

ONCE AN OLYMPIAN,
ALWAYS AN OLYMPIAN



This quarter we have lots to share with you:

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Message from the Olympians' Commission Chair

Kia ora koutou

With Christmas upon us, I suspect many of us are looking forward to showing 2020 the proverbial door and welcoming 2021 with renewed optimism, despite the ongoing uncertainty Covid continues to create.



A year ago, none of us could have anticipated (or would have been believed if anyone had...!) the challenges 2020 has thrown at us. We have been through up and downs, in and out of lockdowns, missed families, friends, special occasions and said goodbye to loved ones. 2020 has tested us all in different ways.

Against this backdrop, 2020 has also seen some bright spots too. It was a landmark year in New Zealand's Olympic history, being 100 years since New Zealand first sent a team to the Olympics (New Zealanders had previously attended the Olympic Games in 1908 and 1912 as part of the Australasian Team). If you haven't already, take a look at 100 years of Olympic pride. It's tough to condense 100 years of Olympic history but the team at NZOC have done a remarkable job.

While lockdowns prevented us from having our annual Olympians functions around the country, it was fantastic to see so many Olympians at the premiere of the '*One Fern. One Hundred Years*' documentary. Produced by Sky Sport in partnership with the NZOC, the 60-minute film celebrates New Zealand's Olympic centennial. It tells the story of New Zealand's proud Olympic history and looks back on some of the moments which have helped to shape our nation's cultural identity. I wish I had seen this when I was a young athlete. It was inspiring and a timely reminder that for every victory we see on TV, there are endless hours of hard graft, challenges to overcome and more defeats than we care to remember.

At the international level, planning is continuing to ensure that the Tokyo 2020 Games can be safely and effectively delivered in 2021. The World Olympians' Association published the results of the first ever study into the long-term musculoskeletal issues of Olympians. More research is coming in this space. You can learn more here: [First global findings revealed from landmark WOA Olympians Health Study](#).

The IOC Athletes' Commission is continuing its efforts to engage with athletes and ensure that athletes' views are considered in the IOC's decision making. The IOC is currently seeking athlete views to help inform IOC decision-making on opportunities for athlete expression at the Olympic Games. Are political protests on the podium ok? What about demonstrations within the Olympic village? Click on the following link to register to have your say: [Survey on athlete expression and demonstrations \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](#)

As part of our desire to share more of the amazing, and often untold, stories of our Olympians, we are introducing a new "Where are they now?" section to this newsletter to profile our legacy Olympians. This edition we are talking to Doreen Porter-Shann and Pauline Gardiner-Milan (both women competed in Tokyo in 1964). Please let us know if there's anyone you'd like us to catch up with for this section. We also continue with the profiles of our Olympians Commission members – this edition we learn more about Lorne DePape.

Thank you and a big shout out to... Kereyn and her team on the NZOC, especially Cathleen, Rob and Tara for being the engine room behind all the legacy work the NZOC does; the team on the Olympians Commission for their commitment over the last year – for the zoom calls, the plans that changed and then changed again and ongoing enthusiasm and engagement.

All the best for 2021. To all our athletes preparing for Tokyo 2020 - all the best with your training and competition during the holiday season and in the coming months. Stay focused, safe and well over the holiday period!

I came across a quote recently **Sports are about those incredible moments where sheer human will and desire overcomes the odds. These are the moments we remember... On that note, let's make 2020 a year we remember, not for the hardships endured, but for the hardships overcome and the victories won.**

Nga mihi & Merry Christmas

Chantal Brunner (#692)
Chair, NZ Olympians Commission

OLYMPIAN MERCHANDISE DISCOUNT

2020 has been a year to remember – not only did we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the New Zealand Team proudly donning the silver fern, we also built huge pride in our nation and a shared determination to come back stronger than ever in the new year.

We're helping celebrate the year that was with an offer exclusive to all New Zealand Olympians at thenzteamshop.com with 20% off a range of styles (Code: NZTEAMOLY).

This includes our metallic 100 year celebration medals tee shirt, replica team backpack, 100 year celebration shoe emblazoned with the silver fern and more. The perfect gifts, or well-deserved treats for yourself as you show your support for our athletes and the New Zealand Team. Enjoy your NZ Team shopping, we will keep this offer open to you all for twelve months, but remember it is exclusive to NZ Olympians.

