

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIANS

2021



GOING
FURTHER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

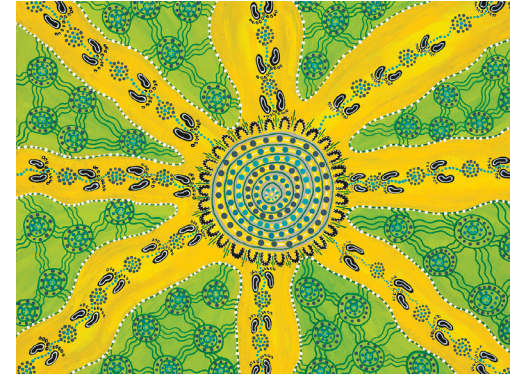
The Australian Olympic Committee acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of all the lands on which we are located on. We pay our respects to ancestors and elders, past and present. We celebrate and honour all of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Olympians past and present.

The Australian Olympic Committee is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society and sport.

WALKING TOGETHER

PAUL FLEMING

Aboriginal Artist: Paul Fleming (Olympian – Beijing 2008, Boxing), a First Nation Australian man from Wakka Wakka Wanyurr Majay, Yuggera country.



Indigenous Australian Olympic boxer Paul Fleming (Olympian – Beijing 2008) discovered a new way of expressing his passion in 2018 by taking up art and becoming an artist through Aboriginal art design. Through his art, Paul is encouraging the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to stay close to their roots and to take pride in their identity.

'Walking Together' was created to share the Olympian's story - "the centre piece represents a meeting place because the Olympics brings together people of all colours, religions and backgrounds from all over the world, who are all competing for the same goal. Everyone essentially becomes 'one', we're all athletes and it doesn't matter where you come from."

NGALMUN DANALAIG OUR WAY OF LIFE

DAVID BOSUN

Torres Strait Artist: David Bosun, a proud Wug man and Mualgal artist from Moa Island in the Torres Strait, is one of the founders of the printmaking tradition in Zenadth Kes (the Torres Strait).



His piece for the AOC captures the main elements of traditional and modern ways of life in Zendath Kes - "The winds in this artwork flow diagonally through the dhari, our traditional head dress, in the middle. The islands sit within the horizon line and the currents move from top to bottom, bottom to top. The winds and tides are very important to our way of life in Zenadth Kes. In the old days we relied on them to move from island to island, they tell us when we can travel."

"The impact is on balancing family visits and seasonal harvest times, so it's more than just the means of local travel, fishing and so on, the winds map what happens over a year," he continued. "All the lines converge in the centre, through the dhari, which is a key ceremonial piece for us, worn during ritual celebrations, specifically in dance ceremonies. "They are a powerful and important cultural item."

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Importantly, the AOC remains committed to empowering, networking and connecting Olympians for life.

JOHN COATES AC

PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (AOC)

Vice President, International Olympic Committee
Chair, IOC Coordination Commission for the
Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Much has been said about 2021. With the world gripped by a pandemic, the Tokyo 2020 Games, already postponed by 12 months, offered a rare but potent reminder of humanity at its best. The challenges, as we know, were unrelenting on all levels.

The staging of the Tokyo 2020 Games required the resolve of all nations, the agility of sports, the 'good will' of the organisers and the grace of the Japanese people. Most importantly, it relied on the commitment of athletes.



To the members of the 2020 Australian Olympic Team, I congratulate you for your unwavering commitment to represent your country. There simply has not been a preparation, nor Games like these before.

More so, I thank you sincerely, for your personal commitment to the values of the team, encapsulated in the Australian Olympian's Oath and displayed daily in a potent spirit for all to see in your competition, in the village and in interviews back home. For Australians cheering you on from home - including your family & friends, you instilled a pride in your country and moments of joy that was sorely needed and greatly appreciated.

These were our most successful Games in many ways and a cause for celebration for just how far our Australian Olympic Team has come:

- **Our largest 'away team' with 486 athletes;**
- **46 medals (17 gold, 7 silver, 22 bronze) with our gold medal haul equalling our best with Athens 2004;**
- **54% of our team was female – a new benchmark; and**
- **16 Indigenous Australian Olympians – the most for any team.**

Athletes remain at the core of everything we do at the AOC. I acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the AOC's Athletes' Commission (AC) in its leadership on athlete issues and guidance for the AOC Executive. The past 24 months in particular have been crucial in navigating the challenges facing athletes. The AC has taken the lead with all Australian Olympians forming the 'Australian Olympian's Oath' representing team values, has worked closely with the AOC's Indigenous Advisory Committee, and helped guide the IOC's Athletes' Commission to address protests at Olympic Games.

Following the AC elections in Tokyo I thank the outgoing Chair, Steve Hooker, Deputy Kim Brennan, and members Shelley Watts, Jamie Dwyer and Alana Quade who did not seek re-election. The new summer members elected are Rowie Webster (Water Polo), Rachael Lynch (Hockey), Cameron Girdlestone (Rowing), Andrew Charter (Hockey) and Alex Winwood (Boxing). Re-elected members were Jess Fox, Cate Campbell and Ken Wallace. Following the expiration of his term as an IOC Member, James Tomkins comes off the AC. May I also thank James for his contribution over the previous eight years to the IOC's Athletes Commission, and welcome new IOC AC member Jessica Fox, who has been appointed by IOC President, Thomas Bach.

I am delighted the AOC and the Olympic movement in Australia is progressing with our commitment to reconciliation through sport.

2021 saw a number of firsts with the AOC launching our first 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) prior to the Tokyo Games, providing an Indigenous voice on the Athletes' Commission, and we integrated Indigenous culture into the Tokyo 2020 team. The AOC's Indigenous Advisory Committee has been an invaluable source of guidance. I thank the dedicated Olympians on the Committee chaired by Patrick Johnson, and for Kyle Vander-Kuyp's leadership as an Olympian Liaison with the Tokyo Team.

Olympians continue to contribute to Australian communities supporting sports, charities and not for profits. The outreach with the AOC's own programs has been taken to a new level in 2021 with Olympics Unleashed, the Australian Olympic Change Maker and tours to Indigenous communities.

There are now hundreds of Olympians actively taking part in these programs and I thank you for your generosity of time and spirit.

"We provided for an Indigenous voice on the Athletes' Commission, and we integrated Indigenous culture into the Tokyo team."

Importantly, the AOC remains committed to empowering, networking and connecting Olympians for life. The AOC offers the unique 'Olympians Opportunities program – open to all Olympians – and which continues to expand to meet your needs. I encourage all Olympians to keep in touch and be active within your Australian Olympians Associations (the new name of the Olympians Clubs) or contact the AOC through Olympian Services National Manager, Daniel Kowalski.

With the pandemic continuing, and the Games of Beijing 2022 still to run at the time of writing, I wish all summer and winter athletes the best in the coming months as you chase your dreams.

Prior to the Tokyo Games, the IOC awarded the Games of the XXXV Olympiad, to Brisbane. These Games represent an incredible opportunity for all Australians leading into and beyond 2032. Just like Sydney 2000, Brisbane 2032 will have athletes at their core, and I welcome Bronte Barratt OAM to the Organising Committee, voted by and representing Olympians. I look forward to taking this exciting journey together.

This Olympic year dealt the AOC the first ever postponed Games and one held during a global pandemic.

MATT CARROLL AM

CEO

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The complexity of the tasks associated with Tokyo 2020, planning for Beijing 2022 and running our other activities all in the fixed timeframes of the Games, required agile planning. Being able to respond and pivot quickly while managing the interaction with multiple stakeholders from sports, athletes, Games organisers to governments and their agencies at the highest levels.

Under normal Games circumstances the full operational focus of AOC would have been on the Team and associated activities in the Games city. The changed circumstances of the Tokyo Games dictated by the Playbooks, including that our partners and athletes families and friends could not attend, required a new approach.

We created two teams: A pure athlete performance focused operation in Tokyo under the direction of Chef de Mission Ian Chesterman, Deputy Chefs and Team HQ and a second operations centre in Australia, under my direction, with the "Home Team" managers. The Home Team covered what is normally termed 'out of village operations' looking after our sponsors/partners and friends & family, plus the added management of the staggered return home of team members and associated quarantine.

Our two guiding rules were, placing the health and wellbeing of athletes, officials and staff at the forefront of all our planning, and the AOC being the source of truth.

The second was important as there was a lot of misinformation. Provision of clear, factual information through regular communication, (e-letters, virtual meetings) to athletes, team officials, member sport CEOs, sport performance managers, sponsors, government agencies and very importantly, to families, was vital.

With family and friends unable to travel to Tokyo, the AOC provided a program focused on supporting families, enabling them to feel connected to the Team and provide comfort that their family members were safe in Tokyo. The program included a dedicated hotline and email address so that family members could directly contact the AOC, particularly around health and safety.

The return home was staggered over four weeks, with constantly changing travel caps and border restrictions, to quarantine across four states and the Northern Territory. We delivered a bespoke "Quaranteam" program for the team members to help get them through the 14 days.

So through the Team HQ in Tokyo and the Home Team, we ensured 939 Australians were assembled, transported, outfitted, provided for and participated as an athlete or official at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Athletes came home Olympians and ninety-nine came home with a medal being one of the most successful Australian Olympic teams to leave our shores.

This was a "together" moment for Team Australia.

To drive Games' time support of the Australian team, we started 2021 with grand plans to deliver a network of Olympics Live sites across Australia. As with many plans in 2021, the pandemic shut down the sites in NSW and Victoria but fortunately we were able to activate sites in Perth, Hobart, Darwin and regional towns in WA and the NT.

Most importantly, the Live Sites were up and running in South Bank Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Cairns, Ipswich and Toowoomba to celebrate the announcement of Brisbane as the host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Again, sticking to our mantra of agile planning, we pivoted to "live sites on the lounge", and initiated a social media campaign to ensure Australians could connect with their Olympic team in Tokyo, and connect they did! Congratulations to our partner; Network Seven. Tokyo 2020 was the biggest television live streaming event in Australian history.

The AOC initiated an extensive fan engagement and sport promotion campaign, "#HaveAGo". Developed with our Partner, M&C Saatchi, designed to drive sport participation with promotion utilising our communication partners, Channel 7, JCDcaux, NewsCorp, Facebook & Instagram.

AOC Digital hosted a landing page on the olympics.com.au directing users to national federation's participation pages. Partners Speedo, Swisse & Ryman Healthcare used the #HaveAGo created to drive participation within their broad audiences.

Managing the welcome home celebrations was challenging with state border restrictions in place due to the ongoing pandemic. We thank the Queensland, South Australian, and Western Australian Governments for holding celebrations for the team. Particular thanks to the New South Wales Government for their unique celebration of the Team, projecting the images of all the athletes onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House. Pretty special.

The Games brought Australians together. Joy, inspiration, no-one wanted them to end. The community recognised the challenges that the athletes overcame to represent their country, including the generosity from the Managing Director of Meriton, Mr Harry Triguboff AO, with a donation to Olympians of \$5,000 per medal.

During and after the Games we managed to fulfil requests to support important campaigns for which we are grateful to the Olympians. These campaigns included:

- **The Federal Government "Arm Yourself" campaign for vaccination**
- **In conjunction with Network Seven, the NSW Government social media campaigns for vaccinations**
- **Messages of resilience to the HSC students**
- **The Lifeline fundraising campaign for supporting their stretched services**

The Federal Government "Arm Yourself" campaign for vaccinations in conjunction with Network Seven, NSW Government social media campaigns for vaccinations and messages of resilience to the HSC students as well as the Lifeline fundraising campaign for supporting their stretched service.

While all of this was happening, the Community Engagement team adapted to the ever-changing circumstances, and powered on with Olympics Unleashed, now active in four states and the ACT. Notching up the milestone of 240,000 students benefiting from Olympians telling their stories of resilience, which was very important in 2021.

The National Summit of the Australian Olympic Change Maker program, attracted an audience in the thousands of Years 11 & 12 students, again showcasing our next generation of leaders.

The inaugural national 'Green & Gold Day' was held Friday 30 June. The initiative encouraged, schools, clubs, community groups and corporates to show their Olympic Spirit by getting creative and dressing up in Green and Gold. The day was supported by a significant digital campaign which saw Aussies get involved across the country.

The new sports and disciplines of skateboarding, surfing, sports climbing and BMX Freestyle, refreshed the Games as the IOC had planned. Aussies picked up medals in three of the four sports, inspiring more kids to pursue an Olympic dream.

Our highest praise and thanks goes to the IOC, Tokyo Olympic Games Organising Committee, the governments of Tokyo Metropolitan and Japan and, importantly, the Japanese people. Their collective commitment, drive and investment ensured the Games went ahead.

So, these Games and the associated events were truly a "together" moment, globally and here in Australia.

None of this could have been achieved if it had not been done together.

The AOC has 17 objectives of which only two refer to the Olympic Games. The other 15 require the AOC to put sport at the service of the community, ensure the protection of athletes and advocate on behalf of our member sports.

Being an Olympic year, much of our work was centred on the Team but that did not stop our Olympian programs such as Wellbeing Week and the Athlete Engagement Series, presented by Allianz.

This year marked Steve Hooker's final year on the Athletes' Commission as a member and chair. In the time I have worked with Steve, he has been an excellent chair, always looking for new or improved opportunities to support athletes. His passion ensured we now have an Australian Olympians' Oath and his commitment with Patrick Johnson, that we have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Commission.

Our Indigenous strategy is delivering on Objective 6 'to give practical support to the issue of Indigenous reconciliation through sport', including our Reconciliation Action Plan which is on track to achieve stage one.

The important change to the AOC Constitution to include a provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Athletes' Commission was brought to life by new initiatives implemented in 2021. This included integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into the Olympic Team through symbols, words and actions. An Indigenous Coach Scholarship to provide high level professional development, education and formal training. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Australian Air Force that as organisations, we are committed to the development of youth and sport and share a commitment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Last year, the AOC became a signatory to the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework. In 2021 we initiated a Sustainability Baseline Establishment Project. The project outputs to date, include drafting of the AOC's purpose statement in regard to sustainability and climate action and a baseline reporting tool to establish the AOC's baseline carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide regular reporting against targets.

