokyo 2020, athletes will compete at the Pacific Games in Samoa (July 2019), ANOC World Beach Games in San Diego (October 2019) and Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne (January 2020). Chefs de Mission to these games have been appointed, congratulations to Kristy Hill, Olympian #1043 (Samoa 2019), Barbara Kendall, Olympian 631 (San Diego 2019) and Jesse Teat, Olympian 873 (Lausanne 2020).

New Zealand's connection to the international Olympians movement has never been stronger. Chantal and Tim will be representing New Zealand at the World Olympians' Forum (WOF) in Lausanne, Switzerland from April 14 – 18. Chair of the NZOC Athletes' Commission, Nathan Twaddle (Olympian #966 (Rowing)) and NZOC and IOC Athletes' Commission member Sarah Walker (Olympian #1101 (BMX)) will be attending the IOC International Athletes' Forum being held immediately prior to the WOF. Chantal has recently been appointed to the IOC's Entourage Commission (EC), a body established to advise the IOC on matters concerning the relationship between athletes, parents, coaches, managers, technical officials, sponsors, media and all other stakeholders that support and work directly with athletes – i.e. the athlete's entourage. Michael Arms (Olympian #1125 (Rowing)) and Melissa Ingram (Olympian #1049 (Swimming)) are representing NZOC at the International Olympians Academy Young Participants Session in Athens, Greece later this year. Watch out for their reports in future editions of our newsletter.

As part of our commitment to sharing Olympic values, we're joining forces with the Auckland Regional Council, local primary

school children and Olympians to take part in a tree planting day at Long Bay Reserve on Friday, 17 May. Read more about it [here](#). We invite any Olympians who are interested to come along to share in what will be a fun filled day – and make a positive impact on the environment.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. If you have any news that you think may be of interest to Olympians or simply want to get in touch with us, then please feel free to contact Chantal, Chair of the Olympians' Commission at [chantal.brunner@olympian.org](mailto:chantal.brunner@olympian.org). Don't be shy.... we'd love to hear from you. Also keep an eye out in the next edition for details of the Olympians functions that are going to be held in October 2019. A great chance to catch up with old friends and retell those stories...

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## Olympian Sustainability Day

### **We need you - Come along and share your story with the children**

The Olympians' Commission has initiated a project to educate children and give back to the Community by working together with the Auckland Council.



We would like to encourage as many Olympians as possible to support the park rangers and volunteers to plant trees at the Regional Park on Friday May 17th from 9.30am-2.30pm.

The project will involve approximately 100 primary school aged children, educating them on the benefits of preserving our recreational facilities, planting trees and seeing our Olympians as role models for this initiative. We would be looking to conduct a 2 hour planting sessions, enjoy a half an hour BBQ lunch on site then participating in 3-4 sports for a "have a go" and simply enjoy the park facilities.

Your participation on the day can be as involved or least involved as you wish. We encourage Olympians to 'give back' to the community by supporting these initiatives. Just come along to chat to the children if you're not up to planting, and help inspire the youth to achieve their dreams.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING?** Good enclosed boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothes – planting will happen even if it rains so you are likely to get a little muddy. Attire that will allow you to participate in sport with the children if desired.

**WE WILL PROVIDE:** A sausage sizzle and water and an opportunity to talk to the children.

If you require further information, contact Cathleen Bias [cathleen@olympic.org.nz](mailto:cathleen@olympic.org.nz) or 021-905-396



## The New Zealand Olympic Athletes' Collective

The New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) would like to take this opportunity to invite our Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes to be involved in the Athletes' Collective.

The NZOC works with a range of commercial partners and enables special access to athletes for "below the line" events and leverage through their partnership with us. Athletes are reimbursed for their time.

Potential engagements where the Athletes' Collective can be activated include, product launches, staff conferences, internal engagement events, dinners, or other one-off corporate events aligned with the commercial partner. Athlete engagement includes full image rights for PR and social for the event "below the line", but not full image rights "above the line" - advertising and promotion, instore etc. (unless mutually agreed upon).

Access to athlete talent is a critical element for our sponsors to have impact on their audiences. All activations are signed off by

the NZOC prior to reaching you and upon completion, see a financial contribution being made direct to the athlete. We encourage you to tell your story to maximise the benefits to both you and the sponsor.