We'll be looking forward to continuing to support our amazing athletes in the New Year and thank our wider NZ Team family for their contributions to their communities throughout 2020.

We Are The New Zealand Team

Ko Tātau Te Kapa O Aotearoa

#EARNTHEFERN

[START SHOPPING NOW](#)



[LORNE DEPAPE - Profile, Olympian #984](#)

I still pinch myself occasionally to make sure it's real, when I think back on the incredible opportunity and honour that I have had, to proudly represent my country at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy in the sport of Curling. I had been curling for most of my life, my NZ team had played in many Pacific Champs, we competed in 4 World Champs, and then achieved my long-term goal of Curling in the Olympics. Curling can be a sport that rewards 'experience', and I was the oldest Winter Olympian to hit the 'field of play' in 2006. Curling is not really 'mainstream' in NZ, but I believe it is the ultimate team sport, with all four teammates directly involved in the success of every single shot.



That life-changing experience was the catalyst for me to want to 'give back' and get involved in what was then known as the Olympians Club, which more

recently became the NZOC Olympians Commission. The first Olympians project I was involved in was the presentation of uniquely numbered NZ Olympians Pins to what was then over 1000 New Zealanders that had competed at the Olympics from 1908 through 2008. From NZ Olympian #1 in 1908, Harry Kerr, that number has grown to almost 1400 NZ Olympians now, and will grow further with Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022. One of the key roles of the Olympians Commission is to help Olympians stay connected with each other after their competitive careers and connected and engaged with their local and sporting communities. Olympians and their Olympic values have a great legacy that can inspire future generations of NZ Olympians. The Olympic movement is also a lot more than the 2 weeks of the Olympics event itself; it can be leveraged for positive change throughout our world.

I have recently retired from a 35-year career in the agriculture industry, a career I really enjoyed, helping NZ farmers do what they do best; producing food to export to the world. Born and raised in Canada, my wife Carroll and I moved to New Zealand in 1992 “for 2 or 3 years”. We soon realised we didn’t want to go back to “shovelling snow for half the year”, took out NZ citizenship, and for 29 years we’ve been proud to call ourselves Kiwis (or ‘Can-iwis’ my wife sometimes says).

I am still very involved in curling, competing with my NZ team at 7 of the last 8 World Senior Curling Champs. (age 50+). After being a co-founder of the Auckland Curling Club in 1996, (renting ice on a skating rink), I am now spending considerable time on a project to get the first ‘dedicated’ curling rink built in Auckland. The rink will be a true ‘quantum leap’ for Curling in NZ, providing world class curling ice 7 days a week in our largest city. A curling rink will provide an exciting new recreation option for Kiwis, at the same time as being a facility for future generations of NZ Olympic Curlers to develop and hone their skills!

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HAVE YOUR SAY ON ADVOCACY AT GAMES TIME

Following consultation with athletes the NZOC Athletes’ Commission (NZOC AC) has developed a position statement regarding athlete advocacy at the Olympic Games and the ability of athletes to protest/demonstrate in stadiums.

The NZOC AC has provided the statement to the IOC Athletes’ Commission (IOC AC) which is seeking feedback to explore additional ways in which athletes can express their views during the Olympic Games, while still respecting the Olympic spirit.

The key points of the NZOC AC feedback are:

- Disestablish [Rule 50.2](#)
- Establish a values-based framework to support the behaviours, outcomes and environment the IOC seeks.
- Provide education for Olympic athletes founded on a values-based approach to expressions of free speech in Olympic venues, including, or similar to the Māori concept of Manaaki and respect for others;
- Implement a fair and transparent remedy process available to be implemented during Games time.
- We recommend any such expression particularly considers respect and support for the podium experience of any medal-winning athletes that may be present.

The full NZOC AC statement is available [here](#). Feel free to contact NZOC AC Chair Sarah Cowley Ross sarahcowley@gmail.com or NZOC Athlete Engagement Manager DJ Forbes DJForbes@olympic.org.nz to discuss any thoughts or feedback you may have.

Meanwhile, the IOC Athletes' Commission is also seeking direct feedback from athletes worldwide and have launched a survey for Olympians and elite level athletes to contribute to this process.