In 2021 the AOC was commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop a plan to deliver the Australian Government's initiative to support Pacific Olympic and Paralympic athletes prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

The Partnership was a great success, with Government funding and AOC support coming at a pivotal and decisive time for the final preparation, ensuring the athletes were able to have the best possible preparation for Tokyo within the very challenging conditions. In collaboration with ONOC, the Partnership supported 82 athletes to attend the Games. The combined nations broke five national records, achieved 16 personal bests and 36 season bests vastly surpassing expectations. The Fiji Rugby 7's were a highlight of the Games with the men's side claiming the gold and the women's side the bronze.

Throughout 2021, the AOC kept up its advocacy to governments in collaboration with our member sports, Commonwealth Games Australia and Paralympics Australia.

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and in support of the IOC's request to the Olympic movement, the AOC sponsored visa applications for Afghanistan athletes and sport officials and their families. We are also advocating their cases to the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Immigration. At the time of writing, this is still a work in progress. We continue our advocacy and remain in regular contact with the athletes and officials.

A key initiative was the submission, Sport – Powering Australia's Future (10+10) to the development of the Federal Government's 2021 Intergenerational Report. The submission set out a strategic road map of how sport can assist the nation in achieving the aspiration of a healthier, more active population, particularly in our Indigenous communities.

We collaborated with CGA and PA to assist Sport Integrity Australia to develop the new fully independent framework to deal with abuse, intimidation, and other safeguarding issues in Australian sport.

The AOC made a submission to the COAG Health Council to formulate the National Obesity Prevention Strategy. The strategy is to guide all governments and partners to take actions to change the current conditions that promote weight gain.

The next ten years will be one of the most important decades in the AOC's history.

Collaboration continued with the Australian Sports Commission through Sport Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport at multiple levels and activities. These include national sport strategy and planning, athlete welfare and performance programs.

The AOC in partnership with Australian Institute of Company Directors, again presented a sport specific directors course for Olympians and member sports. The course is extremely popular, and we will continue to expand this opportunity.

There are now 27 Australians on international sport federation boards and committees. The AOC supports this very important commitment, including via travel subsidies. In 2022, we will be establishing a forum for representatives to come together and share experiences and provide advice to those sport officials considering standing for international positions.

The State Olympian Clubs, in order to provide a more effective and engaging service to Olympians, have decided to merge into a single national organisation, now known as the Australian Olympians Association. This initiative of the Clubs is welcomed, and the AOC looks forward to working with the Association to unite Olympians and associate members who reside in Australia and fulfil its Terms of Reference including to recognise the contribution of Olympians to Australian sport and Olympic Teams and to organise gatherings of members and associate members.

The AOC has a family of committed commercial partners, both local and the global through the IOC. Their unflagging support of the Team and the AOC over 2021 ensured we could plan and deliver with certainty and generate great support from the Australian community.

As we enter the remaining three years of the Paris Quad, the AOC is commercially strong and well positioned. We continue to grow our relationships with our partners beyond the Games, addressing their needs and modelling the partnerships on their marketing plans.

The awarding as hosts of the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2032 to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, is a gift of a generation. Through the power of sport, the Games will drive a ten-year runway of opportunity to 2032 and underpin a ten-year legacy post the Games for the next generation of Australians, 10+10. To achieve this requires another team effort and investment by sport, government, and corporate Australia.

The 2022 Annual General Meeting draws to a close a remarkable period of the AOC led by a remarkable Australian, John Coates AC. Having been involved in sport administration myself for over 30 years, I cannot think of any other Australian sport administrator that has made such a commitment and been so dedicated to the Olympic movement and the service of sport. Being a key leader of two successful bids for the Olympic Games just about says it all. Drawing on that great line from the sport of rowing, he has made the boat go faster.

One thing that stands out over all the years of John's presidency, is that he has kept athletes at the centre of his thinking.

As we effectively enter the Paris Quad, our objectives have not changed. What has changed is the awarding of the Games of the XXXV Olympiad to Brisbane and the global and domestic environment. Importantly, if we have learnt nothing else from the past 24 months, we have learnt that the world is a fragile and unpredictable place, requiring agility and enterprise.

The next ten years will be one of the most important decades in the AOC's history. We can effect real change through sport, provide a platform for our member sports and their athletes to prosper and be partners in delivering an Olympic Games that can make a generational difference.



AOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

SCOTT KNELLER, CHAIR

2021

Tokyo 2020 was the Games the world needed and certainly the Games Australia needed with most of the east coast in lockdown.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics were not only a distraction from the reality of lockdown for most but an incredible inspiration that brought our country and the world together for a brief moment. The power of sport was on full display.

The Games were incredibly successful on many fronts but what stood out to us as an Athlete's Commission was the unified team culture that radiated through the television screens and into every Australian household. The camaraderie, support and pride in wearing the green and gold was uplifting and inspiring, particularly for those watching on and dreaming to compete in a home Olympics in 2032.

Tokyo 2020 also saw the unveiling of the Australian Olympians' Oath. An initiative of the Athletes' Commission that started in 2018, the Oath serves to provide Olympic athletes with an enduring reflection of the culture, values and unique place Olympians hold in Australian society. The Oath was well received by both the athletes competing in Tokyo and the wider Australian Olympian cohort.

We hope to see the Oath as an enduring message that unites future teams and the Olympic alumni.

Thank you to all the athletes who contributed to the Oath, the Indigenous Advisory Committee and a special thanks to Steve Hooker for initiating and driving the development of the Oath.

In 2021, we continued our collaboration with the AOC Indigenous Advisory Committee to develop the Oath and in particular a reference to respecting our First Nations People.

In Tokyo, the Indigenous culture was embedded throughout the Australian allotment in the Village. Kyle Vander-Kuyp was invited to be the inaugural Indigenous Olympian, to share his knowledge to the team members and was instrumental in reciting the Olympians Oath in the village.

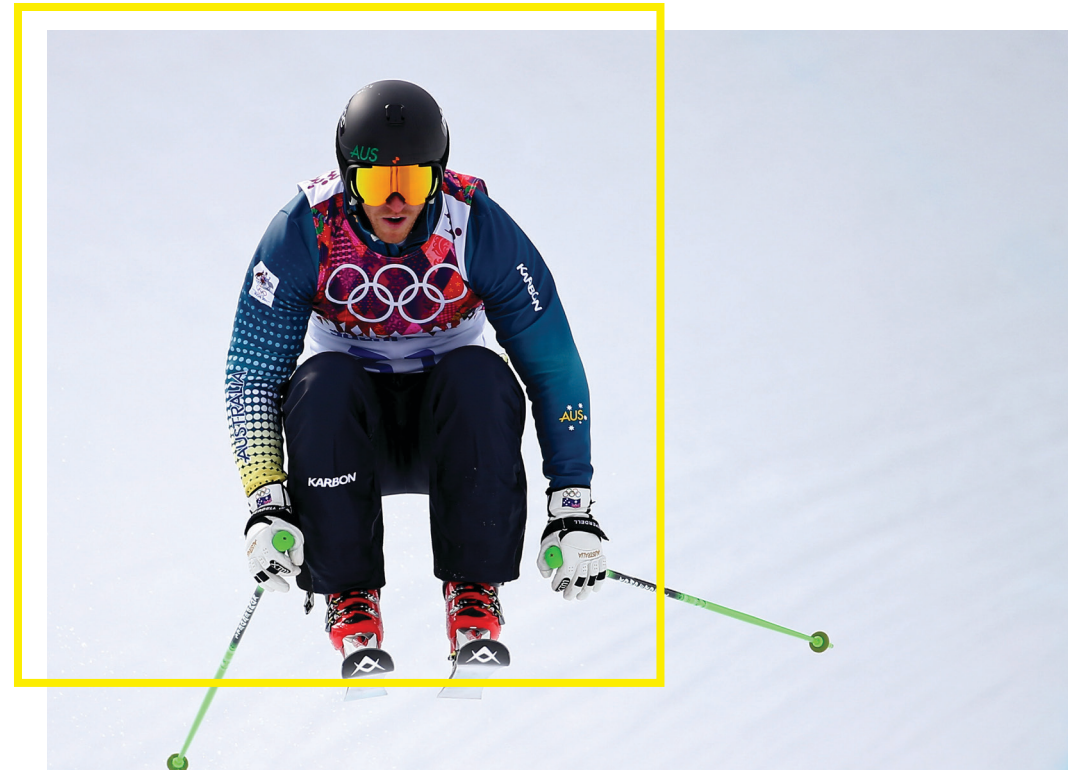
We have embarked on opening up communication channels between the Commission and athlete cohort. We provided our first quarterly update off the back of our meeting in November to give the Olympic community an insight into the role of the Athletes' Commission, issues being discussed and initiatives being developed.

Elections for the AOC Athletes' Commission took place in Tokyo and we welcomed five new members, Andrew Charter, Rowie Webster, Rachael Lynch, Cameron Girdlestone and Alex Winwood. Cate Campbell, Jess Fox and Kenny Wallace were all re-elected and Lydia Lassila and myself stay on until Beijing 2022. A big thank you to our outgoing members Steve Hooker, Kim Brennan, Shelley Watts, Jamie Dwyer, Alana Boyd and James Tomkins.

Congratulations to all the Tokyo athletes for enduring the most challenging of Olympic lead ups and inspiring every Australian.

A special thank you to Steve Hooker for his contribution over the last eight years to the Commission and in particular, as Chair for the last five of those years. Steve's passion for sport is inspiring and has been key in developing the Athletes' Commission and its reputation as a genuine voice for athletes.

I can't thank you enough Steve, for everything you have contributed to our growth as a Commission and the wider Olympic cohort. Thank you.



AOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

MEMBERS

2021

CHAIR

SCOTT KNELLER

Ski Cross

Vancouver 2010 • Sochi 2014

Project Manager—Colliers International
Project Management, Sydney



DEPUTY CHAIR

CATE CAMPBELL

Swimming

Beijing 2008 • London 2012 •
Rio 2016 • Tokyo 2020

Analyst—Deloitte
Bachelor of Media and
Communications, Brisbane



COMMISSION MEMBER

JESSICA FOX

Canoe Kayak (Slalom)

London 2012 · Rio 2016 · Tokyo 2020

MBA—Griffith University, Sydney



COMMISSION MEMBER

KENNY WALLACE

Canoe/Kayak Sprint

Beijing 2008 · London 2012 · Rio 2016

National Performance Pathways Lead—
Paddle Australia, Gold Coast



COMMISSION MEMBER

LYDIA LASSILA

Aerial Skiing

Salt Lake City 2002 · Turin 2006 · Vancouver
2010 · Sochi 2014 · PyeongChang 2018

Founder & Director—BodyICE Pty
Ltd and Zone Pty Ltd, Finland



COMMISSION MEMBER

ANDREW CHARTER

Hockey

Rio 2016 · Tokyo 2020 Perth



COMMISSION MEMBER

RACHAEL LYNCH

Hockey

Rio 2016 · Tokyo 2020

Registered Nurse, Perth



COMMISSION MEMBER

ROWIE WEBSTER

Water Polo

London 2012 · Rio 2016 · Tokyo 2020

Diversity Advocate, Melbourne



COMMISSION MEMBER

CAMERON GIRDLESTONE

Rowing

Rio 2016 · Tokyo 2020

BA Education
Analyst—CBRE, Sydney



COMMISSION MEMBER

ALEX WINWOOD

Boxing

Tokyo 2020

Apprentice Electrician, Perth

2021 represented some significant milestone moments in the Australian Olympic Committee's reconciliation journey.

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PATRICK JOHNSON

CHAIR

Launched this year, our first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has set the foundations for our organisation to support the national reconciliation movement.

The RAP was launched during Reconciliation Week, at an event featuring Australian Olympic Committee Chief Executive Officer, Matt Carroll, Emcee Danny Morseu, and other guests including the Chief Executive Officer of Reconciliation Australia Karen Mundine, IUIH Chief Operations Officer Donisha Duff, journalist Tanisha Stanton and Elder Aunty Kerry Charlton. Also in attendance was Taliqua Clancy, Alex Winwood, and members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee.

During Reconciliation Week the AOC also supported the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and Deadly Choices programs in the delivery of the "Young Olympic Deadlies Day." This initiative had 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participate in Olympic sports and hear motivational talks from Olympian, Brad Hore OLY.

Reconciliation Week also set the scene for a collaboration between several peak sporting bodies including the Australian Institute of Sport, Commonwealth Games Australia, Paralympics Australia, SportAUS and the AOC. In a video featuring Beki Smith OLY and Alex Winwood OLY a joint statement was made from these organisations promoting reconciliation through sport.

The Tokyo 2020 Games represented another first with the recognition, incorporation, and celebration of First Nations histories and cultures. With 16 First Nations' athletes, the Tokyo Team adopted a strong Indigenous representation. The Athletes' Village was brought to life through both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork integrations, including part of the Team uniform. The Australian Olympic Skateboarding Team proudly adopted the Tokyo Team shirt as their competition uniform featuring Olympian Paul Fleming's artwork, in its design.

As part of the athlete services team during the Games, Kyle Vander-Kuyp took Olympians on a journey of history and culture with the display of a large Indigenous map in the village. Athletes engaged Kyle and the map and had a yarn about the many First Nations language groups. On behalf of the AOC, I would like to thank the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for allowing the use of the map.

The AOC has also ensured that an Indigenous voice is now present in our governance structure, with the AOC Constitution changed to ensure there is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative on the AOC Athletes' Commission. Alex Winwood OLY was elected onto the Commission following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and engaged as a First Nations' member of the Athletes' Commission following this change.

Although COVID restrictions prevented many community events on the east coast from proceeding, NAIDOC Week celebrations went ahead in Western Australia with the first year of the Olympics Unleashed program. A video of an incredible trip into Indigenous communities of the Kimberley region featured on the AOC social media channels celebrating NAIDOC.

