



Welcome back <<First Name>>, this quarter we have lots to share with you:

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Message from the Olympians' Commission Chair

Welcome, this edition of the Olympians Newsletter includes updates on the World Olympians' Forum, the IOC International Athletes' Forum and our recent Sustainability Day. It also features a profile of NZOC Olympians' and Athletes' Commission member Alexis Pritchard (#1196) and find out what Olympians are in action right now.



Having recently returned from the World Olympians' Forum, I've been reflecting on what it means to be an Olympian and how this can play out in every day life. The theme of the Forum was "Olympians for Life". One thing in particular stood out for me: each and every Olympian, regardless of how you performed at the Games, has a valuable story to tell, a legacy that can continue to inspire and motivate others for a long after your competitive career has ended.

From your family's pride in your achievements, to your mates thinking you're a bit of a legend, to your work colleagues who admire your dedication, to the school kid who said he knew all about the Olympic sport of pole dancing (true story – I think he meant pole vaulting!) the ripple effects of your achievements make you a role model and gives you a platform to influence your community in a positive way.

I've returned from the Forum with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the work of the NZOC's Olympians' Commission and a commitment to encourage and facilitate NZ's Olympians to serve as role models to help bring communities together. If, when and how you engage is, of course, up to you and I challenge you to consider how you can use your Olympic story to bring about positive change in our community.

Believe in your legacy.

Chantal Brunner (#692)
Chair, NZ Olympians Commission

OLYMPIC DAY - Celebration in Auckland

Come and Join us - Tuesday 25th June 2019

The NZOC is celebrating 2019 Olympic Day with an Olympic Sports Day for refugees and other new New Zealanders from Intermediate schools on Tuesday June 25th at Barfoot and Thompson Stadium.

The stadium is next to the Selwyn College grounds in Kohimarama, Auckland. The event runs from 9.50am–2.00pm and any Olympians who could pop in and add some encouragement would be most welcome, even if only for half an hour.

If you can make the day please introduce yourself to our Education manager Rob Page who is running the day, or any of the NZOC staff.



ATHLETE 365 BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

Spark your inner entrepreneur

A highlight of the Athletes' Forum was the launch of the Athlete365 Business Accelerator programme. This new programme has been developed in partnership with the Yunus Centre (chaired by Professor Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2006) and is supported by Olympic Solidarity.

It offers athletes a unique opportunity to independently develop business ideas and work with experts in the field to become entrepreneurs. This is an incredible opportunity for athletes to help transition to a career after sport.

Sign up to access a free-to-use online course on entrepreneurship. Here's how

- Follow a [guided online step-by-step](#) process to draft a good first business idea, regardless of your current experience.
- If the online course is **completed prior to 8th July 2019**, successful Olympians may have the opportunity to attend a two-day workshop to develop their business plan and participate in a four-week mentorship programme (*likely to be September 2019*).
- Ten athletes round around the World will receive six months of accelerated mentoring with business experts from the Yunus Sports Hub network to turn the idea into reality

If you've got a great business idea, and you need a bit of a boost to get it off the ground, check out the details of the Athlete365 Business Accelerator [here](#).

Any further questions, please feel free to contact Cathleen Bias at the NZOC via email olympians@olympic.org.nz



ALEXIS PRITCHARD - Profile, Olympian #1196

After leaving high school, Alexis stumbled upon boxing to get fit, never dreaming of being an athlete - least of all a boxer! But those things both happened. She rose to the top of womens' boxing in New Zealand and abroad, proudly representing her adopted country New Zealand at the 2012 Olympic Games, the 2014 and 2018 (bronze) Commonwealth Games. She carries with her the knowledge that the greatest achievement from her sporting career was not the medals and titles she won, but the realisation that she was "good enough".



After her first athletes' experience with the NZOC, she knew she wanted to remain part of the organisation for as long as she could in order to give back to the next generation of athletes. For Alexis the NZOC is an organisation which is people driven, that wants to improve and enhance the capacity and capabilities of the individuals within its Olympic family.

