

## New Zealand Olympian

# Sir Peter Snell, OBE



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Peter George Snell	Opunake, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
17 December 1938	Athletics – Running

### Life and Career

Peter Snell was a middle distance runner; he was a world-record holder for the 800 metre race, 1000 metre race, the mile and the 880 yard race.

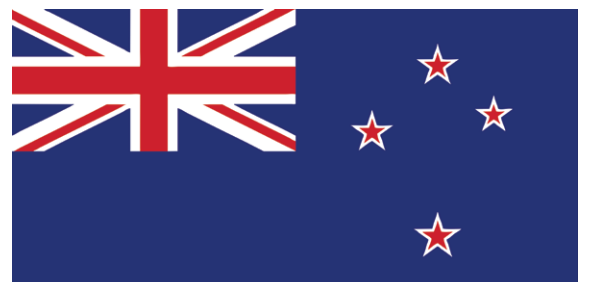
Snell trained under Arthur Lydiard; he trained by running long distances. This built up Snell's endurance.

In 1964, at the Tokyo Olympic Games, Snell won gold medals in both 800m and the 1500m. In both races, he was boxed in and had to break from the pack to win.

In 1965, Snell retired from racing. He became the director of the Human Performance Laboratory at UT Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, Texas. Snell also wrote and co-wrote books about his career, fitness, sport and science. He died in Dallas on 12 December 2019, aged 80.

Snell's 800m record remains the fastest ever run over that distance on a grass track, and is also the oldest national record recognized by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) for a standard track and field event.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1960 Rome	800m	Gold
1964 Tokyo	800m	Gold
1964 Tokyo	1500m	Gold



## New Zealand Olympian

# Valerie Adams, ONZM



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Valerie Kasanita Adams	Rotorua, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
6 October 1984	Athletics - Shot put

### Life and Career

Valerie Adams is a shot putter. She won her first world championship in 2001 at the World Youth Championships at only 16 years old.

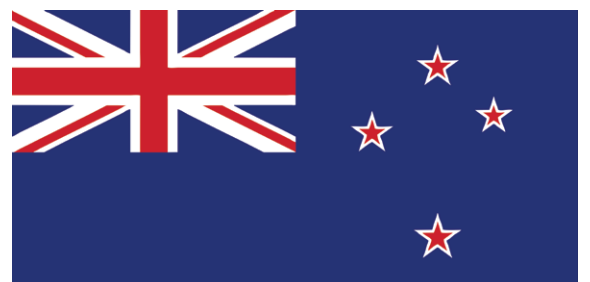
Adams is a four-time World champion, three-time World Indoor champion and two-time Olympic and three-time Commonwealth champion. She currently holds the New Zealand, Oceanian, Commonwealth and equal World Championship records with a personal best throw of 21.24 metres.

At the Beijing Olympics in 2008 she qualified for the final with the longest distance thrown, 19.73 m, on her first attempt. She won the gold with a throw of 20.56 m. Adams won 56 competitions between 2010 and 2014. She was the 2014 IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) world female athlete of the year.

Rio 2016 was Adam's fourth Olympic Games having won gold in the shot put at Beijing and London 2012 and finishing seventh in her debut at Athens 2004.

Adam's secured her fourth Olympic medal at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games where she took home bronze.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	Shot Put	Gold
2012 London	Shot Put	Gold
2016 Rio	Shot Put	Silver
2020 Tokyo	Shot Put	Bronze



## New Zealand Olympian

# Yvette Corlette nee Williams, CNZM MBE



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Yvette Winifred Williams	Dunedin, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
25 April 1929	Athletics - Track and field

### Life and Career

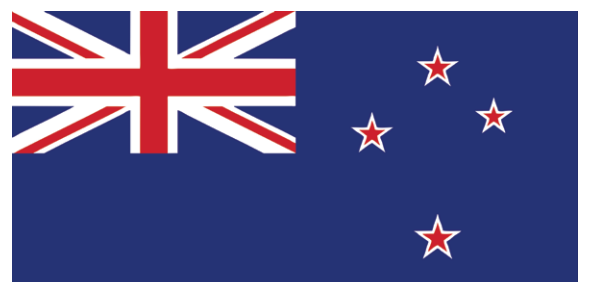
Yvette Williams was the first woman in New Zealand to win an Olympic gold medal. Williams excelled in many track and field events; she competed in shot put, discus, javelin, hurdles, and long jump. She also played both netball and basketball at a national level.

Williams won the gold medal in the long jump at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. Her winning distance of 6.24 m was a new Olympic record. She also finished in sixth place in the shot put and 10th in the discus throw.

Williams retired in November 1954. At the time, she ranked number one in world track and field history in the long jump, fifth in the pentathlon, 12th in the discus throw and 19th in the shot put.