It was exciting to see the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the AOC develop a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step in collective action towards promoting reconciliation. I am looking forward to future joint initiatives that our two organisations can achieve in remote communities.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the members of the AOC's Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) who volunteered their time and have made an invaluable contribution to the AOC's RAP and Indigenous Strategy more broadly. Your wisdom, insights and cultural knowledge has guided the AOC's Indigenous Strategy and supported our pathway toward reconciliation.

Sport Australia Hall of Fame recognises and promotes the outstanding sporting achievements of Australia's greatest athletes and encourages everyone to reach their full potential.

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Membership of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame is limited to the top echelon of Australian athletes who have all achieved excellence at the highest level of their sport and those who have shown outstanding achievements in roles supportive to the sport's participants.

ANNA MEARES

CYCLING

2004 · 2008 · 2012 · 2016



With six Olympic medals and eleven world championships across a storied fourteen-year career, Anna Meares sits comfortably among Australia's greatest track cyclists. She competed at four Olympic Games and collected the full suite of medals—two gold, one silver and three bronze—and was the first Australian athlete to win a medal at every Games at which she competed.

In a true show of her skill, determination and drive to succeed, Meares completed one of the great comebacks in Australia's sporting history when she won silver at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, just seven months after suffering a fractured vertebrae and severe burns when she fell and hit the velodrome, then slid at high speed along the floor in a serious training accident.

JAMIE DWYER

HOCKEY

2004 · 2008 · 2012 · 2016



Jamie Dwyer is widely regarded as one of Australia's greatest-ever hockey players. Over a 16-year period, he competed at four Olympics Games and scored the winning goal in Australia's 2-1 victory over the Netherlands at the 2004 Athens Games to secure the Kookaburra's their first Olympic gold medal.

Jamie dominated on the world stage for the Australian national team, winning two World Cups, three Commonwealth Games golds and six Champions Trophies.

Dwyer was named the FIH World Player of the Year five times with his impact on the field evidenced by a phenomenal scoring rate – he scored in 66 percent of the 365 international matches he played in.

JANA PITTMAN

ATHLETICS

2000 · 2004

BOBSLEIGH

2014



Jana Pittman will forever be remembered for creating Australian Olympic history as the first female, and only the second athlete to ever compete at both a Summer and Winter Olympic Games after she made the switch from athletics to the two-person bobsleigh in time for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Pittman became the youngest ever 400m hurdles World Champion at the 2003 World Athletic Championships held in Paris, then claimed a second world title in the same event in Osaka in 2007. She also won Commonwealth Games gold in Manchester (2002) and Melbourne (2006) in the 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay.

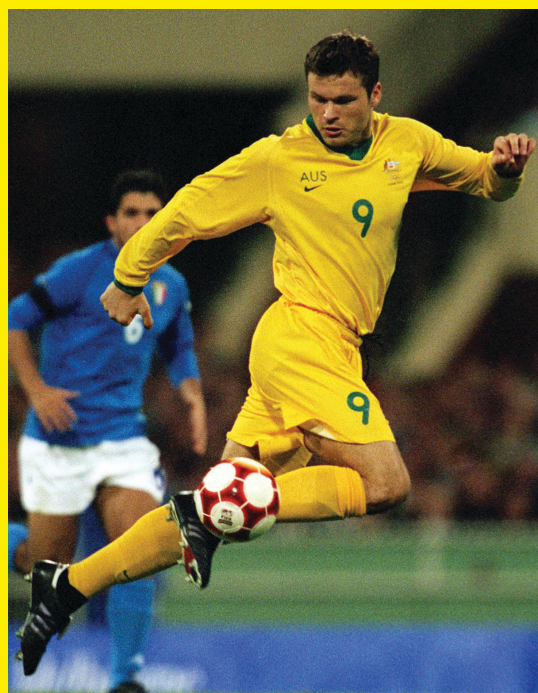
MARK VIDUKA

FOOTBALL

1996 · 2000

Mark Viduka was, to it put simply, one of Australia's finest football players. The two time Olympian scored 11 goals in 43 matches for the Socceroos and is a Member of the Football Australia Hall of Fame. After two seasons with the Melbourne Knights, Viduka made the move to Europe where he enjoyed a highly successful career, playing 361 matches for 162 goals with GNK Dinamo, Celtic FC, Leeds United, Middlesbrough FC and Newcastle United FC.

At the 2006 FIFA World Cup, Viduka captained the first Socceroos team to progress to the second round of the tournament and in 2011, he was named The PFA's Alex Tobin OAM Medallist.



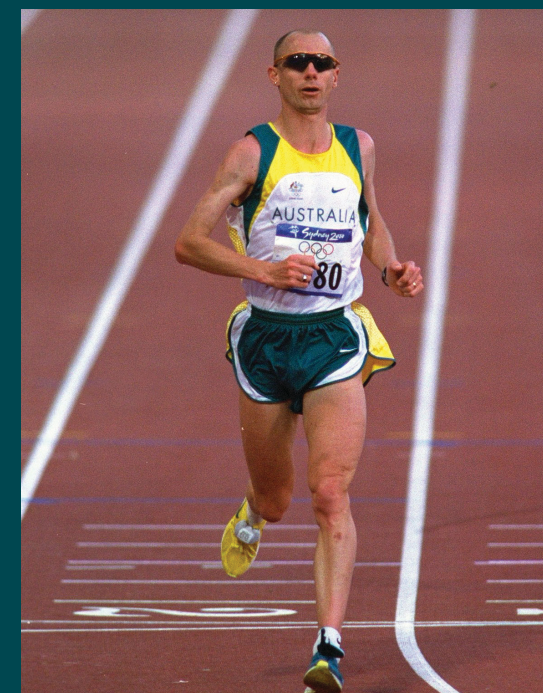
STEVE MONEGHETTI

ATHLETICS

1988 · 1992 · 1996 · 2000

Steve Moneghetti remains one of Australia's most respected marathon runners after a career that spanned four Olympic Games, four Commonwealth Games and six World Athletic Championships.

Not only an incredible athlete and teammate, 'Mona' has made an invaluable contribution to sports administration and the promotion of athlete welfare across numerous sports which has made the most significant impact.



TOM HOAD

WATER POLO

1960 · 1964 · 1972



SPORT AUSTRALIA
HALL *of* FAME

A three-time Olympian, Tom Hoad gave his life to water polo across his six-decade career as a player, team leader, coach and long-time administrator earning him the fitting nick name 'Mr Water Polo'. As an athlete and coach, his contribution was considerable however, it was out of the pool that Hoad truly left his mark.

As a player and coach, he represented Australia at eight Olympic Games. He was selected for four Olympics (Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964, Mexico City 1968 and Munich 1972)

including three as Captain. He then went on to become coach of the Australian Olympic Team at four Games (Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980, Los Angeles 1984 and Seoul 1988).

Hoad was a driving force behind Perth hosting the 1991 World Swimming Championships as the event's executive chairman and was also the chairman of the Organising Committee of the 1998 World Swimming Championships in Perth, which was viewed by two billion people around the world.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

As Olympians, you have seen the world in all its urban and natural glory, and, some of you, especially those whose sports depend on healthy and stable natural environments (e.g. winter sports, water sports, etc.), would have seen these natural environments change over the course of your sporting career.

Climate change is threatening the places we play, while also posing challenges to the health and safety of our athletes. Drought, floods, and bushfires, not to mention extreme heat, polluted air and water are the climate change risks we face.

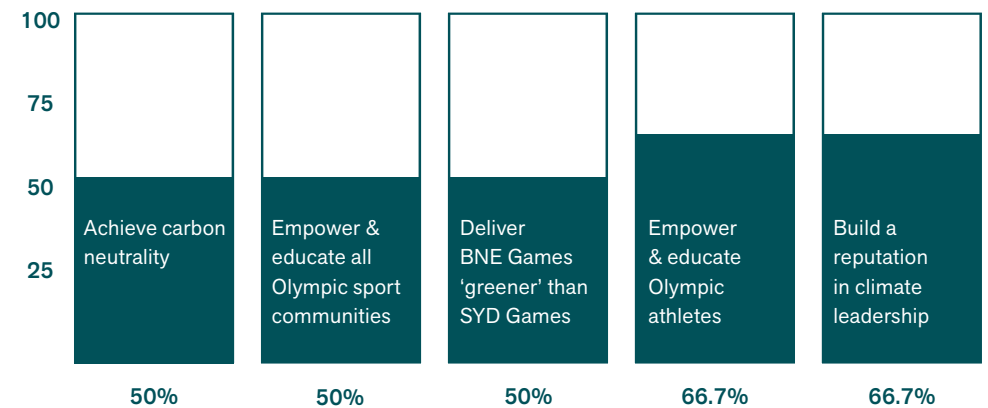
The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) is well aware of the risks posed to the AOC family and the communities we serve. As the custodian of Australian Olympic sport, it is the AOC's duty to take the lead on issues like these. In December of 2020, the AOC became a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sport for Climate Action Framework.

As a signatory, the AOC has the bold task of reducing its emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2040.

To start, the AOC has made strides in refocusing its position on climate through developing a clear positioning statement that acknowledges its leadership role on climate action. The AOC delivered a number of all staff and athlete climate awareness training and commenced a trial of upcycled landfill bound uniforms into bowties and bags that we used as gifts for many of the AOC's top supporters. The AOC is currently measuring its baseline emissions, reviewing and updating policies, while also developing actions to be implemented in 2022 and beyond.

ATHLETES' COMMISSION'S INSIGHTS

Athlete commission response to: "What are the top three (3) big, hairy, audacious achievements which would best express the AOC's planetary health legacy?"



GOING FURTHER

While the AOC has been able to undertake a number of actions over our first 12 months, the Sport for Climate Action framework- Race to Zero targets require a team effort, and that means the support of the whole AOC family- AOC staff, Olympians, AOC Team Partners and suppliers, and importantly, the broader Olympian family.

At COP26, GB Olympians, Hannah Mills (Sailing) and Melissa Wilson (Rowing) spearheaded a video composed of more than 50 of the world's top Olympic and Paralympic athletes, representing 40 countries, urging world leaders to ensure a "healthy and safe" planet. Australia's very own Emma McKeon, contributed by joining the chorus of athletes by asking that "we work together to secure the future that we all depend on."

While the video's message was focused on the world leaders gathering for COP26 in Glasgow, and as world leaders yourselves, the impetus and opportunity to rise to the occasion is also yours.

If you are interested in contributing to the AOC's climate efforts, please reach out to Warwick Waters: warwick.waters@olympics.com.au

In keeping with our sustainability initiatives this edition of the Australian Olympians Magazine will be the final hard copy, with the magazine moving to an electronic edition from 2023.

WARWICK WATERS
NATIONAL RELATIONSHIP MANAGER



BRISBANE 2032 GAMES

SUMMER OLYMPICS ANNOUNCEMENT

On 21 July 2021, just days out from the Opening Ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, IOC President Thomas Bach held up a small card and displayed it to a room full of delegates at the 138th IOC Session.

The card read "Brisbane 2032" and President Bach announced—"The winner is Brisbane!"

Seated nearby, AOC President John Coates, Queensland Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner and Federal Sports Minister Richard Colbeck were quickly on their feet. Via video, Prime Minister Scott Morrison was giving the thumbs up. Brisbane was going to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



At Brisbane's Southbank Olympics Live Site, thousands joined the celebration and the fireworks began.

In a secret ballot, 72 IOC delegates voted in favour of Brisbane, five voted against while three other delegates abstained.

The seed for this moment of joy was planted in 2015 when the Council of Mayors, South-East Queensland (COMSEQ), decided to explore the potential for the region to host the Games, commencing a feasibility study.

When the study gave the concept the thumbs up in 2018, things moved quickly.

That year, the IOC adopted reforms titled the 'New Norm' to further develop its ambition to ensure hosting an Olympic Games was affordable, beneficial and sustainable.

In 2019, President Bach told the AOC Annual General Meeting that bidding for a Games was previously like applying for a franchise. "We asked potential hosts how they would change their cities in order to adapt them to the Olympic Games. Now we ask them how we can adapt the Games to best fit the long-term needs of their city or region."

The Federal Government expressed its support after Prime Minister Scott Morrison met with President Bach at the G20 Summit in Osaka in June 2019.

Following the Queensland Government's decision on 9 December, 2019 to formally support the candidature, the AOC and all three levels of government were aligned to take Queensland's ambition forward to bring a third Olympic Games to Australia's shores.

"The IOC now doesn't want to see cities wasting money," said John Coates. "They want to see cities using existing venues and if those venues are spread out over a number of cities, and they're existing, you can make do with them by supplementing them with temporary venues, then that is a better system."

The process to become hosts had also changed – it had become simpler and cheaper. Brisbane's ambition went before the IOC's new Future Hosts Commission, becoming the preferred candidate in 2020, but still subject to scrutiny and required to complete a detailed IOC Questionnaire outlining the Queensland vision on how the Games would be delivered, how Queensland would benefit and the enduring legacies for sport and the community.

Brisbane 2032 ticked all the boxes.

If Brisbane was the winner, so too was Australian sport. Here was something to supercharge sport in Queensland and more broadly across Australia.

The ten year olds who cheered on Emma McKeon, Peter Bol, our rowers, Jess Fox, Logan Martin, and all our wonderful athletes in Tokyo, could be Olympians themselves in 2032.

The 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games are scheduled to be held between July 23 and August 8, 2032 while the Paralympic Games are slated between August 24 and September 5.

Between now and the Opening Ceremony, Australia will host a ten-year green and gold runway of major international sporting events in key Olympic sports such as cycling, basketball, football, paddle and many others.

John Coates made this promise to the IOC Members. "This is a very proud day for Australia, make no mistake. I thank the IOC Members for their confidence.

"The Olympic Games in Brisbane will be in the most diligent, grateful and enthusiastic hands. And I make this commitment to the athletes of the world—we will provide you with an unforgettable experience."



