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OLYMPIC DREAMS COME TRUE FOR YOUNG WINTER ATHLETES

While most Australians are basking in the summer sun next January, a talented bunch of young athletes will be making history on the Austrian mountains.

With London only months away, it is important to remember it is actually not the next Olympics on the calendar – with the first ever Winter Youth Olympic Games taking place from 13 – 22 January 2012.

Innsbruck will not only be the inaugural host of the Games, but will also be the first city to host an Olympic event three times, having held the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. London will follow suit in 2012, as the first city to host the Summer Olympics three times.

Australia's talent in winter sports has been steadily on the rise over recent decades, winning medals at the last five Winter Olympics. This year Australia has stamped its mark on the winter circuit, finishing the season with a host of World Cup successes and four World Champions in Alex "Chumpy" Pullin, Nate Johnston, Holly Crawford and Anna Segal.

It is with great excitement that the Australian Olympic Committee prepares to send its team to the Winter Youth Olympics in Innsbruck.

With qualification events still underway, the final team size will not be known until mid-December but is likely to be about 15 athletes.

Alpine skiers Greta Small and Harry Laidlaw have been training hard in the United States and Austria respectively. A lack of snow in Europe has seen Small change her pre-Games program and fly to Canada to contest 11 races before returning to her base in Pitzal Austria just before Christmas.

Cross country will be represented by Lucy Glanville and Alex Gibson. Glanville has been preparing herself by pushing her body to the limit in freezing conditions in Russia.

In a rarity for Australian Winter Olympic Teams, two athletes will be hitting the puck as part of the individual ice hockey skills challenge. Sam Hodic and Sharnita Crompton will complete a number of challenges to test their skating and scoring skills on the ice – in one of a number of events modified for the Games.

Freestyle skiing will see Aussies competing in two disciplines in Innsbruck with Jindabyne local Thomas Waddell taking part in the ski halfpipe and Jack Millar and Claudia Leggett in the intense head-to-head racing of ski cross.

Following in the footsteps of her idol Torah Bright, Central Coast teenager Alex Fitch will be hunting a medal in both the snowboard halfpipe and slopestyle disciplines.

Qualification and selection is still being finalised for biathlon, figure skating, short track speed skating and luge.

One thing is certain, competition will be epic - follow it on olympics.com.au



From top: Harry Laidlaw, Sharnita Crompton and Alex Fitch



First athletes selected for the 2012 Australian Winter Youth Olympic Team.
Photo: Getty Images

ONCE AN OLYMPIAN, ALWAYS AN OLYMPIAN



NEWS FROM ACT

Executive members of the Olympians Club of the ACT Shaun Creighton, David Dickson and Regan Harrison were at the ACT Sportstar of the Year awards at Canberra's Southern Cross Club on 21 October to see fellow Olympian Alicia Coutts named AIS Sportstar of the Year. Alicia, who contested the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, was recognised for her haul of five gold medals at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Recognition of a different kind came the way of basketballer Patrick Mills on the evening of 22 November at the ACT Australian of the Year awards, held at the National Portrait Gallery. Mills was a finalist in the Young Australian of the Year category as a result not only of his being the Boomers' top scorer at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and his stellar performances in the US NBA, but also for his efforts in raising \$50,000 while in the United States for the Queensland flood appeal and for his encouragement of indigenous children seeking to take up his sport.

For triathlete Simon Thompson, life literally turned to ashes in November when fire ripped through his house in Canberra. In an event reminiscent of marathon champion Robert de Castella when a firestorm hit Canberra in 2003, destroying his home and everything in it, Thompson was devastated to realise he had lost treasured keepsakes from the Athens 2004 Olympics and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games including his uniform, photographs, and other memorabilia. The ACT Olympic Council has contacted the AOC, the Commonwealth Games Association and Triathlon Australia on a campaign to retrieve what they can for Simon – just as they did for Deek eight years ago.

NEWS FROM NSW

With less than 12 months to the London 2012 Olympics, members of the NSW Olympians Club celebrated in style on the magnificent 'Bella Vista' on Sydney Harbour. The event also coincided with the 11th Anniversary of the Opening Ceremony for the Sydney 2000 Olympics so the 200 guests had double the reason for celebrating.

Olympians from 1956 to now enjoyed the London themed event. Although not able to attend, 1948 London Olympian John Treloar, sent through a written account of the conditions during the Games where London was recovering from the barrage of German bombing raids during WWII and where the team accommodation at the Richmond RAF base provided very basic accommodation and an even more basic diet of kippered herrings for every meal.



Photo: Ross Willis Photography

Kitty Chiller, 2012 Deputy Chef de Mission outlined the Team's preparations for London and gave a preview of the London venues. Two things were confirmed on the night. The Thames certainly isn't a patch on the beautiful Sydney Harbour and Olympians of all ages still have plenty of stamina, kicking on well into the night.