Williams continued to contribute immensely to the athletics community and is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's greatest athletes. Yvette Williams died, aged 89, in April 2019.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1952 Helsinki	Long Jump	Gold



## New Zealand Olympian

# Sir John Walker KNZM CBE



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
John George Walker	Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
12 January 1952	Athletics - Running

### Life and Career

John Walker is a middle distance runner, his running career lasted over 20 years. He was the first person to run the mile in under four minutes.

Walker has won many Commonwealth medals and set many world records. He won the gold medal in the 1500 m at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Walker was voted sportsman of the decade in the 1970s, due to his achievements. Walker retired in 1992 and almost four years later, he announced that he had Parkinson's disease. Walker has worked for the Manukau and Auckland council, and was named Patron of Athletics New Zealand in 2020.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1976 Montreal	1500m	Gold

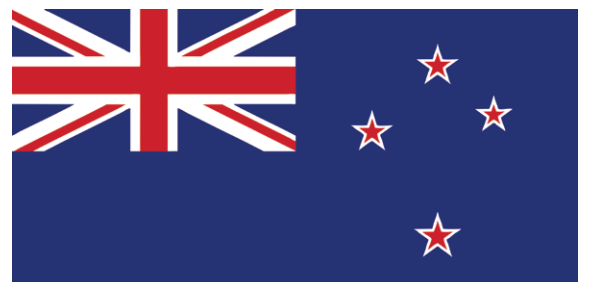


Photo courtesy of AllSport

## New Zealand Olympian

# Sarah Walker



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Sarah Walker	Whakatane, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
10 July 1988	BMX

### Life and Career

Sarah Walker is New Zealand's first BMX Olympic medallist. She began racing at the age of 10 to keep up with her brother.

Walker was in the top three of the world during her junior BMX career and carried on to become world number one in 2008.

In 2012, Walker won the silver medal in the London Olympics, gaining the nick name 'Silver Sarah'.

Her goal was to win the gold medal at the Rio 2016 Olympics. Unfortunately she injured her shoulder at the world championships in Bolivia and failed to qualify.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2012 London	Womens BMX	Silver



Photo courtesy of Iain McGregor /Fairfax NZ



## New Zealand Olympian

# Mahé Drysdale

<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Mahé Drysdale	Melbourne, Australia
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
19 November 1978	Rowing



### Life and Career

Mahé Drysdale is a New Zealand rower. He has trained full-time since 2001. He has represented New Zealand at four Olympic Games and at nine World Championships. Drysdale began competing at a world level in 2003 and raced in the coxless four. After his New Zealand crew finished fifth in the final, he then moved to the single sculls.

Drysdale won the Olympic bronze in 2008 and the Olympic gold in 2012.

After the 2012 Olympics, Drysdale took a short sabbatical where he competed in Coast to Coast and Ironman competitions.

In 2016, Drysdale competed in the Rio Olympics where he won gold.

Drysdale announced his retirement from rowing in June 2021.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	Single Sculls	Bronze
2012 London	Single Sculls	Gold
2016 Rio	Single Sculls	Gold



Photo courtesy of Ann Woolliams

## New Zealand Paralympian

# Sophie Pascoe



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Sophie Pascoe	Christchurch, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
8 January 1993	Swimmer

Paralympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	100m Backstroke	Gold
2008 Beijing	100m Breaststroke	Gold
2008 Beijing	200m Individual Medley	Gold
2008 Beijing	100m Butterfly	Silver
2012 London	100m Freestyle	Gold
2012 London	100m Butterfly	Gold
2012 London	200m Individual Medley	Gold
2012 London	50m Freestyle	Silver
2012 London	100m Backstroke	Silver
2012 London	100m Breaststroke	Silver
2016 Rio	50m Freestyle	Silver
2016 Rio	100m Backstroke	Gold
2016 Rio	200m Individual Medley	Gold
2016 Rio	100m Butterfly	Gold

### Life and Career

Sophie Pascoe is a Paralympic swimmer. At the age of three, Pascoe and her father were in a ride on lawn mower accident. She had her left leg amputated below the knee and was left with severe scarring on her right leg.

Pascoe began swimming at the age of 7, and at the age of 15, she was the youngest ever New Zealander to attend the Paralympic games in Beijing 2008.

Pascoe has won nineteen medals at the Paralympics. As of 2021, Sophie Pascoe holds 20 Para swimming world records across long and short course races.

