



Sport is about turning up and not giving up, and no one exemplifies this better than the Transplant New Zealand team which represented the nation at the 21st World Transplant Games in Málaga, Spain. The kidney, liver, bone-marrow and heart recipients, plus a living donor and a donor family member, competed against over 2,200 athletes from 60 member countries. New Zealand's youngest athlete was aged 8; the oldest 73. They participated in the largest organ donation awareness event on the globe; the equivalent of the Olympics in the transplantation space.

Every athlete who took part was celebrating their second chance by embracing adventure and living life to the fullest. From the pool to the track, the court and on the field, they are all totally inspirational and show others that amazing things are possible. The athletes are alive today because a generous person and family in a hospital somewhere said 'yes' to organ and tissue donation.



(left to right) Lisa Brown, Brian Wigmore, Teimouraz Bitliev, Matthew Field, Ray Morrissey, Bryan Eckersley, Ken Newlands, Sara Ford, Dave Swarbrick, Colin Church, Laurence Smith, Dave Irvine



Special acknowledgement and big thank you to Kirsty Johnson-Cox, our physio, for her support of our team.



Congratulations to all the medal winners on their achievements in their age categories

Full medal tally later in this newsletter.



Our Association acknowledges with sadness the recent death of our Patron, Sir Colin Meads. We extend our condolences to his family.

Fit for life! Ambassador – Matthew Field

As with many of you, I recently returned from the World Transplant Games in Málaga Spain, followed by a well earned European vacation. Both were wonderful experiences and all New Zealand team members excelled in their chosen disciplines whilst providing a hugely supportive and positive environment for all associated with the team. In my opinion this is what makes our small country so great. We can come together so quickly even though we are not the largest or most high profile of countries, allowing us to be more successful and closer as a group.

The **Fit For Life!** programme continues to roll along with the introduction at the games of personalised athlete passports which document your Transplant Games involvements and achievements. Nine new ambassadors were also introduced to the transplant community with more to be unveiled in the near future. There are now 22 ambassadors worldwide from 14 different countries. The Association's long term goal is to have at least one representative from each of its member countries. Lastly, from a personal perspective I also attended the British Transplant Games in North Lanarkshire, Scotland before I left Europe. I found these to be an incredible experience and the most well rounded games I have attended. The amount of sponsorship, media interest, support and involvement from the British and Scottish public was fantastic to see. I believe this will extend to the 2019 games in Newcastle, making it perhaps the best games ever. I would love to see our team grow over the next few years and possibly reach upwards of twenty travelling transplant athletes in 2019.

Let's as a community continue to promote organ donation awareness and stay **MORE ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

BILLION STEPS CHALLENGE



September sees the launch of the **Fit for life!** Programme's latest initiative the **Billion Steps Challenge**. This is an exciting new online challenge embracing the entire transplant community, its friends and families. The aim is to collectively as a community walk billions of steps and share your adventures online. Help promote organ donation and raise awareness by joining an existing team or creating your own team of up to nine members and help the worldwide transplant community reach a collective goal of one billion steps by 17 December 2017.

The challenge is open to everyone – donors, donor families, recipients, dialysis patients, public health workers and of course the general public. It begins on 18 September and will run for 90 days with progress and tracking of all teams available online through the website StrideKick <https://stridekick.com/>.

To join a team or register one, please email matthewaugustinefield@gmail.com with your team name and member details before 8 September and I can set this up with the Federation. Let's once again show the world how great a country New Zealand is!

For more information visit <http://wtgf.org/billion-steps-challenge/>

If you are interested in participating at the following events, email Sheryl Power on sheryl@transplantnewzealand.org.nz



Registration closes in less than 50 days

The 2018 Winter Games in Anzère and Arbaz, Switzerland, will be the first of their kind in that they will be fully administered by the WTGF. Traditionally thought to be an event only for those who have been practicing winter sports for many years, the 2018 Games

are actually a wonderful opportunity for our transplant participants – as well as their friends, family, donor families and living donors – to embrace the **Fit for Life!** initiative.

The fresh air of the Swiss Alps, the magnificent Anzère Spa and Wellness Center and the many winter walking trails are an ideal place to start your **Fit for Life!** journey. For those who have never seen the snow or tried any winter sports in the past, snow shoeing is a wonderful way to start and is accessible to people of all fitness levels, from low to high impact, depending on the slopes and speed. Everywhere in Anzère and Arbaz is within walking distance and the air is pollution free. For those who would like to try their hand competing at curling, transport is organised to Crans-Montana and first time curlers are more than welcome.

The Nicholas Green Camp, a fully supervised live in camp for children aged from 8 to 15 is offering one free place for a beginner skier per country. Ski clothing and equipment are supplied for all Nicholas Camp participants.

Make Anzère the place to meet your friends from around the world from 7 to 12 January 2018. For those who wish to stay longer, we are offering the nights of 6 and 12 January free in the registration package for those who are in apartments (meals not included for the extra nights). The WTGF looks forward to seeing you in Anzère and delivering your **Fit for Life!** Passport.

Please visit www.wtgf.org/wintergames



Gold Coast – 30 September to 6 October 2018

Recipients of solid organs, tissue and corneas are all eligible to participate. Donor families, living donors, supporters can participate in some events. While there are some elite athletes who attend the Games, they are by no means an elite sporting competition. The Games are about participation – getting involved and having a go! Equally as important; they are a chance to meet new people and be a part of the transplant community.



Newcastle Gateshead – 17 to 24 August 2019

Details to follow – watch this space!

NEW ZEALAND TEAM'S MEDAL TALLY

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Junior Athlete	
1			Lisa Brown	50 metre sprint
1			Lisa Brown	Long Jump
1			Lisa Brown	50 metre swim
	1		Lisa Brown	Ten Pin Bowls Singles
		1	Lisa Brown	Ball Throw
			Adult Athlete	
1			Adrienne Smith	Donor Walk
1			Laurence Smith	Squash Singles
1			Ken Newlands & Brian Wigmore	Kayak Doubles Sprint
1			Matthew Field	Long Jump
	1		Matthew Field	High Jump
	1		Matthew Field	100 metres
		1	Sara Ford	Ten Pin Bowls Singles
	1		Dave Swarbrick	Golf
		1	Ray Morrissey	Golf
	1		Bryan Eckersley	Ten Pin Bowls Singles
	1		Bryan Eckersley	5km walk
		1	Brian Wigmore	Badminton
		1	Teimouraz Bitliev	Long Jump
1			Teimouraz Bitliev	High Jump
	1		Teimouraz Bitliev	Discus
		1	Teimouraz Bitliev	Javelin
8	7	6		

AGM AND NEW COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of the NZ Transplant Games Association was held in Málaga, Spain on 30 June 2017. A copy of the minutes can be obtained from Association Secretary, Adele Coull adele@transplantnewzealand.org.nz.

Bryan Eckersley and Diarmuid O'Keeffe resigned from the committee at the AGM. The Association is very grateful for their support during the time they served as committee members.

The committee for the 2017/18 year is:

President	Ken Newlands	Committee	Jacqui Church
Vice President	Dave Irvine		Aaron Coull
Secretary	Adele Coull		Matthew Field
Treasurer	Kim Lawrence		Sara Ford
Team Manager	Sheryl Power		Saint Kennach
Webmaster	Adam Joyce		Alan Power
			Laurence Smith
			Vivienne Smith
			Dave Swarbrick
			Sacha Wettenhall