"The Olympic Games in Brisbane will be in the most diligent, grateful and enthusiastic hands. And I make this commitment to the athletes of the world — we will provide you with an unforgettable experience."

MY TOKYO EXPERIENCE

A PERSONAL INSIGHT INTO FIVE AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIANS' TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES EXPERIENCE



SARAH CARLI

ATHLETICS

In late December of 2020 I was in career best form, snagging my Tokyo qualifying standard in my first 400m hurdles race in 10 months. With one of the toughest winter off seasons behind me, I knew we had taken full advantage of the Tokyo postponement. I still remember the ease at which I flew home over the last hurdle. Coach and I knew I was ready to go faster. The often elusive Olympic dream was so close I was daring to imagine what it would feel like to call myself an Olympian. "The universe" (as we all like to say) had other plans.

At the end of February I had an accident in the gym. After a seizure in emergency followed by a CT scan, I was told I had dissected my carotid artery (an internal tear in the main artery that supplies blood to your brain). 20 mins later I was in the operating theatre to prevent a stroke that would have been fatal. They were able to take a vein from my thigh to patch the artery in my neck. Post op I was told five months without any exercise.

With just over five months until Tokyo, the reality of competing at the Olympics this year was "unachievable".

After being discharged from hospital, Dr Paul Blackman from Athletics Australia directed me to keep my heart below 120BPM while the artery healed. I spent that first month trying anything to help my body heal faster. I repeatedly watched training and racing videos and spent time imagining myself squatting and dead lifting in the gym. Every day I visualised my body sending healthy cells to my artery to make it stronger. At two weeks I was allowed to do light stretching – It's the most flexible I've been in my entire life.

My first post operation ultrasound came back positive – the artery had healed as planned. However, due to the rarity of the injury my Vascular Surgeon, Dr Tam Nguyen didn't know for certain how long until I could return to training. There were no similar case reports in the world of an elite level athlete returning after this sort of injury. With the consequences so severe, we couldn't afford to get it wrong. Regardless, I told Dr Nguyen I still had my heart set on competing at Tokyo. He agreed to allow me to try within the medical constraints that were set. All I needed was a shot. With the support of Dr Blackman, Dr Nguyen, and my coach, Melissa Smith (and many others), a plan was set which would be re-assessed each month. I had four scans between me and the Olympics (an MRI, a CT and two Ultrasounds).



My return began with 3kms of walking with a heart rate under 130BPM. From there we progressively upped my max working heart rate by 5BPM each week. We continued by introducing body weight exercises, water running and bike sessions as lower intensity training puts less strain on the vascular system. Mid-April I jogged my first 100m, gradually increasing the duration at which I was allowed to run.

The first month returning to training was by far the hardest. I often had a lot of fear around what my body could handle. I think the worst thing I did was google "what happens if you rupture your artery". That being said, with my mid-May CT scan coming back clear, my confidence began to grow. I was finally allowed back in spikes and it was then I really began to believe that I might just pull this off and make it to the Olympic Games.

On 11 June I was given then the green light to return to full intensity training. Five days later, with only two hurdles' sessions under my belt, I was in Townsville for the last race of the Olympic qualifying period. I had one last hurdle to clear—to prove my fitness as a requirement for team selection.

I successfully made it around the track, securing my spot in the Tokyo Olympic Team

(It took me about 30mins before I could stand up without needing to vomit).

Nine months on and my accident feels like a lifetime ago. The only reminder being a couple of pretty cool scars. What I have realised from this experience is how much I love to run (and jump over things) and when training gets tough, I always take a minute to remember how lucky I am.

JENNA STRAUCH

SWIMMING

"The Olympics unites a group of strangers into one successful team. I've never been so proud to be an Aussie."

Looking back on the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, it is hard to find the right word that encompasses all that the Olympics was. Truth is there is no singular word, rather a series of paradoxes.

The Olympics were successful yet tough, exciting yet daunting, fun yet scary and inspiring yet intimidating. All of which made for the most incredible and unforgettable experience that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Whilst this was my first Olympics, it seems that no Olympics is ever the same with each cycle facing adversity. However, this Olympic cycle of not just four years but five years, was in a league of its own. A lifetime of rigid training regimes left most of us deflated when the postponement was announced. Something no one planned for and left us in a state of uncertainty. With the uncertainty came a lot of anxiety around whether our lifelong dreams would ever have the chance of becoming realities. For myself and many other Olympic athletes, we choose not to let adversity define who we are as athletes but rather thrive off the challenge. This is exactly what we did with that extra year of training and it paid off, walking away from Tokyo as a highly successful Australian Olympic Team.

It wasn't easy by any means but it gave the Tokyo Olympics a deeper meaning, it was special. Part of what made it so unique was knowing that the whole country was watching and cheering us on back home and knowing that we, Olympic athletes, were igniting joy into Australian communities that had endured so much.

Following on from this, I think that's what made the Australian Olympic Village Headquarters so electric, it was not just the incredible facilities that the AOC provided us with but also the underlying respect every athlete, coach and staff had for one another no matter the sport or discipline. We all knew what it took to get to the Games and were proud and respectful of every Australian athlete. One of the most special parts of my Olympic experience was the culture. As soon as you saw someone in an Australian uniform, you would say Hi, chat about performances, congratulate, encourage or even just wave. Australian athletes that I have admired and been inspired by, were supporting me in my dreams too. That is a remarkable feeling. The Olympics unites a group of strangers into one successful team. I've never been so proud to be an Aussie.



Being an Olympian is not just a title but a true honour and reward. It is an honour to represent your country, an honour to inspire future generations and an honour to make a mark in sporting history. Furthermore, it is an extraordinary gift for all the tireless work, sacrifices and tough journeys that were embarked on to achieve such greatness in a sport that you love.

I am incredibly humbled and proud to be an Olympian and a member of the Australian Tokyo Olympic Team. The Tokyo 2020 Olympics have been etched into my heart and motivated me to do better, and be better, every day!

CAITLIN PARKER

BOXING

What is my 'why'? I consider myself to be a very average, normal person. I am doing this because I want to prove that anyone is capable of amazing things. Our body and mind are incredible and can adapt to anything. I want my journey to inspire the next generation and show them that if you put 100% into a goal, you will be able to achieve it.

My parents instilled the core value of hard work and dedication into me from a young age. They knew the value of being involved in sport as a young person and the self-confidence it helped me develop. I learned hard work and sacrifice from them.

Dad has worked two jobs, seven days a week for most of my life and my mum worked multiple jobs to keep the household running and to be able to put my brother and myself in sports. Mum would sell her delicious pies in her spare time to fundraise to be able to send me to nationals and different tournaments. I do this for myself, but I also do it for them. It motivates me for them to know that their sacrifices were worth it. When women's boxing was first included in the Olympic Games in London 2012, my sights were set. I knew that I wanted to represent Australia on the world's biggest sporting stage.



The qualification process was far from simple, with the outbreak of COVID-19 quickly becoming a huge hurdle between me and my Olympic dream. We were initially heading to Wuhan, China in February 2020, and within a few days of our scheduled flight from our training camp in Thailand, to the qualifying event, the city was shut down and the competition was postponed. So we went back home to Australia and awaited a new date and location that ended up being Amman, Jordan, five weeks later. The fate of my Olympic dream was down to 3x3 minute rounds against a crafty opponent from South Korea. This was my moment and nothing and no one was going to get in my way. Qualifying for the Olympics was the happiest moment of my life, I was flooded with emotion. While this was a wonderful achievement, the job was not yet done. The Olympic Gold medal remained my main focus.

Returning to Australia on cloud nine, my excitement and anticipation was quickly clouded with doubt and concern. Are the Olympic Games going to be cancelled? After finally qualifying and becoming one step closer, is my dream about to be ripped from my hands?

The one year postponement announcement was a relief more than anything, I was just so happy the Games were going ahead and I had an extra year to prepare. The extra year was full of doubts and uncertainty with lockdowns, new variants, cancelled sporting events, travel bans. For a six month period I was in stage four lockdown where I could only leave my house for an hour per day.

In March 2021, the boxing team finally joined and our official preparation began. Twelve weeks on the Gold Coast foundation training led us into an amazing six week fight camp in USA & Japan. It was such a relief to finally be back overseas working with world class training partners and getting competition ready after 18 months out of the ring.

"I'd like to say my whole Olympic experience was glamorous and a dream come true. I had some incredible experiences. The reality is that I have pushed back a lot of the negative emotions that came with it too."

“My Olympic dream is not over, I am healing, I am dealing and I will continue to strive for greatness.”

The heartbreak of not doing what I came to do, I had no shiny medal to bring home and show to my family and loved ones. It was far from the fairytale ending I had manifested and envisioned. It also wasn't the perfect preparation either, but I still believed in myself and my ability. As soon as I got out of the ring I knew I was not done. I came for more. I am capable of much more. I had to put aside my heartbreak and fully immersed myself into the rest of the Olympic experience. I owed myself that.

The fake applause coming from the sound systems from the non-existent crowds were hilarious. A unique experience of being a Tokyo 2020 Olympian, no crowds, daily Covid tests, plastic screens between us in the dining hall and gym, masks at all times. It wasn't a regular Olympic Games.

The feeling of being a part of something so special and the lengths the organisers went through to make the Games happen and bring the world back together in the midst of a pandemic was utterly incredible and the village atmosphere was buzzing. Spirits were high and sport was back. It was quite hard to stay away from all the temptations in the dining hall while having to cut weight for the competition. Luckily there was our 'Performance Pantry' in our building for the Aussies, giving us access to dietician approved snacks and staples to keep us on track and ready to perform.

The Australian hub was a highlight of the Olympics. The Australians stood out like sore thumbs in our bright yellow. I felt like the Aussies were everywhere. We were one of the biggest teams. I loved that at the bottom of our building there were multiple TVs and chairs set up so we could watch our teammates live and cheer them all on from the village. The detail of things, the culture that I felt in that, the patriotism and celebrations with my teammates, truly made me feel so proud to be an Aussie. An Australian Olympian.

The Olympics gave me the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. It was a whirlwind of emotion. It was beautiful and breathtaking. It was heartbreaking. It was more than half my life of work into a two week window. It all happened so fast. After years and years of dreaming and dedicating myself to this vision and now its been and gone in the blink of an eye. The Olympic Rings tattoo symbolises all of this, not just my experience in Tokyo but the years it took to get there. It symbolises my dream and it motivates me for what is to come. My Olympic dream is not over, I am healing, I am dealing and I will continue to strive for greatness. #PARIS2024



JOHN MILLMAN

TENNIS

"An experience I'd never forget, but rather than satisfy my hunger, it only stoked the flames."

Japan, the land of the rising sun. The island country once protected by the great samurai. A country rich with culture and traditions where Mt Fuji casts its shadowy eye over the cherry blossoms blooming in May. The birthplace of anime and the bullet train and it would be here that we would celebrate the 32nd edition of the Summer Olympic Games. Not without its struggles, a year late and in the midst of a global pandemic, the Games were finally upon us and I was one of the lucky ones who got to experience it.

I remember as a child growing up watching the Olympic Games, it was probably the one time my parents would allow my eyes to be glued to the television set for two weeks. I dreamed of one day competing in the Games and that dream became a reality in 2016 at the Rio Olympics. An experience I'd never forget, but rather than satisfy my hunger, it only stoked the flames. I wanted to don the green and gold again with some of the best Australian athletes. Fortunately for me, I'd be able to do so again in Tokyo.

Upon arriving in Tokyo our tennis team soon figured out that it wouldn't be just our opponent who would be our main opposition. Ensuring you were on the correct bus to the courts was essential. In our eagerness to get to the courts on day one, we somehow managed to get on the Beach Volleyball bus. Due to the Japanese being understandably rigid with their protocols, this proved to be a costly error. Despite going past the Ariake Tennis Arena three times during that trip, we weren't allowed to get off the bus. Three hours later and finally aboard the correct bus we arrived at our desired destination. Yes, our manager heard all about it for the duration of the trip!

The next obstacle we soon discovered would be the heat. As tennis players we play year round in all varying conditions but those we found in Tokyo were extreme. 40 degrees and stifling humidity, there was nowhere to hide on the shadeless courts. This competition would be as much about getting your body to cooperate through the conditions as it would be getting on top of your opponent.



Outside of competing for your country, it became quickly apparent what I would enjoy most about the Games. Located inside Olympic Village, the Australian HQ stood tall in its green and gold glory. Safeguarding the entrance were our iconic kangaroo and emu statues, overseeing the morning parade of Aussie athletes as they ordered barista made coffees, which definitely were the envy of our neighbouring countries.

Aside from the coffee, what I'd most look forward to was my morning stretch routine. Aided by Aussie hurdling legend, Kyle Vander-Kuyp, I would loosen up the body but at the same time observe other Australian athletes as they prepared themselves for the day ahead. Reminiscent of those ancient samurai as they prepared for battle, I would note our proud warriors as they prepared themselves for their own sporting war.

As I stretched I'd watch on as Harry Garside and Skye Nicolson would return from a sweaty run, ensuring they'd make their fighting weight. Nick Malouf and Shannon Parry, footy in hand pinged it to one another as Eddie Ockenden and his Kookaburras wielded their hockey sticks like swords. The great Emma McKeon, steely focused determination, swimsuit in hand, readied herself for a training session as she prepared for another gold medal assault.

I cherished these morning moments because it was here that I truly appreciated what it was to be an Olympic athlete. Now, I would have no clue how Jess Fox manages to become one with a Kayak, nor how Logan Martin manages to do what he does on his BMX bike, but I could relate with every person in the sporting uniform there. We had all sweated and trained and pushed ourselves, cast aside our self doubts and made sacrifices to be the best sporting version of ourselves. We were a group of people who all had dreamed of being an Olympian as a kid and now together we were here to realise it!

KYLE VANDER-KUYP

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM INDIGENOUS LIAISON

When Kyle Vander-Kuyp walked into the Olympic Village in Tokyo, he was literally stopped in his tracks.