2016 Rio	100m Freestyle	Silver
2020 Tokyo	100m Freestyle	Gold
2020 Tokyo	200m Individual Medley	Gold
2020 Tokyo	100m Breaststroke	Silver
2020 Tokyo	100m Backstroke	Bronze

## New Zealand Olympian

# Sir Mark Todd, KNZM CBE

### Name

Mark Todd

### Born

1 March 1956

### Place of Birth

Cambridge, New Zealand

### Sport

Equestrian



## Life and Career

Sir Mark Todd is a New Zealand horseman who competes in the discipline of eventing. He has won many competitions including gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

In 1988, Todd awarded the New Zealand Sportsman of the year and winner of the Supreme Halberg Award. In the same year, he was inducted into The New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

One of the most notable horses Todd rode was Charisma, when winning Olympic Gold Medals in 1984 and 1988.

Todd won his fifth Olympic medal at the 2012 Olympics in London. He equalled the Olympic record for the longest gap between first and last Olympic medals, 28 years. The 2012 Games were Todd's sixth, having competed in 1984, 1988, 1992, 2000 and 2008. Todd retired in July 2019.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1984 Los Angeles	Individual Eventing	Gold
1988 Seoul	Individual Eventing	Gold
1988 Seoul	Team Eventing	Bronze
2000 Sydney	Individual Eventing	Bronze
2012 London	Team Eventing	Bronze

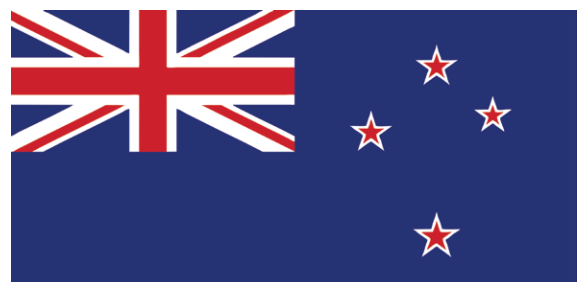


Photo courtesy of Sffubs



## New Zealand Olympian

# Sarah Ulmer



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Sarah Ulmer	Whakatane, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
14 March 1976	Cycling

### Life and Career

Sarah Ulmer was the first New Zealander to win an Olympic cycling gold medal. Both her father and grandfather represented New Zealand in cycling.

At the Athens Olympics, she was the flag bearer in the opening ceremony for New Zealand. After 2004, Ulmer changed from track racing to road racing. In 2007, she announced her retirement from cycling and attended the 2008 Olympics as a mentor.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2004 Athens	Individual Pursuit	Gold

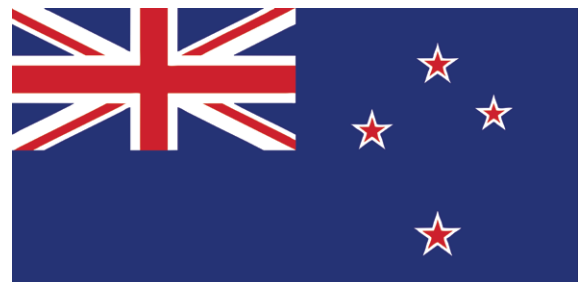


Photo courtesy of James F. Perry

## New Zealand Olympian

# Danyon Loader



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Danyon Loader	Timaru, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
21 April 1975	Swimming

### Life and Career

Danyon loader is one of New Zealand's most successful swimmers. In May 2003, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. When he retired, he had set 58 national records and four world records.

Loader was New Zealand's first swimmer to break world records in two different strokes. Loader is New Zealand's first Olympic Ambassador. He now coaches other swimmers.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1992 Barcelona	200m Butterfly	Silver
1996 Atlanta	200m Freestyle	Gold
1996 Atlanta	400m Freestyle	Gold

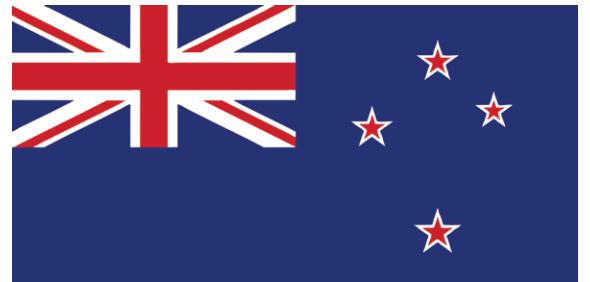


Photo courtesy of FAIRFAX NZ

## New Zealand Olympian

### Ian Ferguson, MBE



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Ian Ferguson	Taumarunui, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
2 July 1952	Canoeing

#### Life and Career

Ian Ferguson is one of New Zealand's most successful Olympians. He competed in the K1, K2 and K4 kayak events at five Olympic Games.

Ferguson has always been a successful sportsman, achieving in running, rugby and swimming.

In 1984, at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, he won three gold medals. Later, he was named New Zealand Sportsperson of the Year. Ferguson was the flag-bearer at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea; he won another gold and a silver at these games. At the age of 40, Ferguson went to his fifth Olympics. He competed extremely well and made the finals, going faster than ever before!

