



Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



Louise Bawden

Athlete Biography

Sixteen years after her Olympic debut in Sydney, Louise Bowden will make her third Olympic appearance in Rio when she teams up with up-and-coming star Taliqua Clancy.

The five-time national champion left her hometown of Melbourne at 16 years of age to join the Australian indoor volleyball program. Three years later she made her Olympic debut in Sydney as a member of the indoor team that finished eleventh. She soon moved to the Netherlands to take up a professional contract until 2003.

Living in Adelaide, the South Australian made the switch to beach volleyball in 2009 and won silver at the 2009 FIVB World Tour in Poland. The same year she was crowned the FIVB World Tour Rookie of the Year.

Bawden teamed up with Becchara Palmer for the 2012 London Games. The pair fought out three tough matches but could not record a win, at the iconic Horse Guards Parade venue, and finished 19th.

Bawden linked up with Clancy in late 2012 and despite the 11-year age difference, won their first national tour event. In 2014 the pair peaked at world number five and won the Asian Championships. They secured their Olympic quota spot after finishing at world number seven at the end of the world ranking qualification period in June 2016.

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Volleyball - Beach

Fast Facts

Sport Volleyball - Beach
Event/s Beach Volleyball Women
Height 183
Age 34
Lives Adelaide, SA, Australia

Status Selected
Nickname Lou
Weight 72
Born Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Olympic Information

- 2012 London – 19th (beach volleyball) 2000 Sydney – 11th (indoor volleyball)

Recent Performances

- 5th – 2016 Major (Hamburg, Germany)
- 9th – 2016 Moscow grand Slam (Moscow, Russia)
- 4th – 2016 Vitoria Open (Vitoria, Brazil)
- 25th – 2016 Rio Grand Slam (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 Asian Volleyball Confederation Women's Beach Volleyball Championships (Hong Kong, China)

Career Highlights

- 2015 World Championships team performance with Taliqua Clancy when 5th in the Netherlands.
- Qualifying for the London 2012 Olympic Games with Becchara Palmer.
- Bronze at the 2015 Porec Major Series in Croatia with Taliqua Clancy

Education

- **Primary** Mitcham Primary School (VIC, Australia)
- **Secondary** Vermont Secondary College & Fintona Girls School (VIC, Australia)
- **Tertiary** Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) - Griffith University

Training

- **Coach** Mick Nelson (2010 - current)

- **Primary Training Base** Adelaide, Australia

Q&A

Favourite food Fresh seafood

Favourite holiday destination Love to go to the Carribbean or Vegas

Favourite music Indie

Dream car Astin Martin - black

Personal Motto If it is to be it's up to me.

Star Sign Leo

I would spend my last \$10 on Gossip magazine with lots of pictures and trashy stories

Tattoos/Piercings Belly button piercing - post Sydney Olympics close to the village

If I could try another Olympic sport it would be Equestrian



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Taliqua Clancy

Athlete Biography

Taliqua Clancy will team up with dual Olympian and volleyball veteran Louise Bawden when she makes her Olympic debut on Copacabana Beach in Rio 2016.

Clancy grew up in the rural Queensland town of Kingaroy, over 200km away from the nearest beach. She tried her hand in almost every sport available to her growing up, before finding indoor volleyball in high school.

At 15 years of age, she was scouted for beach volleyball and moved to Brisbane on a scholarship to the Queensland Academy of Sport. She moved to Adelaide as a 17-year-old to join the Australian Volleyball program.

The Queenslander won bronze with Eliza Hynes at the U19s Beach Volleyball World Championships in Portugal, 2010. She teamed up with Bawden in late 2012 and the duo, despite the 11-year age gap, won their first national tour event.

In 2014 the pair peaked at world number five and won the Asian Championships. They secured their Olympic quota spot after finishing at world number seven at the end of the world ranking qualification period in June 2016. Clancy is the first indigenous beach volleyball Olympian.

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Volleyball - Beach

Fast Facts

Sport Volleyball - Beach	Status Selected
Event/s Beach Volleyball Women	Height 184
Weight 68	Age 24
Born Kingaroy, QLD, Australia	Lives Adelaide, SA, Australia

Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

Recent Performances

- 5th – 2016 Major (Hamburg, Germany)
- 9th – 2016 Moscow Grand Slam (Moscow, Russia)
- 4th – 2016 Vitoria Open (Vitoria, Brazil)
- 25th – 2016 Rio Grand Slam (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 AVC Women's Beach Volleyball Championships (Hong Kong, China)

Career Highlights

- Bronze Medal with Eliza Hynes at the Un19s Beach Volleyball World Championships in Portugal, 2010
- Third at the Major Series in Porec, Croatia in 2015 with Lou Bawden.
- Selection on the 2016 Australian Olympic Team for Rio with Lou Bawden.