The first thing he saw was a huge map of Australia trimmed by indigenous artwork, which allowed for athletes to put a pin on their traditional land; their home or placed they had trained in preparation for one of the biggest moments in their sporting lives.

Having competed at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Games, most would consider the former 100m hurdler an old hand when it comes to all things Olympic including the village experience, but that was not the case in Tokyo.



As a member of the Olympic Services Team and an Indigenous Liaison Officer, Vander-Kuyp was integral in creating a better experience for all athletes at the Tokyo 2020 Games, and for embedding and celebrating First Nations' culture as part of that.

But the Australian Olympic Committee exceeded even his own expectations in the way they honoured indigenous heritage, leaving one of our nation's fastest men in awe of the organisation's leadership on cultural inclusion.

"My first thought was 'Oh my goodness this is amazing!' I've never walked into an Olympic Village or Australian headquarters with this sort of cultural presence ever before – I was blown away,"

"I had to take a moment. Our Indigenous Advisory Committee had talked about an artwork...but this was nearly three meters by two meters—huge.

"The decals on windows and banners were all indigenous artworks. I'd thought maybe they'll just put a little piece of art on the wall; but it was across the whole headquarters.

"Then seeing all these Aussie athletes with the indigenous shirt on, all I could think was 'Wow, this is the real thing!' I was so happy."

As one of 52 indigenous athletes who have represented Australia at the Olympics Games, Vander-Kuyp joined Nova Peris and Patrick Johnson as a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee which was established to guide the AOC in decision making and strategies.

"The conversations we had as a committee were really valuable, almost ground-breaking; there had never been indigenous Olympians, past and present, sitting around a table talking about what could be done," he says.

"The COVID postponement of the Games was a blessing because it just made us have more and more meetings.

"By the time I walked into the Tokyo village, I knew we'd had meaningful conversations.

"In the past there has either been a real hesitancy to understand how best to bring in indigenous culture; will we offend, or will we upset? This has limited progress.

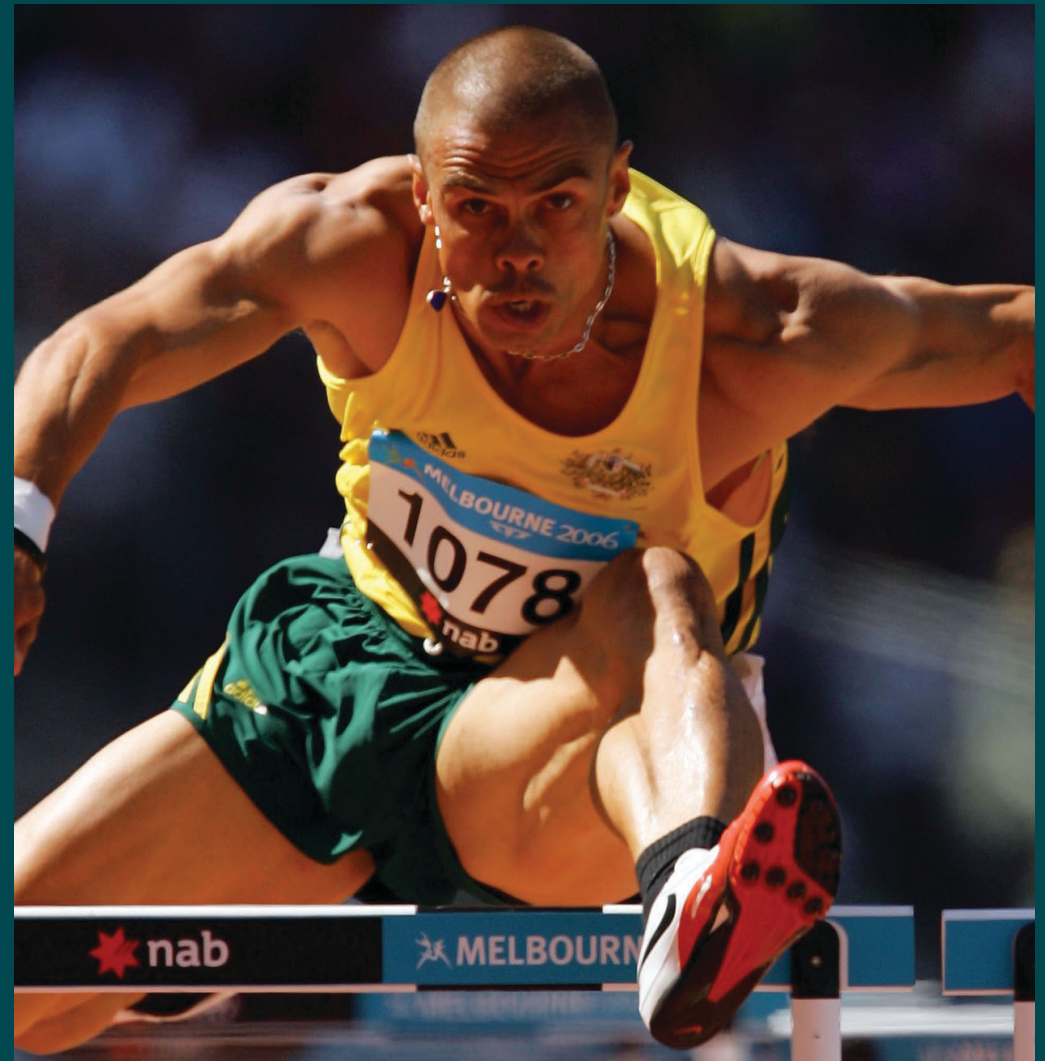
"When you sit down and have conversations and are guided by indigenous people - you will get it right. You won't take the wrong steps, you'll take all the right steps.

"Tokenism was never going to happen because we took the time to get it right – that was the silver lining of the postponement. I'm really proud of the leadership the AOC achieved."

For Vander-Kuyp, who is a proud Worimi and Yuin man of north and south coasts of NSW,

The ability to not only influence the cultural aspects of the Games but to support to individual athletes within the team provided a much-wanted opportunity to give back to the Olympic movement.

Among his most memorable moments in Tokyo came when he had the opportunity to share with all the athletes how they were representing one of the oldest ancient cultures in the world with 60,000 years of heritage.



He remembers the goosebumps of watching the leadership of Patty Mills, who honour the heritage of their team presenting all Boomers, past and present, with a numbered Akubra hat and the unbridled joy he felt when the cool kids from the skateboard team requested to wear the indigenous t-shirt when they competed at their inaugural Games.

It was in these moments, Vander-Kuyp realised the impact he could have not only as an indigenous role model, but as an Australian Olympian to bring the best out in others.

"When I applied for the role to be part of the team for Tokyo it was clear I wanted to get back to that elite space. I wanted to be a part of something big again," he says.

"You wear a different hat being an athlete; you're very tunnel vision and focused when you're in that village two-week window. You're there to compete.

"The attraction for me was I could be part of support team and it was a privilege to be able to do that."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

ANTHONY EVANS

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



Anthony Evans still remembers the feeling when he raced to the payphone, loose change in hand, to call his parents back home in Australia, announcing the news that he'd been selected in his first Winter Olympics Team. "It was 1992, I was 21 and it was a real surprise," he says. "It's one of the highlights of my whole skiing career, to go from thinking I had no real chance of being selected and next thing you know, I was on my first Olympic team."

That surprise selection was a pivotal moment of a long and successful cross-country skiing career that began in the mountains in Victoria, initially as a family sport. His love for the sport and talent from an early age culminated in Anthony becoming the first cross-country skier to represent Australia at three consecutive Winter Olympic Games, in 1992, 1994, and 1998.

An achievement that almost didn't come to fruition when Anthony took a hiatus from the sport after the 1994 Games to focus on his study and career in forestry. "I'd been to two Olympics and thought maybe that was as far as I could go" he said, "but with the establishment of the OWIA (Olympic Winter Institute of Australia) I came to the recognition that you're retired for a long time, and it was too good an opportunity to pass up, to come back to the sport, but it wasn't easy."

Anthony's enduring love of the sport has only strengthened since hanging up the skis competitively.

He currently sits on the cross-country skiing national committee as the high performance member and realises now that "high-level sport only exists because of the unbelievable amount of time and effort that people behind the scenes put in. I haven't even come close to giving back what the sport has given me. I like to be involved in the administration of the sport to do what I can to help, because it just doesn't exist without the volunteers."

Another love that blossomed from his competitive days is with his wife, Dutch flagbearer and speed skater Carla Zijlstra, "That was pretty special, to see your future wife at the 92' and 94' Olympics, and then to actually be together as a couple for the 98' Games." Now more than 20 years later their daughters, Zana and Abbey, are continuing the family sporting legacy taking after their talented parents in cross-country skiing and alpine skiing respectively, both are exciting prospects in their own right.

Anthony's legacy on the mountains extends beyond the sport, as he now focuses his passions toward his career as the Area Manager for the Kosciuszko National Park at the National Parks and Wildlife Service, "you can't be a skier if you don't like the outdoors" he says "so it feels great to make a difference in our National Parks. They're so iconic in society and it's a real privilege to manage the summit of Mount Kosciuszko."

Anthony enjoys managing the year round opportunities the mountains and lakes provide, but it is not without its own challenges he says of the tragic bushfire seasons, "I spent the best part of four months in a bushfire control centre, and it was devastating to see the houses that were lost and the people that were impacted, but also the huge impact it has had on the environment." Tragically 30% of the Kosciuszko National Park was burned he says, "It does recover eventually but until you see the impact, you don't realise just how long it takes."

Reflecting on his career, Anthony speaks of his incredible achievements with humility and pride. "In those quiet moments it's great to reflect on... [being an Olympian] is something I've always got with me, it really is special to have represented my country at the highest level doing something that I love to do." Anthony looks forward to travelling overseas in the New Year for the snow season but this time as a spectator, while his daughters embark on their own sporting endeavours.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

LIZ GARDNER

AERIAL SKIING



Liz Gardner was always destined for the Olympics. From a young age, she honed her athletic talents in a range of sports from Athletics to Gymnastics with the life ambition to call herself an Olympian.

“I remember watching the Barcelona 92 Games and saying, ‘I want to be there’, even as a little kid I was pretty driven and knew what I wanted.”

Her journey to the Olympics took an unusual route however, as she didn't begin aerial skiing until the age of 19. Despite the later start, it was evidently a match made in sporting heaven. With her experience in cross-country skiing as a child, combined with her acrobatic skills from gymnastics, Liz fulfilled her lifelong dream and more by representing Australia in two Winter Olympic Games in Torino 2006 and Vancouver 2010.

Early on in her career as an elite aerial skier, Liz met her perfect match in future husband Dennis Capicik, who at the time was an aerials coach for the Canadian Winter Olympic Team.

Liz admits she knows all too well the bittersweet moments that life of an elite athlete can bring, and life off the slopes mirrored this sentiment at times - after meeting Dennis, the pair withstood over 12 years of long distance. Between her travels around the world to train and compete and his commitments as a coach for a rival country, their time together was few and far between.

“I was really lucky to have a coach as my partner. He understood why I spent so much time away and could support me because he understood exactly what was going on. In winter we were able to see each other more often, as we travelled to the same places.

I think it works because we obviously love being together, but we support each other with our own goals too.”

There are a number of incredible results and achievements on Liz's resume. One particular moment that stands out for Liz however, was in training when she joined the first group of women in aerials to complete a rarely mastered trick - the 'triple' for the first time.

“I was running off pure adrenalin, it was one of those moments where everything was in slow motion and after I completed the trick and landed I was so excited I just fell into the snow... It was one of the best moments of my life, the fact that I could push myself beyond something I never thought was possible.”

Another career highlight came at her third Olympic Games experience in PyeongChang, however this time not as an athlete, but as a coach on the Canadian team. In reflection Liz said, “I was probably more emotional there than I was as an athlete. To be able to help athletes be in the running to get a gold medal was amazing. Plus, not many people can say they work alongside their husband let alone go to an Olympics with their husband, so that was really special we could do that.

Being 12 weeks pregnant at the time too meant emotions were definitely running high.”

Liz aims to take her learnings from travelling and competing alongside some of the world's best aerial skiers and put it into practice by supporting the next generation on their Olympic journeys. Whether it's through on the ground coaching and support for Australian team camps, or raising the professional level of the sport through development programs, her current role at the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia as Aerial Skiing Development Program Lead has already cultivated many future champions.

“When I was competing, we didn't have that central point of contact, someone to look after all aspects of being an elite athlete. That was my motivation to set up consistent messaging across the team, and to organise the yearly program.”

“I want to support every athlete to succeed. If you show potential, work hard, and turn up day in and out, I hope to give those athletes a chance to make it to the top. I also just love coaching... Seeing people chase their dreams and surprise themselves by achieving things they think they can't do. That's the most rewarding thing.”

Nowadays the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, with Liz and Dennis' young son picking up the skis almost as soon as he learnt to walk. The family currently reside near Whistler, Canada and Liz says she plans to spend a lot more time on the slopes this ski season after having 3 years away.

Off the snow, as a self-confessed “cardio junkie”, Liz's innate drive and ambition to push herself beyond the limits has seen her competing in half ironman's, long distance running and ocean swimming. She currently has set her sights on a full ironman.

Written by Anneliese Rubie-Renshaw

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

KERRY RIM

BIATHLON



Kerryn Rim's success as a young athlete was fuelled by her love for the outdoors, a passion for fitness and mountains of raw talent. Growing up near Myrtleford, Victoria skiing with her family, Kerryn was no stranger to the snow. Combine this with her appetite for endurance events, and it was an easy decision when asked if she wanted to try out for the Biathlon World Championships.

"I started out as a kid running anything more than 10km, so endurance felt normal to me. I grew up in a very snowy area alpine and cross-country skiing with my brother and dad, so that was second nature as well... I just liked the fitness aspect.

Then I was invited to try out for the biathlon World Championships when it became recognised for women in the 80s. It wasn't until many years later that it became a Winter Olympic sport."