Essentially this is a great platform for our Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes to grow their profile, establish potential networking relationships and build your commercial capability.

If this is of interest to you or you have been previously involved and wished to be considered again, please email [athletecollective@olympic.org.nz](mailto:athletecollective@olympic.org.nz)

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## [Athlete 365](#)

Athlete 365 is an International Olympic Committee platform for Olympians and athletes providing advice and support. We can be very proud that our very own Sarah Walker (Olympian 1101) is helping lead this project.

The platform offers advice, services and inspiration along with new career opportunities and valuable Games-time information.

We would encourage you to [sign up](#). One exciting initiative is the inclusion of profiling Olympian's worldwide, if you sign up and access your own profile you can update information and over time, Athlete 365 will endeavour to populate your profile page with photos from your Olympiad.

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### [Profile: Tim Slyfield Olympian #845](#)

Tim Slyfield represented New Zealand in Judo at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

He then went on to compete in two Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002 and Glasgow 2014. He won bronze medals in both of these events.



After the Manchester games, Tim became more involved with NZ Judo. His involvement started with coaching and he eventually moved through the ranks to become the NZJF High Performance Director. He was a pivotal part in selections for subsequent Commonwealth Games and Olympic teams.

2015 saw Tim's involvement in New Zealand sport move away from Judo and into a role with the New Zealand Olympians Commission. As New Zealand Olympian #845, Tim felt quite strongly about the legacy that Olympians could leave behind, coupled with a mentoring that could be provided for past and present athletes.

The Commission works to provide New Zealand's more than 1,300 Olympians opportunities to celebrate their Olympic experience and continue to be engaged in the Olympic movement and with each other. This is being achieved through initiatives such as the annual Olympians functions, an Olympian to Olympian mentoring programme and offering networking opportunities to connect Olympians.

When not involved with the Olympians' Commission Tim manages his successful search and recruitment company called Alexander James. Their focus is on recruitment in the corporate sector. Tim believes being a successful business owner has enabled him to utilise the many skills from high performance sport, including determination, time management and goal setting.

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### [Expressions of Interest Open - Athlete Support Tokyo 2020](#)

Athlete Support are key members in the wider Support Team at Games-time. They will assist with the delivery of the performance focused team environment. The key focus will be on implementing the Team Manaakitanga, our performance culture that powers a New Zealand team that athletes and support want to be part of and contribute to. We are looking for retired Olympians who are interested in this role or future roles to express an interest by 28 April 2019. More information and full position description can be found [HERE](#).

Following on from the success of the first NZ Olympic Women's Sport Leadership Academy, the NZOC have accepted another 22 female Olympians listed below for the 2019-2020 programme.

The programme provides a unique learning environment that supports the women to further develop their confidence and leadership competencies held over 3 workshops commencing in May 2019.

NZ Olympic WSLA is working in partnership with WSLA UK which is based at the University of Chichester (England). WSLA UK has successfully delivered international Academy programmes since 2014 with more than 230 women graduates from 42 countries now members of the global network of female leaders in sport. Click [HERE](#) to find out more information.

Olympian No.	Participant Name	Sport	Olympic Games
#1139	Julia Edward	Rowing	London 2012, Rio 2016
#789	Sally Farmer	Basketball	Sydney 2000, Athens 2004
#1143	Siona Fernandes	Boxing	London 2012
#1147	Amaka Gessler	Swimming	London 2012
#1149	Katie Glynn	Hockey	London 2012
#1092	Debbie Hansen	Triathlon	Beijing 2008
#987	Erika Harris	Skiing	Torino 2006
#918	Lizzy Horlock	Hockey	Athens 2004, Beijing 2008
#1303	Jaimee Lovett	Canoe	Rio 2016
#1249	Genevieve Macky	Rowing	Rio 2016
#1178	Kate McIlroy	Triathlon	London 2012
#832	Char Pouaka	Softball	Sydney 2000
#1195	Polly Powrie	Sailing	London 2012, Rio 2016
#1196	Alexis Pritchard	Boxing	London 2012
#917	Michelle Rennie	Cycling	Athens 2004
#1203	Rebecca Rolls	Football	London 2012, Rio 2016
#579	Angela Subramaniam	Gymnastics	Seoul 1988
CWG	Georgina Toomey	Swimming	CWG Melbourne 2006
#856	Liz van Welie	Swimming	Sydney 2000
#859	Leanne Walker	Basketball	Sydney 2000, Athens 2004
#1245	Anna Willcox-Silfverberg	Skiing	Sochi 2014
#865	Evelyn Williamson	Triathlon	Sydney 2000