Currently, Ferguson holds the New Zealand record for the most individual medals won at the Olympic Games. He was Sportsman of the year in 1984, and a finalist in 1985 and 1988. Ferguson was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1984 Los Angeles	K-1 500m	Gold
1984 Los Angeles	K-2 500m	Gold
1984 Los Angeles	K-4 1000m	Gold
1988 Seoul	K-2 500m	Gold
1988 Seoul	K-2 1000m	Silver

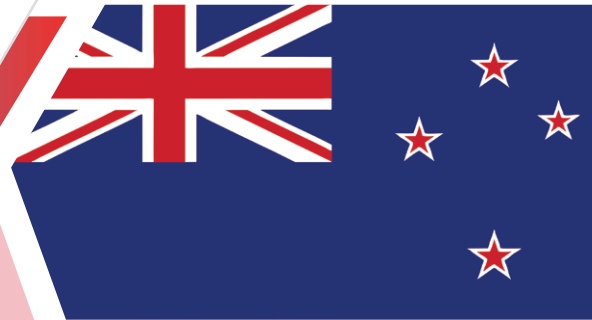
After retiring, Ferguson set up a kayak hire business and became a national coach and administrator.



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## New Zealand Olympian

### Barbara Kendall, MBE



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Barbara Kendall	Papakura, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
30 August 1967	Boardsailing

#### Life and Career

Barbara Kendall is one of New Zealand's most successful sportswomen. When she was 17, she took up boardsailing. Three years later, in 1987, Kendall decided to join the professional boardsailing circuit.

In 1992, Kendall won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics. It was New Zealand's only gold medal at be won at those games and she was the first New Zealand woman to win an Olympic gold medal since Yvette Williams 40 years earlier.

In 1996, Kendall was New Zealand's team captain and flag-bearer during the Atlanta Olympics. At the Games, she won a silver medal.

Interestingly, she was the first New Zealand woman to compete at five Olympic Games. Kendall retired in May 2010.

Kendall was named New Zealand Sailor of the Year in 1992 and 1998, and won the Halberg Award as Sportswoman of the Year in 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002. She won the Lonsdale Cup in 1999.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
1992 Barcelona	Sailboard (Lechner)	Gold
1996 Atlanta	Sailboard (Mistral)	Silver
2000 Sydney	Sailboard (Mistral)	Bronze

## New Zealand Olympian

# Dylan Schmidt



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Dylan Matthew Schmidt	Southport, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
7 January 1997	Gymnastics – Trampoline

### Life and Career

Dylan Schmidt is an individual and synchronised trampolinist, and former artistic gymnast. He was introduced to Trampoline at age of five by his older brother and sister.

Schmidt began competing in 2005. He trains six days a week, usually for two hours. He achieved gold at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in China and started his senior career with a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish at the 2014 World Championship. He was named the 2014 College Sport Auckland Young Sportsman of the Year. Schmidt placed in the top 10 at the 2015 World Championships and he gained a silver medal at the Olympic Test Event in 2016.

Dylan was the first New Zealand athlete to compete in Trampoline at the Olympic Games in Rio.

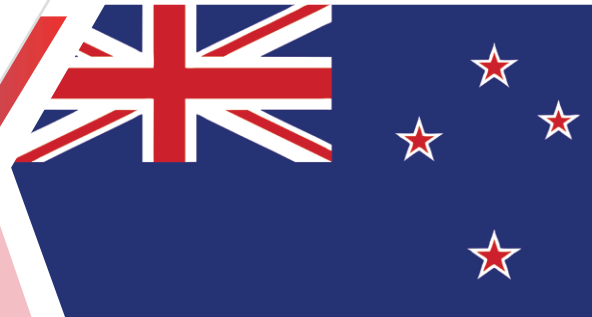
After injury kept him from competing in 2018, Dylan attended the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and went home with a bronze medal.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2016 Rio	Gymnastics – Trampoline	–
2020 Tokyo	Gymnastics – Trampoline	Bronze



# New Zealand Olympian

## Eliza McCartney



<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Eliza McCartney	Auckland, New Zealand
<b>Born</b>	<b>Sport</b>
11th December 1996	Athletics – Track and field, pole vaulting

### Life and Career

Eliza McCartney is a New Zealand Olympian who was born in Auckland. Both her parents are athletes. Her father competed in high jump and her mother competed as a gymnast.

She grew up with two younger brothers and was a netball player at high school. She participated in a range of sports when she was younger and started competing in high jump as a young teenager. She shortly moved on to pole vaulting.

After a few years of winning national and international titles, McCartney was selected to compete in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. She won a bronze medal and became the youngest Olympic medallist in the woman's pole vault. She was only 19.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2016 Rio	Pole Vault	Bronze