Kerryn's achievements spanned three consecutive Winter Olympics in 1992, 1994, and 1998. After the 1992 Games Kerryn gave birth to the first of her two sons, who she travelled with to Europe in preparation for the 1994 Games. An enormous feat on its own but astonishingly, Kerryn was also self-coached for most of her career. With the exception of a short period before the 1994 Lillehammer Games when she trained alongside a coach from the UK. She cherishes the learnings from that period and believes it elevated her to her 8th place, which is still the best Winter Olympic result Australia has ever recorded in the Biathlon.

"There I was going to my second Olympics and being taught from scratch. He believed in me, he realised how strong I was but needed to get me to stop fighting with the skis. I learnt to dance with them instead, the skis were an extension of my body."

"I also went and did a fitness course to learn more about training, I did some nutrition studies, plus I'm a nurse... But I believe how I got there on my own was looking after my diet and doing the best that I could for myself."

Juggling both her work as a rehabilitation nurse and the training and travel demands required to be an elite winter athlete, Kerryn likens it to living two different lives, "which is funny because I'm a Biathlete... I feel like a different person on the snow, I do it from within as it's what I love. It was always good to get back to normality from racing at a high level and come back to caring for others, being there for them in tough times."

Since retiring from elite sport, Kerryn is currently the Manager of the Rehabilitation Unit at the Austin Hospital in Victoria; a challenging job only heightened by the effects of COVID.

"I manage the rehabilitation unit for neurological and general rehab. The worst challenge to come from COVID has been that patients aren't able to see their loved ones. It slows down their progressions and lengthens their stay in hospital. We're also starting to help rehabilitate people with 'Long Covid' now. It's all about encouraging patients at every moment, empowering them, and enabling them to be as independent as possible again"

"I've always had a stressful job but it's even more stressful now... My way of coping with it is going for a run, going for a kayak, or hiking on the weekend. I do need that regular exercise as my stress reduction."

Kerryn's racing days are far from over, having kept in touch with her competitive side by participating in biathlons and triathlons, and notably the World Championships for Adventure Racing and Rogaining.

Reflecting on her Winter Olympic memories, Kerryn humbly attributes her achievements to her love of the sport and being outdoors. "Being an Olympian is so special to me but it's not something I put out there. I guess I was lucky that everything fell into place as it did... I'm the type of person that if I want to do something It's usually because I'm passionate about it."

Looking ahead Kerryn is passionate about getting back on the snow after two years off, keeping fit with her partner and living a sustainable and eco-friendly life.

Written by Anneliese Rubie-Renshaw



GOING FURTHER

WRITTEN BY CATRIONA DIXON

They are three Olympians with three very different life trajectories, but one thing links them together, the Olympic spirit.

One is a global health advocate, one an environmental entrepreneur and the other a leader in our national defence force.

Every day, Taniele Gofers, Sam Fricker and Tracey Freeman live by the motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger – together, as they build their profiles beyond the sporting arena into some of the most impactful pursuits on the planet.

As athletes they inspired wearing the green and gold on the biggest stage on earth, the Olympic Games, and now, they are taking others on the journey with them as they continue to lead with intelligence and passion.

First and foremost, they are athletes, they are Olympians. But much like their athletic achievements, they continue to strive to do better; to achieve beyond what most think is possible.

These are their stories.

SAM FRICKER

DIVING IN

Olympic young gun Sam Fricker shines as environmental advocate and entrepreneur





“This is something I've learned from sport, you always need to surround yourself with the right people and just have a crack.”

“G'day Sam, it's Dick Smith.”

Those were the words which changed the business trajectory for Tokyo 2020 Olympic diver and environmental entrepreneur Sam Fricker as he sat in class at Sydney's Trinity Grammar school back in 2020.

Not yet having achieved his childhood Olympic dream with the Games postponed, nor completed his year 12 Higher School Certificate examinations, the young entrepreneur had reached out to one of Australia's most innovative businessmen for advice on his sustainable drinking straw business.

Much to the 19-year-old's surprise, the record-breaking aviator and philanthropist responded and gave him a call.

“It was surreal. I remember answering the call and saying, “Oh, hi Dick, I'm in class at school, is it OK if I give you a call back at lunchtime?,” says Fricker, who has cemented himself not only as an athlete but as a rising environmental entrepreneur.

“During the first lockdown I'd written Dick a letter, I had to YouTube how to write a letter, I'd never sent a letter in my life! But I did it. I sent it to the post office in the area I knew he lived, addressed it: Dick Smith, Terry Hills Post Office.

“I couldn't believe he received the letter, let alone took the time to call me.”

“As a kid, Dick Smith always made an impression on me; he'd always had a crack – and I wanted to talk to him. This is something I've learned from sport, you always need to surround yourself with the right people and just have a crack.”

The meet up that followed their phone call has helped Fricker to evolve and develop the wheat straw business he had started at age 17 creating an eco-friendly solution to single use plastics.

Fearless on the 10m platform, but equally courageous in advocating for the environment, Fricker was adamant something needed to be done after witnessing a video of a sea turtle with a plastic straw stuck in its nose.

“I have been fortunate enough to travel and compete all over the world for diving,” he said.

“Through my travels I have seen that plastic pollution is not just a problem here in Australia but a global emergency.

“From my local beach in the Shire of Sydney to the cityscape of Kiev, Ukraine, the beaches of Doha, Qatar and the streets of Berlin, Germany there was clear evidence of plastic pollution all over the globe. I wanted to do something about it.”

His business, then called Tsarian, started out small, in fact his initial prototype was a metal straw, but he changed the design to wheat to address the issues faced by food retail businesses that needed a one-use product for their customers.



Fricker designed the straw, worked with manufacturers in China to produce it, before bringing the product to Sydney for distribution. The hope is to be able to produce the straws here in Australia with locally-grown wheat.

He now sells and ships internationally with the eco-friendly straw, a favourite with local Sydney cafes among a throng of customers from Australia to the USA looking for a sustainable solution. The goal, says Fricker, would be to supply the world's leading hospitality brands and venues.

After his meeting with Dick Smith, Fricker rebranded his company to Sam's Straws, following the advice of his mentor to put his name and face to the business he believes so passionately in.

"We booked in a half hour meeting but we sat there for two and half hours just talking about his life," Fricker says of his meeting with Smith.

"He told me what he'd done and how most of the things he'd done he just had a crack and put some enthusiasm in it – and just gave it a go."

"He is an incredible man. I'd never thought to whack my face on a product to try and sell it, that's what he'd done, he told me to do the same, so I did it."

Fricker has since released a sustainable men's swimwear range Sam's Suits which are made from 80 per cent recycled plastic bottles. The range, which is in partnership with Sydney artist Timothy Johnston and Delfinasport, will extend to women and casual beachwear in 2022.

To many, business success under-pinned by a bigger purpose, at such a young age may come as a surprise. However, those who know Fricker from his younger years have long-been aware of his ability to seize an opportunity and hustle.

He and primary school mate "Raff" had the teachers at the Hunter Performing Arts School smiling as they formally chastised the duo for a "black-market lolly bag business" which undercut the school canteen on price back in his younger years growing up in Newcastle.

His first diving coach at the NSW Institute of Sport, two-time Olympian Vyninka Arlow, recognised his understanding of the importance of sustainability when as a 13-year-old she'd direct him to use just one, not two, plastic bags when icing his injuries.

His present coach Thomas Rickards backs the tenacity of Fricker's "just have a crack" attitude in international competition and has worked together with the diver to anchor this with a mantra of "get the small stuff right".

Trinity Grammar school business studies teacher, Katherine Hronopoulos, relished the fact one of her students looked beyond the classroom and textbooks for learning.

She applauded when Fricker reached out to the nation's most successful entrepreneurs for advice and was there to support when he came back nervously for help preparing the questions to ask.

"I've been really fortunate to have a number of good people guide me along the way," says Fricker, who pays tribute to his mum Toni for her unwavering support whether it is in sport or business.

"If you work with great people, you can do great things. That's something I learned from diving, if you want to achieve your dreams you have to work with people and you need a whole team to do something bigger than yourself."

"I try and keep good values with everything I do. I always say: 'The right thing to do is the right thing to do'.

"This is what guides me both as an athlete and in business. I've found when you've got morals and values, it's much easier to navigate and makes decision making much easier."

In 2020, Fricker won the Mark Bouris Lexus Grant; a scholarship for his wheat straw innovation which allowed him to financially pursue his Olympic and business aspirations in tandem.

The grant also gave the talented young diver the confidence to believe he didn't have to define himself just as an athlete, or just as an entrepreneur.

On the back of his rising sporting and business profile, Fricker has also built one of the nation's most enviable followings on social media platform TikTok, with over 1.2 million followers.

His content during the Tokyo Olympics, which included everything from a uniform parade to quarantine packing tips, notched 325 million views. His videos on the platform have had a half a billion views in total.

Brands regularly seek out the diver to develop content and promote their products whether that be by doing a back flip on a beach with banana in hand or modelling his own recyclable swimsuit line.

Social media exploits have provided Fricker who specialised in drama at the performing arts school before moving to Sydney with a creative outlet and always-welcome cash flow to finance his sporting pursuits.

He has also invested in his environmental advocacy taking on an ambassador role for Clean Up Australia; the charity founded by Ian Kiernan that has enabled Australians to dedicate more than 33 million hours to removing rubbish from our communities.

"First and foremost, I am a diver," he says.

"Everything I do at the moment; the backbone is diving.

"My social media is based around diving and with my business, I wouldn't have seen the impact of plastics if I hadn't been traveling with diving.

"I'm different to different people. The guys I do business with think I'm a businessperson; the divers think I'm a diver."

"To me, I'm a diver – and now I'm an Olympian too."

Fricker started diving at age 11 in Newcastle to impress a girl he had a crush on at the time. While his schoolboy romance didn't eventuate into anything serious, he did fall in love with the sport that would make him an Olympian.

With a background in gymnastics and trampolining he proved to be a natural winning regional and national schoolboy crowns within years of taking up the sport.

In 2015, Fricker was awarded a New South Wales Institute of Sport scholarship and his mum and three siblings relocated to Sydney so he could train under coach Arlow.



“Moving to Sydney was a complete life change”



He won a hat-trick of medals at the 2015 National Age Champions in the 1m Springboard, 10m Platform and 3m Synchronised Springboard 12-13 age category events, as well as silver in the 3m Springboard, and was named Diver of the Year (12-13 years) by the national association.

Fricker went on to compete domestically and internationally with great success including winning a bronze at the 2018 FINA World Junior Championships in the Mixed Team Event.

In 2019, he became the first Australian to ever win the Dresden Youth International Diving Meet in the Boys Platform – winning by nearly 50 points.

Fricker competed at his first international open event in 2019 taking out silver at the Oceania Diving Championships in the 10m platform, missing out on the gold by just 0.15 points.

“Moving to Sydney was a complete life change,” he says.

“I went from hanging out with my friends every day, just hopping on the bus in Newcastle for school, which was super chilled, to a private school which was intense and training 23-24 hours a week.

“It was a culture shock, but elite diving gave me a purpose.

“I’ve learned all the things I live by from diving: Not to give up, you have to work with a team—so many life lessons.”

The postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Games due to the Covid-19 pandemic provided an extra year of experience, albeit without international competition, for the platform specialist who secured a spot on the team for Tokyo after finishing in second place at the Olympic selection event.

At his first Olympics, and with a disrupted preparation due to the pandemic, Fricker finished in 27th position on the men’s 10m platform, something he plans to improve on in the years to come.

His sights are now set on next year’s Commonwealth Games, the 2024 Paris Olympics and getting the Olympic rings tattooed on his chest; something Sydney’s covid lockdown has prevented happening in the wake of the Games.

“Even now, to think I am an Olympian is insane,” Fricker says of his experience in Tokyo.

“I never knew what I wanted to do when I was younger, I was always in trouble in primary school, but I always had a dream to go to the Olympics.

“I didn’t know how I was going to get there but I was competitive, and I always wanted to be the best at what I did.

“I took so much away from Tokyo. I haven’t even been to a world championship event, so the Olympics was huge. I was just grateful to be there. I hadn’t done an international competition since 2019 – the only thing we had done was compete in virtual events.

“The Olympics were awesome. It was a dream come true. Just being able to walk down the streets with the flags, going to the pool, training with people I watched on TV, it was awesome. I just loved it.”

Three-time Olympian (1976, 1980, 1984), and the reigning General Manager, High Performance and Pathways for Diving Australia, Steve Foley, says the young diver is an outstanding role model who embraces the Olympic ethos in all he does.



"Sam is one of those athletes who when he sets his mind to something, there is no stopping him in his journey to success," he says.

"No matter what he always has a smile on his face, if that's in the middle of a tough training session, or halfway across the globe competing against the world's best.

"That kind of enthusiasm is contagious, it reminds us why as administrators, coaches, and support staff we put in the hard yards.

"All of us at diving couldn't be prouder of the young man he has become and look forward to supporting his journey in any way we can."

While a childhood dream continues to inspire his diving, Fricker believes his business and social media exploits will ensure his longevity in international sport.

Every day he juggles his elite diving with business dealings with social media, environmental initiatives. He says the thrills he gets from being involved with new projects is equal to that of ripping his favourite inward three and a half somersault dive.

"There are so many things now I never thought as a kid I would be doing," Fricker says.

"I feel very lucky that I have the opportunities and I'd encourage others to do the same. Even the smallest opportunities you can think of can lead to big things; just stay in line with your morals and values."



TANIELE GOFERS

FROM OLYMPIC MEDALLIST TO HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

The story of our Aussie Stinger and her quest to help the people of Myanmar

Gofers has spent six years helping the UN and its partner organisations provide better health care for the 54 million people of Myanmar.

On the morning of February 1, 2021, Australian Olympic bronze medallist Taniele Gofers woke up to no internet, no mobile data, no way to communicate with the world.

Her first thought: "What is going on?"