## [PhD: Politics and Sport don't mix - or do they?](#)

Victoria University of Wellington researcher Micheal Warren has recently published PhD Research on New Zealand's Olympic History. The thesis titled: ***Politics and Sport don't mix – or do they? National Identity and New Zealand's Participation in the Olympic Games*** is ground-breaking new research focused on how New Zealand's participation in the Olympic Movement has contributed to National Identity. The research covers the period through to the recent PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games and outlines the important place New Zealand's Olympic participation has on New Zealand society.



Below is the abstract of the research. To download the thesis, please visit:

[http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10063/7630/thesis\\_access.pdf?sequence=1](http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10063/7630/thesis_access.pdf?sequence=1)

If you have any questions on the research or wish to contact Micheal directly, please email him on

[warrenmich1@gmail.com](mailto:warrenmich1@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

Sports matter. Today sport is one of the most enduring social events that humans from across the world participate in, no matter

their race, religion or gender. Moreover, the biggest of all those sporting events is the Olympic Games, which is held every four years. The modern version of the Games was founded by Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin and first took place in Athens in 1896. New Zealand first competed alongside Australia as Australasia in London 1908 and Stockholm 1912. Following the games of 1916 which were cancelled due to World War I, New Zealand has competed as a sovereign nation since Antwerp 1920. Since 1908, over 1200 New Zealanders have competed at the Olympic Games, winning more than 100 medals. That performance in itself makes New Zealand one of the most successful nations in Olympic history on a per capita basis. That statistic alone underscores the relationship between the Olympics and national identity, as an embodiment of New Zealanders believing they 'punch above their weight' on the world stage.

Benedict Anderson wrote about the *imagined community*, where the nation is imagined because it is impossible for every citizen to know each other. This research has found that sporting teams like the All Blacks and the New Zealand Olympic Team are perfect avenues to help create this imagined community. New Zealand's national identity is not fixed, it has evolved, but the one mainstay of that identity is the sense of being an underdog on the world stage.

The research has found that over the past three decades New Zealand governments have increasingly woken up to the importance of high-performance sport, and following the disappointment of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, funding was increased, which has led to better results and more medals. Today New Zealand athletes are funded on a per-capita basis just as well as many other nations we would compare ourselves with. New Zealand politicians have been quick to associate themselves alongside sportsmen and women and often speak about the close link that exists between sport and identity in New Zealand. However, unlike Australia, New Zealand does not have a national sports museum, and also unlike Australia, and the United Kingdom, New Zealand legislation does not allow for free-to-air television coverage of games of national significance. New Zealand does not adequately showcase its sporting history, and this has the potential to negatively affect the importance New Zealanders place on sport and the Olympic Movement as an important part of its national identity.

Ultimately this research has found that the New Zealand Olympic Team epitomises what it means to be a New Zealander and has found that across multiple levels of analysis, the Olympic Movement has significantly contributed to the development of New Zealand's national identity. More broadly, the Olympic Games have become a key avenue in which that national identity can be projected to the world.

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## Obituaries - New Zealand Olympians

Remembering those New Zealand Olympians that have left us over the past twelve months

<u>OLY No.</u>	<u>Olympian Name</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Sport</u>
#157	Bill Baillie	<b>Olympic:</b> 1964 Tokyo <b>Commonwealth:</b> 1954 Vancouver, 1958 Cardiff, 1962 Perth, 1966 Kingston	Athletics
#160	Darien Boswell	<b>Olympic:</b> 1964 Tokyo <b>Commonwealth:</b> 1962 Perth	Rowing
#86	Paddy Donovan	<b>Olympic:</b> 1956, Melbourne, 1964 Tokyo <b>Commonwealth:</b> 1958 Cardiff, 1962 Perth	Boxing
#289	Rick Littlewood	<b>Olympic:</b> 1972 Munich	Judo
#306	Dick Quax	<b>Olympic:</b> 1972 Munich, 1976 Montreal <b>Commonwealth:</b> 1970 Edinburgh, 1978 Edmonton	Athletics



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