All answers will be completely anonymous and the link for athletes to register is below, you will then be sent a personal unique link to the survey. Please take the opportunity to have your say. [Click here to register for survey](#)

NZ Team - One Hundred Year Celebration

One Fern. One Hundred Years - The New Zealand Olympic Team

New Zealand's Olympic family including past, present and future athletes, have gathered together on November 2nd, for the premiere of the 'One Fern. One Hundred Years' documentary.

'One Fern. One Hundred Years - The New Zealand Olympic Team' celebrated 100-years of the New Zealand Team at the Olympic Games, telling the story of New Zealand's proud Olympic history and looking back on some of the moments which have helped to shape our nations cultural identity.

The documentary was produced by Sky Sport in partnership with the NZOC, with the 60-minute film screening to an audiences across New Zealand (Auckland, Cambridge, Wellington and Christchurch).



Stories included were Jack Lovelock winning New Zealand's first Olympic athletics gold in in 1936, to Dame Yvette Williams becoming our first woman to win Olympic gold, Sir Peter Snell's golden double in Tokyo in 1964 and teenagers Zoi Sadowski-Synnott and Nico Porteous winning bronze within hours of each other in PyeongChang in 2018, this documentary covers countless inspiring moments that have gone down in New Zealand's history. The film also depicts what the Olympic Games have meant to the people of New Zealand and how the athletes performances have inspired pride and excellence across generations of Kiwis.

As well as covering standout sporting moments, the documentary also includes an in-depth look at the symbology of the iconic silver fern and its place in our sporting story, with New Zealand Olympians reflecting on their emotions as they held their silver fern outfits for the first time. The athletes also offer up some personal insights on the challenges they faced to attain their goals.

Sky Television CEO Martin Stewart says the organisation jumped at the chance to tell the story of New Zealand's Olympic history.

"We're privileged to partner with the NZOC to showcase the peak of human endeavour - the Olympics," said Stewart.

“New Zealand has a long history of achievement on the world stage with every athlete honoured to wear the fern.

“The One Fern documentary respects tradition, endeavour and commitment, and our team was proud to put this together to celebrate one hundred years.”

The ‘One Fern. One Hundred Years’ documentary features Danyon Loader, Ian Ferguson, Marise Chamberlain, Rob Waddell, Barbara Kendall, Paige Hareb, Sarah Ulmer, Peter Snell, Lisa Carrington, Dame Valerie Adams, Mahe Drysdale and more.



'One Fern. One Hundred Years' was also premiered to the public on Sky Sport 3 on November 2nd. For those of you that missed the documentary, it is still available via [SkyGo](#) if you have a Sky Television subscription.

A History with Impact

The New Zealand Team has attended 25 Summer Olympic Games and 16 Winter Olympic Games with 1387 Olympians representing New Zealand at the Games, winning a total of 123 medals.

The 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games marked the first time New Zealanders marched into the Opening Ceremony of an Olympic Games wearing the Silver Fern as the New Zealand Team. Prior to this New Zealanders attended the Olympic Games in 1908 and 1912 as part of the Australasian Team.

In Antwerp swimmer Violet Walrond (OLY#9) was the first New Zealand woman to compete at the Olympic Games. As a teenage girl, she had to be chaperoned by her father, stay in her room while her teammates were training, and she wasn't even allowed to attend the all-male team function on her return.

New Zealand's top Olympic moments and milestones [can be viewed here](#).

WOMEN IN SPORTS LEADERSHIP

WSLA NZ programme prepares female Olympians for sport leadership roles

A group of female Olympians have graduated from a New Zealand Olympic Committee run initiative working to improve female representation across high level sport administration.

The second intake of the New Zealand Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA NZ) began in 2019 with 14 Olympians graduating from the 18-month programme.

The academy, is run for New Zealand Olympians and provides a unique learning environment that supports the women to transition from sport performance to sport leadership. The programme saw the Olympians attend three workshops where they developed their leadership competencies and were linked into a global network of female leaders in sport.



Graduate: Angela Subramaniam and Dame Patsy Reddy

The athletes were also put into groups for special projects which were presented to hundreds of New Zealand sport leaders, including Sport Minister Grant Robertson, on May 1st.

“The findings of the projects have been passed onto sporting bodies in New Zealand and we hope they will create positive changes for women’s sport in New Zealand.”

The projects can be accessed at this [link](#).

The New Zealand Olympic Committee would like to thank the International Olympic Committee and Sir Owen Glenn for helping to make the programme possible.