A quick look out her living room window in downtown San Chaung in Yangon revealed a seemingly endless line of people snaking down the street, desperate to use the ATM machine at the bank on the ground floor of her apartment block.

Overnight, the Tatmadaw military had ousted the democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar, her home away from home, and the former water polo player was faced with living and working in a totally different world.

As manager of the Fund Director's Office and Communications Unit for the Access to Health Fund at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Gofers has spent six years helping the UN and its partner organisations provide better health care for the 54 million people of Myanmar.

She and her Danish partner Lasse Bach Andersen, who also works for the UN in health, are driven by a purpose to support the people in the country they call home.

Democracy had been the hope for the nation, formerly known as Burma, after gaining independence from Britain in 1948 and returning to civilian rule in 2011 after 49 years of military governance.

But all that came crashing down overnight.

"There had been rumblings on the Friday about a coup, but some people had said, 'Oh, you know, well, it won't happen'," says the Sydney-born water polo centre forward who competed at the 2008 Beijing Games.

"Then, on the Monday morning we wake up in our apartment and we don't have any internet, no wi-fi, mobile data, we are stunned and thought what's going on?"

"Our landlord was the first to tell us about the coup, we didn't really know what this meant for us or the country. I hadn't realised at that point that the rest of the world would also know about it. When I was able to get online hours later, I received a frantic SMS from my mum. Thankfully, we were able to tell her that we were okay".

The days and weeks that followed saw Myanmar flashed onto every news bulletin around the world as mass protests demanded an end to military rule and the release of the detained elected leaders.

The military met the dissenters with a brutal show of force using flash grenades, batons, rubber bullets and tear gas which resulted in many injuries and deaths. More than 800 people have been killed by security forces in the protests so far, according to the UN Human Rights Office, although other reports put the figure much higher.

Dozens of countries have condemned the violence in Myanmar, though this has been largely ignored by the coup leaders.





The most poignant moment of the protests for Gofers was the death of 19-year-old woman Kyal Sin, known as Angel, who was wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "Everything will be OK" when she was shot in the head and killed by the army.

"Our apartment was on the main street, so we could see the protests moving down the road," Gofers says.

"In the beginning it was very upbeat, people were marching with funny slogans; they were defiant but positive.

"Every night at 8pm they'd bang pots and pans to drive the evil spirits out of their houses, a Myanmar tradition.

"There was a few weeks of this where it's tense, especially in the evenings, but it was the people saying:

'No way, we're not going to live under this'.

"There was a feeling of chance and hope that they could turn it around. But at the end of February is when they started killing people. I'll never forget the first young woman they killed.

"Now every night on streets, there are local men and women who stand watch to protect their families and their communities.

"Our whole street had homemade barricades to try and stop the military driving through, it looked like a war zone. I feel so devastated for the people."

Gofers says the words of a local friend and young mother, educated in Australia but returned home to Myanmar to use her skills to better her birth nation, best summed up the feeling most of the local population have when she said the military had "stolen her children's future".

The impact of the coup has only inspired Gofers to continue her very valuable work with the UNOPS.

She plays a strategic role in the Fund Office working with donor nations—UK, USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and Australia—to provide better health opportunities for the people of Myanmar.

The US\$250 million fund focuses on maternal health, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, Covid-19 and equitable health services for the LGBT community. Providing a truly inclusive health care service is one Gofers' passion projects to ensure people within the LGBT community are given the same opportunities as others through a more holistic approach to healthcare.

"We essentially pool the money from the donors then look to see where we can strengthen the health system in Myanmar, through different implementing partners," she says.

"We work with non-government organizations, civil society organisations, women's organizations, disability rights organisations, working primarily in health care.

"Our primary focus is on conflict impacted areas, which is perhaps more areas of Myanmar than people realise; the border areas and remote areas where health needs are not met.

"It can be quite challenging because it's a very complicated country. And then, of course, became even more so with the coup."

“It felt like everyone was literally screaming for oxygen”



The collapse of the national health system due to the coup has added much complexity to her role and the way Myanmar provides medical services, amplified only by the onslaught of a third and very deadly wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With poor access to vaccine, and the lack of a national health system to roll out a program, the country has the unenviable title of being one of the lowest vaccinated countries in southeast Asia with less than 10 per cent of the population double jabbed.

“It felt like everyone was literally screaming for oxygen,” Gofers says.

“It was difficult to witness and to feel so powerless; it was very hard to get supplies into the country because the government health system, the ports, everything, had collapsed.

“We’re seeing a depreciation of the currency, which is leading to even more challenges and people falling into poverty; it’s a sad and devastating situation.

“The people had been on this great path towards democracy, there were bumps along the road, but they were making progress and, now it is a crisis. It’s very, very difficult to witness.”

Covid-19 hasn’t been the only area of health impacted. Gofers says simple services like maternal health have been impacted as doctors and other health workers strike in protest of the new regime.

But she adds, out of great adversity, come moments of sheer inspiration.

“Incredible people are putting their own safety at risk to help others,” Gofers says.

“I made a trip recently to a maternity clinic that a retired gynaecologist was running because she knew there was nowhere for women to deliver babies.

“She set up the clinic in an unused medical training centre, gathered a group of retired doctors and got the word out there was a place women could go to have their babies. Then they started asking around for equipment they needed to keep premature babies alive; when I visited there were five premature babies there.

“These people are risking their lives, but they know women need a place to give birth. Their attitude is, we’re going to provide that place. There are many stories like that, of people opening clinics in their own living room, just to help those in need.”

So how does a girl educated at MLC School, Burwood, with an Olympic bronze medal and a communications degree from Sydney University end up working with the United Nations in Myanmar?

The answer is simple: The Beijing Olympics and a chance meeting with one of our nation’s cricket heroes.

A conversation in the Olympic Village with Steve Waugh, who held the role of athlete liaison officer alongside former Wallaby captain John Eales, helped Gofers find her post-sporting trajectory.

Sport had consumed her formative years, swimming training every morning alongside her three sisters as a schoolgirl before taking up water polo and playing at an elite level for the Sydney University Lions, NSW Institute of Sport and the Stingers.

“There isn't a need to rush into something, give yourself some time, figure out what you enjoy.”



Talent runs in the family with younger sister Keesja following in her footsteps to compete in water polo at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics, while older sister Allira played handball for Australia.

Gofers attributes all four siblings' life achievements, sister Chivonne studied opera at university, to the lessons her parents Arlene and Tao taught them about commitment, drive and the importance of doing what you love most.

But it was Waugh's offer to volunteer at the Udayan Children's Home in Kolkata, India which saw her transition from Olympic athlete to philanthropic advocate.

“I loved being an athlete, but as an athlete you are very committed to yourself,” says Gofers, who went to India at age 24 after completing her bachelor's degree and a master's in sociology.

“I felt very insular; like I hadn't turned outward for a while which is very normal. I don't think it's an indictment of athletes - you must be that way to succeed.

“But it wasn't what I wanted. I knew there was a lot of injustice in the world, and I wanted to see where I could help.”

The path to Gofers' present role with the UNOPS has been more like the sport she loves - tactical, physically draining at times, and underpinned by relentless commitment.

One of her key learnings was the importance of bringing value to a position to enhance her ability to help vulnerable local people create their own futures.

On return from India, she sought to increase her skills before taking a secondment to Ghana as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. A chance meeting with her partner Lasse, while supporting her sister at a handball competition in Argentina, led her to a position in the UNOPS headquarters in Copenhagen before moving to Myanmar.

While her life could be likened to the sporty-spice version of Hollywood super star Angelina Jolie's, Gofers has some sound advice for athletes who are considering or embarking on retirement from elite competition.

“It's okay to be a little bit lost for a little while,” she says of the transition out of sport.

“Don't be too hard on yourself. It's OK to feel rudderless when you stop.

“There isn't a need to rush into something, give yourself some time, figure out what you enjoy.

“I also don't think purpose needs to come from employment, you can find it in other things like a relationship, hobby or volunteering. We don't need to value ourselves through our work; some people will love their jobs, others won't, and that is okay.”

In fact, it is the people she has met along the way that have had the greatest impact on Gofers.

In Ghana, working as a youth ambassador, she met Nana Oye Lithur, the nation's social justice minister, and a woman who continues to inspire the Australian's leadership and social rights advocacy.

"I loved working in Ghana, it was such a vibrant place and my boss at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre is the most incredible person I've ever met in my life," she says.

"Nana fought injustice in her personal life, but also in a professional life, and was one of the most prominent advocates in Ghana to be pro LGBT rights.

"She received hate mail, could be in a war of words and then turn around and laugh with those same people. She brushed it all off saying 'If not me, then who else is going to stand up for other people'.

"Nana is incredibly passionate about what she believes in, but she never forgot the people she was arguing with weren't terrible people, they just believe things that are different to her. I want to be more like that."

Today, while the thought of donning her togs, water polo cap and basking in Olympic glory is far from Gofers' mind, she does embrace the spirit of the Games in all she does, particularly that feeling of pride when her team achieves great milestones amid adversity.

"I don't think you could have told me in that moment standing on the podium in Beijing that our medal wasn't gold," she laughs remembering the Stingers' epic one-goal victory over European powerhouse Hungary.

"I felt like it was gold. It was pure ecstasy and real love for my teammates. The thought we could do this together; I was so proud.

"I don't talk much about my Olympic experience to be honest. There are things I've learned, and I've taken from sport, but it feels like a long time ago; it feels like a different life.

"Today in my role with the UNOPS when I see that a partner has improved on how they put in place the mechanisms to support the people, I feel like that's something that I have advocated for, and I've driven forward, I'm really proud of that."

Gofers feels fortunate to be living and working in Myanmar, and for the transition she made from Olympian to human rights advocate.

"I feel like my whole life has been a series of lucky breaks," she says.

"There's so much I want to do and achieve; the work is never done really."

"I really love my job. It is meaningful and it feels great to be part of something that is practical, providing health services for people on the ground in a country which is amid a crisis.

"I feel very proud of my colleagues for everything that they were able to do during the coup; they kept health services going without a public health system which is remarkable."





TRACEY FREEMAN

Tracey was unable to attend the photoshoot for this section as she was on call to relieve the extensive flooding across Australia in 2022.

A LEADER IN OUR NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

Dual Olympic medallist softballer driven by a purpose to serve

"I was so proud of the team, they did so well. Considering the lack of international games and preparation because of Covid, I thought they did exceptionally well."

"Are you sure you want to do that?"

That was the question dual Olympic medallist softballer Tracey Freeman was asked by family and friends when she first revealed her plans for a career in the Australian Defence Force.

Having just returned from three years of university in the United States, most thought the Queensland-born and South Australian-raised athlete would pursue a career in her chosen tertiary degree of teaching.

But for Freeman, a silver medallist in Athens and bronze medallist in Beijing, the opportunity to be part of a team representing her country lured her into the Australian Air Force.

To her mum Marlyn, the thought of her sports-mad daughter entering the highly disciplined world of the military seemed a little foreign at first, but there is no question Freeman has proven herself to be equally worthy on the battlefield and softball diamond.

"I always had a desire to join either the police or the military," Freeman says.

"When I applied to the ADF, I wanted to join the Navy, but was told it would be no good hitting a softball on a ship, so I went for the Air Force instead.

"When it came to me joining the Air Force, people were laughing because of the uniform, discipline, strict stuff like that – they didn't think it was for me!

"School was about friends and sport; school work and the uniform were never my priority, so the thought of shining boots, brass and ironing uniforms was pretty far-fetched.

"But what I learned from softball relates back to my job now. I love being deployed as part of a team. We do all the training leading up to our departure, go away and spend time together working to achieve a common goal.

"It's the same with softball. You do all the training, and you play your games together; it's the comradeship that I love most."

Today Freeman works in communication for the RAAF holding the rank of Flight Sergeant leading a team of 20 as a network technician.

She has been deployed on three occasions to the Middle East, returning only recently from a posting with the US led Combined Air Operations Centre. Her role was to maintain the Australian Information Communications Technology for the conduct of the operation.

Working on the base during the Tokyo Games, Freeman says there was great interest in the Olympic softball event due to her sporting legacy and much banter between the Aussies and Americans – both long-time rivals in international competition.

"I tried to watch as much of the softball as I could, but being on an American base, we didn't have control of the TV and we had the US broadcast which focused on track, gymnastics and sports like that," she says.

"But they found out that I'd played softball at the Olympics so there was a lot of banter in the dining hall, especially when Australia played the US.

"I've followed the team on their journey to Tokyo. Our unit sent a video of support over from the Middle East and I've been in touch with a number of girls during their preparation.

"I was so proud of the team, they did so well. Considering the lack of international games and preparation because of Covid, I thought they did exceptionally well.

"It was really important for all of them to play in Tokyo because the sport is not included on the program for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games."





Looking back on her ADF career, Freeman says she was hooked from the moment she entered recruitment training at RAAF Base Edinburgh in Adelaide. Motivated by the opportunity to learn and work collaboratively with others, she did her specialist training in communication at the Wagga Base in NSW.

She is now stationed at RAAF Amberley in Brisbane where she lives with wife Candice, also a former West Australian softball player, and six-year-old son Wylie.

"I really enjoyed the recruit training for the air force, especially the physical aspect of it," she says.

"I didn't so much enjoy the lack of sleep. You were up super early every day to get things prepared, uniforms ready, polishing boots, studying. But I love the learning, interacting with and meeting new people.

"In my role now, I'm constantly planning, mentoring and developing new members. I'm driven by a purpose to serve. That is what the air force is about; it's an opportunity to again represent my country.

"I love my job and am so grateful to the RAAF for their support of my softball. I would not have been able to achieve what I did without them."

A member of the Softball Australia Hall of Fame and veteran of 288 international matches, Freeman began her sporting career at the age of 10 playing for Brisbane's Wynnum West State School.

When her family moved to Adelaide for her late father Ken's job, she was adamant all she wanted to do was play softball and took up the position of catcher and short stop at Reynella East School.