She has been part of the NZOC's Athletes' Commission and Olympians' Commission since 2014. For Alexis, leadership is about service to others. She uses her voice to advocate for others and create a better tomorrow for those to come. Athlete Wellness is a big area of interest for Alexis and she is determined to help improve this aspect of elite sport.

In 2014 she opened; "Rebuild with Lex" a business which has evolved with her over the years. She empowers people to embrace their fears and live life with courage, through personal performance coaching, workshops and as a Motivational Speaker.

Outside of her professional life, Alexis is a wife, a mentor, a cake decorator and a great friend. Her small tribe of close friends are her family.

OLYMPIANS' COMMISSION - SUSTAINABILITY DAY

The IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020 has three pillars: credibility, youth and sustainability. With that in mind, we asked ourselves what we could do to further those goals and share Olympic values in our own backyard? What better way to bring those pillars to life than by taking a few Olympians, mixing them with some enthusiastic school kids and everyone pitching in with ARC Rangers to plant some native plants?



natives.

On May 17, we did just that.... the NZOC Olympians' Commission teamed up with Auckland Council to plant trees at Long Bay in Auckland. The sustainability day involved 100 nine to ten year old primary students from Torbay and Sherwood Primary schools for a day of planting

The Olympians in attendance were fantastic a BIG thank you:

Chantal Brunner #692, DJ Forbes #1271, Sandy Hitchcock #764, Siona Fernandes #1143, Kristy Hill #1043, Eliza McCartney #1312, Alexis Pritchard #1196, Tim Slyfield #845, Mike Stanley #504 and Evelyn Williamson #865.

The Long Bay Regional Park rangers educated the group on the native

plantings (over 3,000 placement were completed on the day), then the group were treated to a BBQ lunch before participating in Softball, Golf and Football activities together with meeting Olympians and gathering signatures. It was a successful day we hope to hold more environmental activities in the future to allow Olympians to give back to their communities.

Here is some more information if you're interested in learning more about the [IOC's Sustainability strategy](#).



Click on the video above to see a few highlights from the day.

IOC INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES' FORUM - April 2019

NZOC Athletes' Commission Chair Nathan Twaddle, and Athletes' Commission members Sarah Walker (also IOC Athletes Commission) and Ben Sandford and NZOC Olympians Commission Chair Chantal Brunner attended the IOC International Athletes' Forum held in Lausanne immediately prior to the World Olympians' Forum. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the IOC, WADA and WOA for covering Nathan's, Sarah's, Ben's and Chantal's costs, respectively, to attend the Forum.

The Athletes' Forum brought together 350 athlete representatives from nearly 200 National Olympic Committees to learn more about how the IOC Athletes' Commission is working to empower, unite and excite athletes around the globe with a variety of initiatives.

Day 1 included panels on Anti-Doping, the Solidarity Model and the launch of the brand new Athlete365 Business Accelerator to keep participants abreast of



programmes being promoted by the IOC Athletes' Commission to support athletes globally. A highlight of the morning was an inspirational speech by medical doctor and NASA Astronaut, Yvonne Cagle. Cagle has been involved in a study for NASA to determine the best way to keep astronauts well-nourished during multiple-year missions to

Mars or the moon. IOC President Thomas Bach reiterated his commitment to helping athletes and encouraged participants to share their ideas and interests for discussion. Breakout sessions aimed at empowering Athlete Commissions from all

Olympic Movement stakeholders followed. The day was rounded off by a panel on anti-doping before a presentation on WADA's ADAMS and doping-control process.

Day 2 began with a panel on the changing landscape of the Olympic Movement and an update and case study on the IOC Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration (an initiative developed by an athlete representative steering group chaired by Sarah Walker and including Chantal Brunner). Breakout sessions on Athlete365 Career+ and administrative support for the International Federation Athletes' Commissions followed.

The afternoon session began with a thought-provoking panel discussion on mental health and the steps being taken to lift the lid on the stigma attached to mental health issues faced by athletes. IOC President Thomas Bach addressed a number of wide ranging questions from participants in a two hour Q+A session.