NEWS FROM QLD

The last few months have again been a busy time for Olympians getting out into the community to motivate and inspire our next generation of sports stars and youth. As part of the Queensland Government's state wide initiative to increase both participation in sport and membership of local sporting clubs, 10 Olympians visited various locations as part of the Super Sports Day in late August, including John Konrads, Angus Wardell, Eloise Amberger, Karla Reuter, Kylie Palmer, Brenda Carr, Shelley Roy, Bruce Featherston, and Annemarie Forder.

Beach volleyballer Nat Cook and synchronised swimmers Sarah Bombell and Eloise Amberger travelled 6 hours North West of Brisbane to spend a day with the kids at Monto. Both sports were showcased in a come and try opportunity for the local community. The girls helped inspire the youth of Monto and raised funds for a local community building initiative recently launched. So much interest and enthusiasm was shown by local kids that a synchronised swimming and beach volleyball club are soon to be established.



The QOC has also been very active in helping to develop current and future Olympians off the field. During the year we delivered our London Learning Series in conjunction with the Queensland Academy of Sport - a series of four professional development workshops for elite athletes to give them the skills to help develop themselves off the field and for a career after sport. In total 66 athletes participated in the day long session that gave them skills in public speaking, sponsorship acquisition and servicing. The public speaking session was conducted by 2009 World Champion public speaker Mark Hunter while the sponsorship sessions were run by Olympian Nat Cook.

NEWS FROM SA

The date for the Annual Dinner in 2012 has been confirmed for Saturday 26 May at the Glenelg Golf Club. We look forward to catching up with you then and encourage you to bring your friends and family. In 2012 we are also hoping to extend invitations to Commonwealth and Paralympic athletes.

In 2011 the SA Olympians Club made a contribution to the Robert Gerard Emerging Athlete Development Fund. This Fund provided grants to 22 athletes in 2011 and was established in 2007 to support next generation elite athletes, particularly those competing at Junior/Under 23 World Championships.

In support of the activities undertaken by the SA Olympians Club, we are investigating the opportunity to develop a "sub-committee" to help promote Olympic Alumni. We hope to create bi-annual networking events aimed at a younger demographic to keep Olympians connected. Athens Olympian Travis Moran, and SAOC Executive Director Kirsty Withers are steering this initiative and would love to hear from any athletes that would be interested in coming on board.

On Wednesday 9 November the Awards Ceremony for 2011 recipients was held at the Office for Recreation and Sport. Olympian Phil Rogers (Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000) spoke to the students about his journey and the determination and belief required to achieve at the highest levels of sport. It was great to have a number of Olympians in attendance. Plans are being made to conduct the 2012 Ceremony in line with Olympic Day and include an Olympic Academy also. We hope to engage a number of Olympians to assist with this project. Please contact Kirsty Withers on (08) 7424 7749 or kirsty.withers@olympics.com.au



2011 Award Recipients Brianna Wedding and Gia Abernethy with Olympian Phil Rogers, and London Prospect, Beccahara Palmer

NEWS FROM TAS

This year the Pierre de Coubertin Academy Day was a wonderful success, thanks to the support of participants, guests and speakers. Youth Olympian Rory Middleton spoke of his experience at the recent International Pierre de Coubertin Youth Forum. Middleton was part of the 150 international students living, learning and competing together for eight days in Beijing at the Famous Beijing NO4 High School.



The highlight of the Academy Day was the opportunity for students to interact with the Australian hockey teams who were in Hobart to compete with New Zealand. Kookaburras coach Ric Charlesworth led the discussion comprising of the team's experience in both sport and their life outside of training. Hockeyroos Captain Madonna Blyth presented the students with their Pierre de Coubertin Certificates and Australian Olympic pins. The Hockeyroos also gave the audience lots of information on balancing training, competing and university or work commitments.

NEWS FROM VIC

On 18 November the Olympians Club of Victoria hosted its annual Gala Dinner. We were thrilled to have more than 80 Olympians in attendance. This year was a special celebration as it was the Official Dinner for the Centenary of the Victorian Olympic Council. The Council was founded on September 22, 1911 by representatives of athletics, swimming, rowing and tennis associations and the first chairman was Mr B.J. Parkinson from athletics.

This milestone was acknowledged with presentations from former VOC President Geoff Henke AO, Olympic icon Ray Weinberg AM and Chair of the AOC Athletes' Commission James Tomkins OAM. We also heard from the 2012 Chef de Mission Nicholas Green OAM, who provided an update on the London Olympics. Nicole Livingstone OAM, who recently was appointed to the VOC Board, was great in her role as compere.

More than 650 Olympians, Youth and aspiring Olympians, their family and friends, and leading sports administrators were in attendance at an Afternoon Tea Reception at Government House to celebrate the centenary of the VOC.

The Governor was thrilled to see so many Olympians with their families and spent more than an hour talking and being photographed with various groups. The Minister for Sport congratulated Olympians on their involvement in the many school programs on offer in the state acknowledging the powerful influence and positive impact Olympians have on our youth.

Should you want to be involved with the Education programs which are conducted across the state, please contact the VOC on [03 9427 0700](tel:0394270700).