"The first time I played, I just loved it," she says.

"I ended up playing in Adelaide and loved the competition, going away to play in country towns, being billeted out with families – as a kid it was the most awesome time.

"I loved it from the time the teams were announced. We'd then go through a journey together. We do the learning together. We do the training, preparation and then go and execute.

"The joy of doing it side-by-side with people who've been on that same journey is quite phenomenal."

A natural at the game, Freeman was scouted by US college Oklahoma City in 1992 and embarked on a three-year journey training and competing against some of the world's most promising players.

Her team would travel, by bus, around the US playing four matches a week; an opportunity which not only honed her skills but brought with it worldly experiences and many fond memories.

"We didn't have the funding for flights, so our coach drove the bus to a lot of the tournaments – some where six or seven hours away.

"I got to see some of the countryside that I probably would never have seen...no one really goes on holiday to Oklahoma or Kansas. It was completely different way of life to what I'd experienced in Australia, it was an amazing experience.

"Our team had a few Australians and a number of Canadians in it. It was an excellent opportunity to learn in a global environment. After I left the school, they ended up recruiting some Chinese players as well."

Freeman is adamant sport, the Olympic moments and the coaches who guided her softball career, have had the most significant impact on her leadership position in the air force.

She cites a conversation she had with NSW softball stalwart Barry Blanchard as a major turning point in her career.

After being included as a shadow player for the 1996 Atlanta Games, missing the Sydney 2000 team, it was the now 86-year-old veteran's candid advice that shifted her approach to high performance.

"I'd always been picked in the teams, I was young, cocky and my attitude was wrong," Freeman remembers.

"I was questioning what do I have to do to make the team? Barry pretty much told me exactly how it was straight to my face. He told me, 'You've got the skills to be in there, but your attitude is nowhere near good enough and your work ethics' nowhere good enough.

"As a result, I got my act together, started training, doing the right thing, getting back into the gym and sending my training programs to the national coach.

"When it came to the nationals, I had a pretty good tournament and was picked in the squad again, and pretty much stayed in from then.

"I have a ton of respect for Barry. I needed to mature. I was a young kid who took things for granted and probably just expected things to come to me. I'm so grateful he gave me the kick up the butt I needed."

And it was a lesson that has stayed with her.

Freeman says she's had similar conversations with her charges in the air force – and calls upon the same approach to motivate behavioural change.

"I try to be exactly how Barry was with me: honest, upfront, but encouraging," she says.

"Sport has the ability to help people and have a great impact on who we are. Softball has shaped the leader, the manager and mentor I am today within the defence force."

For Freeman, it's not so much the victories or the medals which mattered most in her career, but the way the Aussie performed on the international stage.

"The silver medal in Athens was phenomenal," she says.

"We were such a close-knit team. Everyone was there for the betterment of the team, and everyone was there for each other. We built a good culture."

"As for Beijing, I just remember this epic game against Japan. The winner went on to play, the US in the gold medal game and the game went 17 innings.

"We get in front of Japan, and they'd come back, we get in front of Japan, and they'd come back again.

"Kerry Wyborn took this catch that's just ridiculous and then steps up and hits the ball over the fence.

"It's just the fight and the character we saw from both teams."

"Unfortunately, we lost but it's just one of the most memorable games of softball that I've been a part of and witnessed."

As she looks to the future, not only in leadership with the RAAF, but Freeman is advocating for the inclusion of her much-loved sport softball on the Brisbane 2032 program.

The sport was included as a demonstration sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and included as a medal sport at the next four Games – with Australia finishing on the podium at all of these.

Softball was dropped for the London and Rio Games, but returned for the postponed Tokyo Games where the team finished fifth. No decision has yet been made about its inclusion at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Softball has thousands of participants nationally and with one silver and three bronze medals from five Olympic outings, Freeman hopes the sport will feature on the Brisbane program.

"It would be phenomenal to have softball at the Brisbane Olympics," she says.

"Everyone still talks about how amazing the Sydney Games were. Queensland has long been one of the most dominant softball states.

"For the young kids coming up to have that carrot dangled in front of them to play in front of their friends, their family, would be out of this world.

"It would be absolutely awesome for the sport and it'd keep those younger kids involved and give them something to aspire too.

"Every game would be sold out, there is always such an incredible atmosphere – and as a team sport it would provide so many opportunities for young people and have such an impact on their lives."



OLYMPIANS IN THE COMMUNITY

OLYMPIANS UNLEASHED

Throughout my playing career, I always felt an innate need to connect with something larger than myself. Larger than the pursuit of personal excellence in my performances on the court, larger than the X's and O's of basketball, and certainly larger than the wins and losses. I was convinced that the somewhat-selfish choices I was making in professional sport were for something other than simply winning a game.

As I searched for this deeper purpose, I started to realise the lessons that basketball had been teaching me along the way. Lessons like how to learn from mistakes, how to be OK with the risk of exposure and judgement, and how to not let fears and doubts hold me back. I was learning the importance of chasing your passions while still holding on to the joy I experienced on the court.



I figured out how to set goals and take action in line with them, and that doing so actually helped me achieve a vision that seemed so big and unachievable at times; all from playing a game.

The beautiful thing is, these lessons didn't have to end with me. By speaking about my journey and opening up about the many ups and downs that come with chasing personal excellence, I could allow others to share in these lessons too.

The WA Olympics Unleashed pilot program provided the platform to do just that. Through this program, myself and a handful of other athletes were able to travel all over WA to both metro and regional schools and their communities.

With an emphasis on goal setting and resilience, an athlete's bread and butter, we shared our personal stories with the hope to inspire young people to pursue their passions and unleash their Olympic spirit.

In using the Olympics Unleashed framework, I found that I reflected on parts of my career that I hadn't touched before, partly because there was a lot of pain and shame associated with those experiences. I could weave these deeply personal stories into the key messages the program was aiming to convey, all while using sport as the vehicle to get these important messages across.

This worked wonderfully in the regional areas we visited where sport is the glue of the community. On these regional trips, not only were we able to connect with the young people during the school presentations, we also spent time amongst the community. We ran Q&A sessions for parents, coaches, and emerging athletes. We met with volunteers in sporting organisations who were the back bone of the athlete's experience. We participated in various clinics and connected with kids on a different level through sport, while at the same time trying our hand at various sports, which actually reminded us why we had chosen our preferred sport in the first place!

I found myself in towns I had never been to before, despite growing up in WA. And as much as these places were new to me, it was also new for the community to have Olympians and future Olympians visiting them. People spoke frequently about how rare it was to have athletes come to their regional communities, which meant that the young people were limited in their exposure to role models. If becoming an Olympian or professional athlete seems unachievable for so many people in metro areas, then it seemed even further out of reach for those living in regional areas.

However, the opportunity to reach so many people in so many different ways allowed us to show a more realistic and therefore relatable side to athletes. One that people often don't get to see. They discovered that we are in fact normal people, despite the things we have accomplished on the playing field.

We are not super humans, and we shouldn't be put on a pedestal so that our achievements seem unattainable to anyone else. We are people who had a dream, and who battled our own battles both physically and mentally along our journey towards those dreams. We learnt a lot along the way, and we picked up some incredibly useful tools that can hopefully help others as they pursue their own dreams and passions. And although there may be more obstacles in the path of those people growing up in regional areas, I hope that we showed that no dream is too big.

Now *that* is about more than just a game. And *that* is what Olympics Unleashed is all about.

NAT BURTON

BASKETBALL, RIO 2016
OLYMPICS UNLEASHED





1



2



3



4



6



5

- 1 Jen Riley with students at Tambrey Primary School
- 2 Luci Marsh, Jayde Taylor with students at Mowanjum
- 3 Luci Marsh, Jayde Taylor with students at Mowanjum
- 4 Luci Marsh at Leinster Community School
- 5 Jayde Taylor at Fitzroy Valley DHS



OLYMPIAN SERVICES

For all matters relating to the Olympic Team, the Olympian Opportunities program, the AOC engagement platform and general communication please contact:

Daniel Kowalski, National Manager, Olympian Services: daniel.kowalski@olympics.com.au

Meg Sissian, Olympian Liaison Manager: meg.sissian@olympics.com.au

STAY CONNECTED

The AOC recognises the importance, and greatly values staying connected with you as Olympians. Whether it is sharing information about upcoming Olympians events, reunions, or community events and opportunities, we don't want you to miss out on being involved in the things that matter to you.

The AOC makes every effort to maintain key contact information so we can stay connected. We understand that from time to time these details change, so please ensure you advise us of any change of details including email, mobile and address.

THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

Following an extensive consultation process with the presidents of the Olympians Clubs this year, the Australian Olympians Club/s is now the Australian Olympians Association (AOA) to align with the World Olympians Association (WOA).

Each state and territory's AOA has a leading delegate who is responsible for the engagement and activities of the AOA in their respective states and territories.

For matters related to the AOA, including fundraising, social events and ways to be involved with the AOA, please contact:

Lisa Lilleyman, Relationship Manager
lisa.lilleyman@olympics.com.au

SIGN UP FOR OLYMPIANS.ORG EMAIL

Available only for Olympians, this is a great way to get yourself noticed in people's inboxes – perfect for work or play. Register at olympians.org for your exclusive email address.

PLUS...

As Olympians, you can also take advantage of the following IOC opportunities:

Create a profile on the IOC's Athlete365 platform. Here, you can keep up to date with the latest Olympic news, find out about career opportunities, and more.

Further your education with a free short course on the Athlete Learning Gateway, accessible via Athlete365.

OLY

Over 17,000 Olympians have registered for OLY and their Olympian.org email since November 2017, with an average of 200 new sign ups per month. Use the OLY letters on social media, your resume, business cards... in fact, anywhere you use your name. Over 1400 Australian Olympians have registered for OLY. If you haven't yet registered, go to olympians.org.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE WOA

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INSTAGRAM	@WorldOlympians
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AOA DELEGATES

ACT
Louise Dobson
Hockey – 1996, 2004

NSW
Anthony Deane
Bobsleigh – 2010

QLD
Brooke Hanson
Swimming – 2004

Tom King
Sailing – 1996, 2000

SA
TBC

VIC
David Culbert
Athletics – 1988, 1992

WA
Allana Slater
Gymnastics – 2000, 2004



- 1 Olympic and Paralympic athletes march during the Christmas Pageant at Adelaide Oval
- 2 The Premier's Welcome Home Dinner
- 3 Taliqua Clancy
- 4 Grace Stewart at Government House
- 5 Australian Olympic Athletes during the Australian 2020 Tokyo Olympic Paralympic Celebration

1

ARCHIE WILLIAN BLOWES

HANNAH DAVIS

Canoe
2008 · 2012

2

TOBY EDWARD FERNON

EDWARD FERNON

Modern Pentathlon
2020

3

MINNIE ALEX PULLIN

ALEX PULLIN

Snowboard
2010 · 2014 · 2018

4

MAXIMILLIAN COLLINS

FRANCES ADCOCK

Swimming
2004

5

LOUIS STAINFORTH

STEPHANIE MOOREHOUSE

Gymnastics
2004

6

KAYLEN JAMES DAVIDSON

SHELLEY WATTS

Boxing
2016

7

WILLIAM COSSEY MEARES FLYGER

ANNA MEARES

Cycling
2004 · 2008 · 2012 · 2016

OLYMPIANS' BIRTHS



OLYMPIANS IN MEMORIAM

CLIFF BURVILLE

14 JANUARY 2021

New South Wales

Cycling
1956 Melbourne

KEVIN HALLET

11 OCTOBER 2021

New South Wales

Swimming
1948 London

DAVID HUMPHREYS

2 MAY 2021

New South Wales

Cycling
1964 Tokyo

PATRICK MURRAY

4 JULY 2021

New South Wales

Shooting
1992 Barcelona
1996 Atlanta

BRUCE FLICK

26 OCTOBER 2021

New South Wales

Basketball
1956 Melbourne

SHANE LEWIS

21 FEBRUARY 2021

Queensland

Swimming
1992 Barcelona

STEPHEN RASKOVY

31 MAY 2021

Victoria

Wrestling
1964 Tokyo

DOUGLAS WINSTON

23 MAY 2021

Queensland

Athletics
1956 Melbourne

KATHLEEN PARTRIDGE

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

Western Australia

Hockey
1988 Seoul
1992 Barcelona

JASON PLUMMER

15 NOVEMBER 2021

USA

Swimming
1988 Seoul

JURIS DANCIS

20 APRIL 2021

South Australia

Basketball
1956 Melbourne
1960 Rome

DONALD MCDONNELL

11 MARCH 2021

New South Wales

Boxing
1952 Helsinki

REX AUBREY

21 APRIL 2021

USA

Swimming
1952 Helsinki

FRANK BRAZIER

9 MAY 2021

New South Wales

Cycling
1956 Melbourne
1960 Rome

BARBARA SARGEANT (NEE EVANS)

23 JUNE 2021

New South Wales

Swimming
1956 Melbourne

JOHN KONRADS

25 APRIL 2021

Queensland

Swimming
1960 Rome
1964 Tokyo

RICHARD (DICK) MITCHELL

30 MAY 2021

Queensland

Athletics
1976 Montreal
1980 Moscow
1984 Los Angeles

BARCLAY WADE

26 DECEMBER 2021

New South Wales

Rowing
1964 Tokyo

KEVIN BRADSHAW

16 MARCH 2021

Victoria

Cycling
1980 Moscow

GRAEME ALLAN

23 OCTOBER 2021

New South Wales

Rowing
1960 Rome
1964 Tokyo

LAURENCE HARDING-SMITH

4 JULY 2021

Queensland

Fencing
1956 Melbourne

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THE AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIANS OATH

For the honour of representing Australia.

With acknowledgment and respect for the ancient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and their ongoing connection to the continent, water and seas.

For the pursuit of excellence in every endeavour.

With gratitude to those who make it possible.

For the Spirit of sport.

For my fellow Olympians whom I respect and support.

Since Edwin and forever.

Once and Olympian always an Olympian.



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