The day closed with IOC Athletes' Commission Vice-Chair Danka Bartekova listing nine recommendations the IOC Athletes Commission will take back to the IOC Executive Board, including a recommendation for further support Athletes' Commissions.

In addition to the plenary and break-out sessions, participants were able to access a wealth of resources through their Athlete365 Connect App, and had headshot photographs taken for professional use.

For a full recap of the Forum sessions as well as broadcasted streams of the sessions check out the [Athlete365 website](#)

World Olympians Forum - April 2019

The NZOC's Olympians' Commission Chair Chantal Brunner (#692) and Commission member Tim Slyfield (#845) attended the World Olympians' Forum hosted by the World Olympians' Association (WOA) in Lausanne, Switzerland from 15 to 17 April. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the WOA which covered Chantal and Tim's costs to attend the Forum.

The theme of the Forum was "Olympians for Life". Its intention was to enhance the understanding and connection of Olympians to the Olympic Movement, and in that way, inspire them to become ambassadors for sharing the Olympic values within their own communities.



150 participants from 107 National Olympians' Associations (NOAs) took part, with 40% of participants being female (a positive increase from 25% at the last Forum, 4 years ago). The Forum had three main objectives:

1. Strengthening the capabilities of NOAs
2. Build Relationships between NOA representatives and the Olympic Movement
3. Inspire Olympians and ensure they feel valued and valuable

On the opening evening, delegates were welcomed to the Forum by Joël Bouzou, the President of WOA at a welcome dinner at the Olympic Museum. This was a great opportunity to meet and begin to get to know the other participants.

The first full day of the Olympians' Forum was a joint day with the International Athletes' Forum. This was the first time that these two WOA and IOC stakeholder groups had been formally connected. Many athletes go on to become Olympians and this joint day was an important step in ensuring that each group is aware of the issues, challenges and opportunities to work together for the betterment of athletes. All up, 450 athletes and Olympians attended these joint sessions, which included continental workshops intended to encourage collaboration between Athletes' Commissions and NOAs and generate ideas for how we can work together in our respective regions. For example, working together to deliver Olympic Day activities, career transition from athlete and beyond, awareness of mental health and safeguarding our athletes.

Day 2 was targeted towards educating the NOA representatives about the mission, goals and work of WOA to improve awareness of its role within the Olympic Movement.



The final day of the Forum started out with the launch of WOA's 2019 Grants Programme, which also saw the WOA's first-ever Grants Challenge take place. The Challenge was a "dragon's den" type session where delegates heard, and then voted on, five Service to Society or Service to Olympians projects, which were competing for two USD\$5,000

WOA grants. The winning projects came from Colombia and Lithuania, each picking up a USD\$5,000 cash grant. Colombia's project, was an Olympian-led mentoring programme that will support the empowerment of women in sport and in their communities. Lithuania's project will see Olympians promote, activate and diversify the life of the elderly, orphans and the disabled through sports and physical activity.

To read more about the Forum check out the [World Olympians Association website](#).

OLYMPIANS IN ACTION

Equestrian - Tim Price

NZ Olympian #1336 and World No.1 Tim Price has added another top trophy to the cabinet – this time taking out the [Longines CCI5*-L at the Luhmuhlen Horse Trials](#) in Germany this morning, successfully defending the title won by his wife NZ Olympian #1201, Jonelle last year.



FIFA Women's World Cup - Football Ferns

Fifteen Olympians are included in the team roster for the Football Ferns playing in the FIFA Women's World Cup that got underway on 7 June. The Ferns played valiantly in their first pool match against the Netherlands, conceding a heart-breaking goal in the 93rd minute to go down 1 - 0. They were hard challenged against a strong Canadian team in their second pool match going down 0-2 and all hopes to progress out of their pool will come down to their game this Friday 21st June at NZT4am against Cameroon. We wish them every success for the rest of the tournament. Follow their progress and watch on SKY Sport, where all matches from the [FIFA Women's World Cup 2019](#) will be LIVE.