Nick Green, Kerri Tepper, Craig Phillips, James Tomkins, Nicole Livingstone, Raelene Boyle, Leon Wiegard, David Culbert, David Wansbrough and Russell Mark at the Gala Dinner



Olympians and guests gather at Government House to celebrate the Centenary of the VOC

NEWS FROM WA

The annual Christmas Lunch was held on Sunday 27 November at the beautiful Nedlands Golf Club. A superb buffet lunch was served and the function was a great opportunity for our WA and WA-based Olympians to catch up, reminisce and celebrate the festive season. The day included interviews with aspiring London rhythmic gymnast, Janine Murray and four-time hockey Olympian Rechelle Hawkes. A raffle was also held with plenty of great prizes on offer, including items donated by Olympians with listings in the WA Olympic Business Directory, with the proceeds donated the Appeal for the recent Margaret River bushfires. A great day was had by all!

OCWA's AGM was held as part of the Christmas Lunch on 27 November. All members of the OCWA Executive were acknowledged. Dennis Kemp and Ted Polglaze announced their resignation from the OCWA Executive (as well as Jo-Ann Galbraith and Alan Chesney earlier in the year) and we thank them all for their contributions. Greg Corbitt (Hockey 1992) has been endorsed to fill a casual vacancy on the Executive through to the 2012 AGM, leaving one casual vacancy – if there are any Olympians who have an interest in filling this position, contact Liane Tooth on liane.tooth@dsr.wa.gov.au



Selina & Greg Corbitt (Hockey 1992), Denise Lickfold (Medical 2004, 2008), Peter Churack, Damon Diletti (Hockey 1992, 1996, 2000) & Shane Tonkin (Baseball 1996)



NSW Police Force

150th Anniversary of Policing



Calling all Past & Present New South Wales Police Force Olympic and Commonwealth Games Representatives

2012 is the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the NSW Police Force.

We need your help to track down our current and past NSW Police Olympians and Commonwealth Games Representatives.

We are seeking names and details so that an accurate record can be made to capture this part of our History. We especially would like any high resolution quality photographs, facts, and any news articles.

If you can assist, please contact **Robert Spitz**, 150th Anniversary of Policing on **02 9375 8016** or email **150years@police.nsw.gov.au**

OLYMPIAN NEWS

Congratulations to

- **Peta Edebone** - softball 1996 Atlanta bronze, 2000 Sydney bronze, 2004 Athens silver, on the birth of her daughter Olivia Louise Anderson in July
- **Kylie Wheeler** - athletics 2004 Athens, 2008 Beijing, on the birth of her second daughter Katie Beth in October
- **Elka Whalan (Graham)** - swimming 2000 Sydney silver, 2004 Athens and **Thomas Whalan** - water polo 2000 Sydney, 2004 Athens, 2008 Beijing on the birth of their second child in November, a brother to Nevada

Obituaries

The OCA was very sorry to hear of the passing of:

- **Bruce Mills** (Official - Equestrian - 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona) - January 2011
- **Peter Demos** (Basketball - 1956 Melbourne) - January 2011
- **Alan Barlow** (Official - Athletics - 1976 Montreal, 1988 Seoul) - June 2011
- **Richard Thorneft** (Water Polo - 1960 Rome) - October 2011
- **Dr Frank Pyke** - Former member of the Australian Olympic Federation's Education Commission - November 2011



Keep up to date with all the latest news about the Australian team heading to the London 2012 Olympic Games through the AOC's monthly e-newsletter "Lookout London".

Sign up at olympics.com.au/signup and each month you will get sent videos, image galleries and feature stories on athletes looking to compete in London. You will also be able to win great prizes,

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have recently moved or your personal details need updating please let the AOC know by calling **02 8436 2100** or emailing aoc@olympics.com.au

2012 EDUCATION PROGRAM

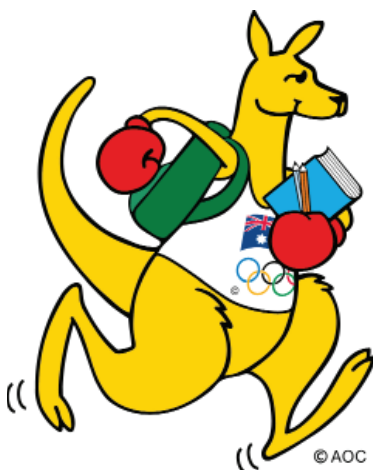
The AOC has launched its Olympic education program for the 2012 London Games.

The program is aimed at encouraging young Australians to participate in sport and highlights Olympians as community role models.

The 2012 program can be accessed by registering online at www.olympics.com.au/education and consists of:

- Teacher resources
- Cheer for a Champ
- Village Art
- Chat to a Champ
- Talk with a Champ
- Olympic Day

Lesson plans and online digital resources are available for teachers and students themed on the Games and the Australian Team. Students can learn about the sports, venues, marketing and sustainability of the Games as well as discover more about the athletes and explore Australia's involvement at the Games over the last 100 years.



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