2019-20 NZ Olympic Women in Sport Graduates:

- Julia Edward, Olympian #1139
- Debbie Hansen, Olympian #1092
- Erika Harris, Olympian # 987
- Lizzy Horlock, Olympian #918
- Kate McIlroy, Olympian #1178
- Genevieve Macky, Olympian #1249
- Char Pouaka, Olympian #832
- Polly Powrie, Olympian #1195
- Alexis Pritchard Olympian #1196
- Michelle Rennie, Olympian #917
- Rebecca Rolls, Olympian #1203
- Angela Subramaniam, Olympian #579
- Leanne Walker, Olympian #859
- Evelyn Williamson, Olympian #865

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Pauline Gardiner-Milan OLY#172

It has been 56 years since as a very green young gymnast, stepping off the plane in Tokyo with two team mates to a sea of reporters and photographers. It was my first international competition and as a young Olympian, I had no idea what to expect.

The Olympic Village was incredible, we were housed in large rooms with 4 to a room. I was completely in awe of the glamorous Doreen Porter who had the bed next to mine. Unlike the Olympic Village of today, we had complete freedom. There were bikes scattered around the village and anyone could grab one and go. They were especially sought after, particularly around mealtimes.

The meal hall was an eye opener for a couple of kids from down under New Zealand and the choices seemed endless - I loved that dining hall.

We went in groups to the main shopping street – the Ginza, and found bargains to take home to family.

The training was relaxed and fun, unlike the actual competition where it was intense as we really wanted to do our best. We were proud of our new black and white leotards and proud to be representing our country.



After I finished competing, I seemed to ease into coaching. I opened a gymnastics club in San Rafael, just north of San Francisco and trained nationally competing gymnasts. I was lucky enough to have some of my athletes make the National team which meant I travelled as a National Coach to many wonderful far off places. In 1997 I moved to Europe and opened a club in the South of England and again got to travel with my team.

I am now living in Fort Worth, Texas. I am running a nonprofit sports center and looking after my husband who has ALS. We share our home with a mini pig named Bacon, an orange and white cat named Eggs and a couple of dogs named Mocha and Biscuit respectively.

My advice to young athletes – follow your dreams. When I was 12 years old, I taped a picture of the stadium to be used for the upcoming games in Tokyo onto our fridge. When my mother asked me why I put it there I replied, “because I’m going to compete there”. My very wise and wonderful mother gave me a knowing look and said, “Yes you probably will”. She allowed me to follow my dreams.



Doreen Porter-Shann OLY#197



I left New Zealand in 1964 after the Olympics and married that same year in December. My first husband was in the Air Force stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. A cultural shock indeed coming from New Zealand to the desert of New Mexico, but I always say, “grow where you are planted” and that is what I have always done.

I am never sorry I left New Zealand, I love my life in the USA, but I do miss New Zealand and especially Palm Beach, Waiheke Island (my favourite place in the entire world). Always a Kiwi at heart, you are where you come from! I now live in Hunt, Texas, which is just outside of Kerrville, up in the hills on 6.5 acres with my second husband, Rick of 30 years, two dogs, two cats and herds of Axis and Whitetail deer and a bunch of other critters. I have lived in a variety of states in the U.S: California, New Mexico, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Colorado and Texas.

I have two daughters, both accomplished athletes in their own right and a granddaughter and grandson who have both excelled in their chosen sports. I retired from running when I married but came back after 11 years off the track and was running my same times and winning against high school girls. Unfortunately later in the season, I ruptured two discs in my spine and had to have spinal surgery. I came back and ran masters and did 3 triathlons (winning my age group in two).

While living in Waco, Texas I attended Baylor University studying Business Communications which enabled me to get some very good jobs working for presidents of high-profile companies.

While in Michigan at age 50 I played music with a Celtic Band. I played the Bodhran (an Irish drum). I also took up clogging (a cross between Riverdance and tap). I danced with two performing groups for 9 years and absolutely loved it. These days, I am a professional artist who works in the mediums of pastel, oil, and watercolor. I do yoga, a few weights for muscle tone, kayak and walk with a neighbour and ride a Harley Davidson motorcycle with my husband. While an athlete I only wanted to be around other athletes, as an artist, most of my friends are artists. That is how I like it.