Hockey - Black Sticks

Both the men's and women's Black Sticks have been busy with the FIH European Series with a few more games coming up. We wish them success as their tournament continues.

- 17th June - Black Sticks (Men & Women teams) v Belgium in Antwerp
- 24th June - Black Sticks (Men & Women teams) v Great Britain in London

Athletics Diamond League - Tom Walsh

Tom Walsh #1359, both double World Champion (indoor & outdoor) has just finished second in Oslo as he prepares to compete at the upcoming IAAF Diamond League Competition in Eugene, Oregon USA on 30th June. All the best to Tom, you can follow his progress [HERE](#)

Rowing World Cup Poland

NZ's Elite rowing team are currently in Poland preparing for their World Rowing Cup in Poznan between 21-23 June 2019. We have listed the Olympians below that will be competing:

Women's Single Scull: Emma Twigg #1097 Women's Coxless Pair: Kerri Gowler #1278, Grace Prendergast #1335 Women's Lightweight Single Scull: Sophie MacKenzie #1304, Women's Eight: Emma Dyke #1267, Kelsey Bevan #1251, Ruby Tew #1353, Caleb Shepherd #1348 Women's Four: Eve Macfarlane #1173

Men's Single Scull 1: Robbie Manson #1174 Men's Single Scull 2: Isaac Grainger #1279 Men's Coxless Pair 1: Tom Murray #1322, Michael Brake #1254 Men's Double Scull: Chris Harris #1157, John Storey #1214 Men's Quad: Nathan Flannery #1270 Men's Eight: Brook Robertson #1339, Hamish Bond #1002, James Lassche #1302, Mahe Drysdale #896, Shaun Kirkham #1297, Stephen Jones #1289

Rugby 7s - Black Ferns

Another great year for the Women's Rugby Sevens - The Black Ferns Sevens claimed their fifth World Series title at HSBC 7's series in France.

Congratulations to the team taking home the Fair Play award, with three Olympians also named in the 2018/19 Dream Team. Captain Sarah Hirini (#1276), Ruby Tui (#1356) and Tyla Nathan-Wong (#1323).

Sarah Hirini also made history by becoming the first women to play 200 World Sevens Series matches.



The pre-Olympic year is always a busy one for athletes who are looking for early qualification opportunities to stake their claim for Olympic inclusion. Throughout 2019, this blog series will track those preparations and opportunities as New Zealand athletes compete on the world stage.

Micheal kindly provides a series of blogs which will be published on the third Wednesday of each month on the [NZOC Website](#) as a News Story.

June 2019 Blog

The New Zealand Olympic Team continues to grow after the men's and women's rugby sevens teams formally qualified for next year's event in Tokyo. Our sailors and canoeists have also been achieving at the highest level, winning world cup events.

While most shy away from making medal predictions as they are difficult to forecast, Gracenote Sports have recently released a projection of medal winners for Tokyo 2020. The virtual medal table predicts New Zealand to win 9 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze for 17 medals in total. While it is still early in the Olympic cycle and Tokyo still more than a year away, this shows a high number of New Zealanders are achieving on the world stage.

New Zealand at the Olympic Games: Equestrian Overview

New Zealand first sent a horse and rider to the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Adrian White competed in the Individual Jumping competition where he finished in 23rd place. Four years later in Tokyo, New Zealand sent a jumping team and finished in 10th place. In the individual competition, Graeme Hansen was New Zealand's best finisher in 23rd place.

New Zealand next sent a horse and rider to the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal where Joe Yorke finished in equal 30th in the jumping competition. Mark Todd was selected to compete at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow but did not compete due to the boycott. However, Todd would compete four years later in Los Angeles beginning what would be an illustrious Olympic career.