Education

- **Primary** St John's Lutheran Primary School, QLD, Australia
- **Secondary** Holland Park High School, QLD, Australia

Training

- **Coach** Andrew Schat (2010 - current)
- **Primary Training Base** South Australian Sports Institute
- **Secondary Training Base** Australian Institute of Sport - Italy base

Q&A

Favourite food Pizza

Favourite holiday destination Home but also love Europe

Favourite music RnB, Indie

Dream car Range Rover - white or black

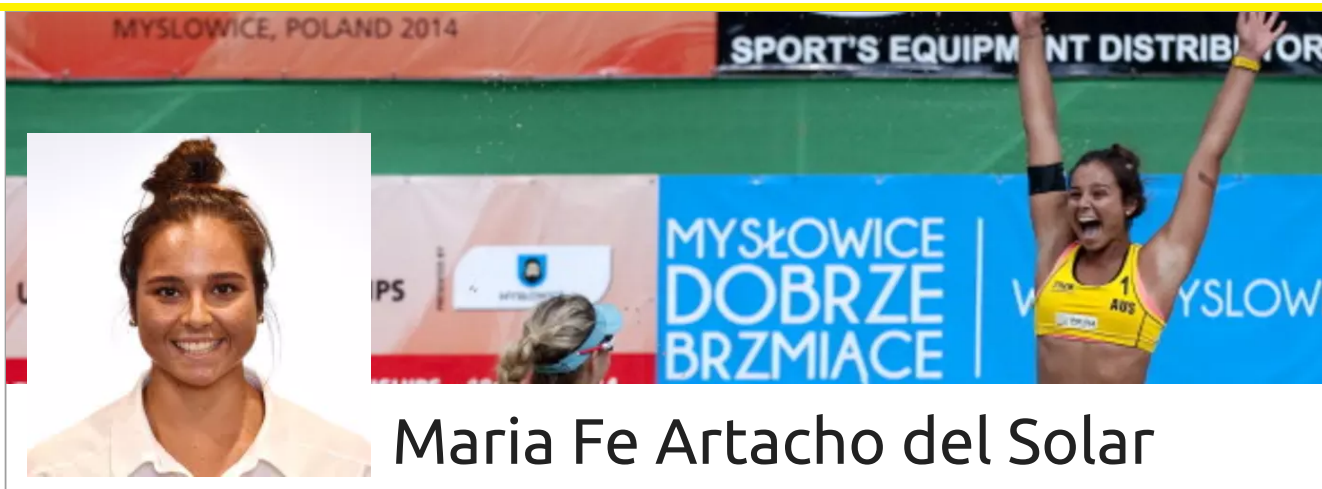
Star Sign Cancer

I would spend my last \$10 on boost juice

If I could try another Olympic sport it would be Indoor Volleyball and trampolining



Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



Maria Fe Artacho del Solar

Athlete Biography

After winning gold at the Asian Continental Cup Final in late June 2016, Mariafe Artacho del Solar will make her Olympic debut in Rio with her beach volleyball partner Nicole Laird. The duo defeated the top Vanuatu team in Cairns in a nail biting, rainy grand final 19-17 in the final set to help secure the nation's second women's beach volleyball team at Rio 2016.

The pair, both originally from Sydney but now residing in Adelaide, won gold at the U23 World Championships in 2014, before winning the national championships in 2015. They have already practised on the Olympic stage after a strong performance at the 2016 Rio Grand Slam saw the team advance to the main draw at Copacabana Beach, where they finished 17th.

Born in Lima Peru, Artacho del Solar moved to Australia as an 11-year-old. She attended the same high school as Laird in North Sydney and grew up playing beach volleyball on Manly Beach. Her first major international tournament opportunity came in 2007 when she was selected to represent Australia at the U19 World Championships in Poland.

The Sydney-sider won bronze at the 2012 Junior World Championships in Canada with Taliqua Clancy, who is also set to make her Olympic debut at Rio 2016 with dual Olympian Louise Bawden. Artacho del Solar first played with Laird in early 2013 and then full-time from in late 2013. The pair have been impressing spectators on the international stage ever since.

The bilingual athlete (Spanish and English) attributes Nat Cook and Kerri Pottharst's gold medal victory at the 2000 Sydney Games as the most inspiring Olympic performance, and she hopes to come away with her best volleyball on a beach where the sport is part of the Brazilian culture.