The quintessential competitor, I can no longer compete physically, (nor do I want to) more cerebral these days. I enter juried/judged art shows, and have been very successful, having said that, it is very subjective and not as easy as “first to the tape”.

I wish I could say that I enjoyed the Olympics in Tokyo in '64, but it rained all the time and I ended up with bronchitis and strep throat so I was very sick!

At 79 years of age and I look back, I have to say I am proud of what I accomplished without drugs and with very poor training: I basically got there on my sheer determination and God-given talent.

Incidentally, I was the first female sprinter in the history of New Zealand to win a medal in a Commonwealth Games or Olympic Games. Had I stayed in New Zealand, I would probably have switched to rowing; probably single or double sculls.

I am very proud of my Kiwi heritage and grateful for having grown up in NZ in the 50's and 60's when life was uncomplicated. I am grateful for the people who supported me and especially my running club, Western Suburbs and the wonderful officials there, sadly all those people are now gone. I went to a wonderful high school, Avondale College, which afforded great opportunities in sport.

My only advice to our new Olympians is to be vigilant for skin cancer (melanoma), I have had three found early. It is a death sentence if not found early. Also, believe in yourself and be supportive and kind to one other.

Life is short, enjoy the ride! Doreen Porter-Shann

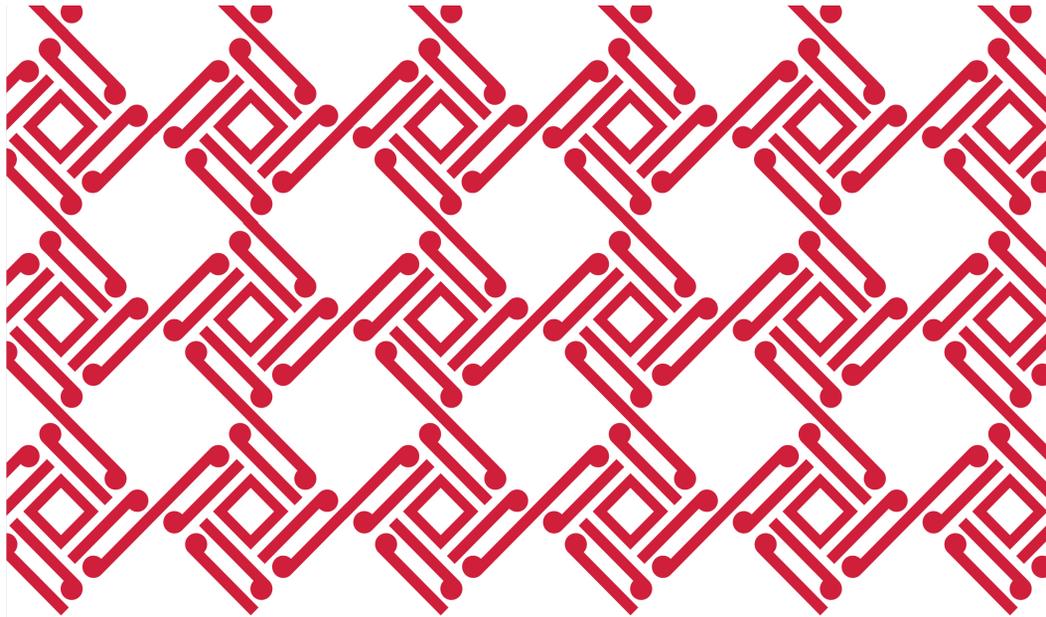
OBITUARIES

Remembering those New Zealand Olympians that have left us

The New Zealand Olympic family was saddened at the passing of the following New Zealand Olympians in the past six months:

- Murray Cheater #338 - Montreal 1976 (Athletics)
- Robert Colley #340 - Montreal 1976 (Boxing)
- Jean (Stewart) Hurring #74 - Helsinki 1952 (Bronze Medal), Melbourne 1956 (Swimming)
- George Patterson #194 - Tokyo 1964, Mexico City 1968 (Rowing)
- Jack Tynan #125 - Melbourne 1956 (Hockey)





Meri Kirihimete

2020 has been a year to remember – the collective challenges we faced, our pride in our nation, the resilience of the New Zealand Team, and a shared determination to come back stronger than ever in 2021.

Thank you for all of your support. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from all of us at the New Zealand Olympic Committee.

Please note our offices will be closing for the year from Friday 18 December 2020 and reopening Monday 11 January 2021.