In 1984, Todd competed alongside Mary Hamilton, Andrew Bennie and Andrew Nicholson to finish 5th in the team event. Todd was sitting in 5th after the dressage portion of the competition and had a clear cross-country and jumping portion on his horse Charisma to win gold in the individual event. Todd's gold in Los Angeles marked the beginning of a successful run of medal performances at the Olympic Games for New Zealand.



However, Todd and Charisma weren't done and were back in competition four years later in Seoul. Todd and Charisma were completely dominant becoming the first horse and rider since 1932 to defend their Olympic title. New Zealand also won bronze in the team event.

Todd also competed in the jumping competition, finishing the best of the New Zealanders in 30th place. The New Zealand jumping team finished in 12th place.

In Barcelona in 1992, Todd was given the honour of carrying the New Zealand flag into the Opening Ceremony. Blyth Tait was the best of the New Zealanders in the individual event, winning bronze, just ahead of Vikki Latta. The team were on track to win gold until Andrew Nicholson and his horse Spinning Rhombus spun out of control dropping 9 rails in a forgettable jumping performance. Despite the performance from Nicholson, New Zealand still won the silver medal behind Australia.

New Zealand enjoyed more medal success at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. First up the eventing team won bronze behind Australia and the United States. In the individual event, Blyth Tait on Reddy Teddy and Sally Clark on Squirrel Hill won gold and silver. The cross-country portion of the competition was crucial and both were superb. They were catapulted into the lead and both had clear runs in the show-jumping for a one-two finish.

There were high hopes for New Zealand at the Sydney 2000 games. Blyth Tai was flagbearer and led New Zealand into the Opening Ceremony. However, those high hopes did not eventuate. New Zealand had some terrible luck. In the team's event, New Zealand was on track for a bronze medal after the cross country. However, two horses failed the mandatory vet inspection ruling New Zealand out of the running who finished in eighth place. There was better luck in the individual event and Todd was back on the dais winning bronze behind David O'Connor of the United States and Andrew Hoy of Australia.

New Zealand failed to win any medals in equestrian in 2004 and 2008. The team finished in 5th place at both games. In 2004 Daniel Meech achieved New Zealand's best ever individual result in jumping in finishing in 13th place.



C.Powell, J.Paget, M.Todd, A.Nicholson and J.Richards (London 2012 Bronze) in the Eventing Team Jumping Final

New Zealand was back on the dais in 2012 with Jonelle Richards, Jonathan Paget, Caroline Powell, Andrew Nicholson and Mark Todd winning bronze. Individually Nicholson narrowly missed the bronze medal, finishing in fourth. In winning bronze, Todd equalled the Olympic record for the longest gap between the first and final Olympic medal – 28 years!

Todd was back again for his seventh Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 and was part of the New Zealand team that narrowly missed the bronze medal in finishing fourth. Individually Clark Johnstone finished in 6th place and Todd in 7th.

New Zealand has already qualified a team to compete in Tokyo next year. Tim Price is currently world number one and his wife Jonelle will be pushing hard for selection. Also, don't rule out Todd to compete in his eighth Olympic Games. The rider of the 20th century is still competitive well into the 21st century. Don't count out New Zealand returning to the dais in 2020!



Olympian [Dame Yvette Corlett #76](#) (formerly Williams) hold an Olympic torch before the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

OBITUARY - Dame Yvette Corlett (Williams)

Remembering those New Zealand Olympians that have left us

The New Zealand Olympic family was saddened at the passing of New Zealand's first female Olympic gold medallist, Yvette Williams, aged 89 on April 13th, 2019. "Yvette Williams was a trail blazer and a true beacon of what is possible for women in sport," said New Zealand Olympic Committee President and Olympian Mike Stanley (#504). "She was a truly humble New Zealander who was deeply passionate about sport and young athletes."

For a FULL tribute click [HERE](#)

Dame Yvette Corlett (Williams) - Athletics

- 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games - Discus, Long Jump, Shot Put
- 1954 Vancouver Commonwealth Games - Discus, Long Jump, Shot Put, 80m Hurdles
- 1950 Auckland Commonwealth Games - Javelin Long Jump



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