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Volleyball - Beach

Fast Facts

Sport Volleyball - Beach
Event/s Beach Volleyball Women
Born Lima, Peru

Status Selected
Age 22
Lives Lockleys, SA, Australia

Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut.
- 2009 AYOF Sydney- Silver Medal

Recent Performances

- 1st – 2016 Asian Beach Continental Cup Final (Cairns, Australia)
- 25th – 2016 Moscow Grand Slam (Moscow, Russia)
- 17th – 2016 Rio Grand Slam (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 17th – 2015 World Championships (Apeldorn, Netherlands)
- 1st – 2014 U23 World Championships (Myslowice, Poland)

Career Highlights

- U23 World Champion in 2014, with Nikki Laird
- Australian Champion 2015, with Nikki Laird
- U21 Bronze Medallist - Junior World Champs with Taliqua Clancy

Education

- **Primary** Peru
- **Secondary** Killara High School (NSW Australia)

Training

- **Coach** Lauren Soderberg (2014-current)
- **Institute/Academy** Australian Institute of Sport
- **Primary Training Base** Adelaide, South Australia
- **Secondary Training Base** Manly Beach, Sydney

Q&A

Favourite food Gourmet Burgers, Italian, Peruvian , Eye fillet (medium - rare)

Favourite holiday destination Anywhere where there is a beach, shopping and good restaurants

Favourite music anything to dance to

Dream car Black on Black Range Rover

Personal Motto You can if you want. Believe and you're half way there

Star Sign Scorpio

I would spend my last \$10 on Food

Tattoos/Piercings Ear piercings, 3 tattoos..right wrist FUERZA Back of right shoulder (a little heart, my sister has one too same spot) a star on my left wrist- 5 points of the star meaning 5 members of my family

If I could try another Olympic sport it would be Tennis

Most Inspiring Olympic Performance? Nat and Kerri winning gold at Sydney 2000

First Olympic Memory? Nat and Kerri winning gold at Sydney 2000

Most Influential person in your career/life My mum

Why this sport? It is my passion



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Nicole Laird

Athlete Biography

After winning gold at the Asian Continental Cup Final in late June 2016, Nicole 'Nikki' Laird will make her Olympic debut in Rio with her beach volleyball partner Mariafe Artacho del Solar. The duo defeated the top Vanuatu team in Cairns in a nail biting, rainy grand final 19-17 in the final set to help secure the nation's second women's beach volleyball team at Rio 2016.

The pair, both originally from Sydney but now residing in Adelaide, won gold at the U23 World Championships in 2014, before winning the national championships in 2015. They have already practised on the Olympic stage after a strong performance at the 2016 Rio Grand Slam saw the team advance to the main draw at Copacabana Beach, where they finished 17th.

The Sydney-sider made her international debut in 2011 before placing 17th at the 2012 Junior World Championships with Eliza Haynes in Canada. Laird teamed up full-time with Artacho del Solar in late 2013 and the pair have been impressing spectators on the international stage ever since.

Born in North Sydney, Laird was originally a springboard diver but grew too tall for the sport. She attended a beach volleyball camp at her local beach Manly when she was young and was instantly hooked on the sport.

Superstitious Laird will feel unsettled unless she has perfectly manicured nails before taking to the court.

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Volleyball - Beach

Fast Facts

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Status Selected
Age 23
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Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut.

Recent Performances

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- 25th – 2016 Moscow Grand Slam (Moscow, Russia)
- 17th – 2016 Rio Grand Slam (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 17th – 2015 World Championships (Apeldorn, Netherlands)
- 1st – 2014 U23 World Championships (Myslowice, Poland)

Career Highlights

- Winning the gold medal at the Junior World Championships in Poland with Mariafe Artacho del Solar
- Competing in front of family and friends at a senior world championships in Apeldorn The Netherlands
- Earning selection for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games

Education

- **Primary** Killara primary School (NSW Australia)
- **Secondary** Killara High School (NSW Australia)

Training

- **Coach** Lauren Soderberg (2014-current)
- **Institute/Academy** South Australian Sports Institute
- **Primary Training Base** Adelaide, South Australia

- **Secondary Training Base** Manly Beach, Sydney

Q&A

Superstition/s My nail's are a direct representation of how together I feel like my life is. If they are unpolished it can make me very unsettled

Favourite food Pizza

Favourite holiday destination Anywhere in Europe!

Favourite music I don't discriminate

Dream car Something shiny

Personal Motto If you're feeling comfortable you're moving nowhere

Star Sign Aquarius

I would spend my last \$10 on Food

If I could try another Olympic sport it would be Pole vault

Most Inspiring Olympic Performance? Sally Pearson 2012

First Olympic Memory? I remember watching the athletics at the 2000 olympics when I was 7 years old

Most Influential person in your career/life My parents

Why this sport? I fell in love the second I played it