NZTGA Newsletter

www.transplantnewzealand.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND TRANSPLANT GAMES

As always, first and foremost, a big welcome to all our new NZTGA members, we hope you enjoy being part of this special group. Please feel free to reach out and contact us at any stage.

hello@transplantnewzealand.org.nz

A message from our President

Hello everyone,
Welcome to this month's newsletter. Firstly, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members who took the time to join us for our AGM on 2nd September. Your input, support, and active involvement are what keep the NZTGA moving forward, and it's always great to connect with you all.

Later this month, our attention turns to the Australian Transplant Games in Launceston, Tasmania (26th September – 3rd October). We have a fantastic team of around 20 Kiwi athletes heading across the ditch to compete and represent New Zealand. On behalf of the entire committee and community, I want to wish every member of the team a safe trip and all the very best for their events. We're all cheering for you back home, and we look forward to following your progress and achievements throughout the week! And while we'll be cheering every result, it's worth remembering that the real achievement has already happened; simply showing up and standing on that start line is a victory in itself. Participation over podiums, always.



NZTGA President Conal Beban

As our team prepares to take the line in Australia, and as many of us train for upcoming events like The Spectacle or next year's World Transplant Games, it's important to pause and acknowledge our living donors, donor families, and donors. Behind every single step, throw, pedal, lap, and swing in our community is the profound generosity and selfless gift of a donor and their loved ones.

Lastly, we love hearing about what our members are up to right across the country. Whether you've recently taken part in a local event, achieved a personal milestone, or have a story to share, please drop us a line. Your updates help inspire others and keep our community connected.

Best regards,

Conal Beban

THE SPECTACLE
ROAD & TRAIL RUNNING FESTIVAL

Run the Spectacle - *Nelson 4th - 5th December 2026*

The NZTGA is proud to be one of the chosen recipient charities selected for The Spectacle 2026.
First held in 2024, The Spectacle is one of New Zealand's newest running events, taking over the heart of Nelson for 2 days of action in early December, celebrating the gift of running, the gift of life.
With options of road running or trail, the weekend caters for all levels of fitness and ability; from the 5km road run or walk, right through to the 100 Mile (160km of Nelson trails). The weekend also features an elite 1 mile road race (and an amateur mile), team relays, juniors races, a volunteer parade, a mascot race, the Racing Rod for Ranui Relay and concludes with a free community concert. For the 3rd year in a row, New Zealand's own pioneers of Aotearoa funk/soul/reggae, The Black Seeds, will keep the Saturday night crowd entertained with their fantastic tunes. One of the band members is even dusting off the running shoes, with Trumpeter Barrett lacing up for 22km!

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Run the Spectacle, *continued*....

Speaking from experience, it really is a polished event and a great weekend in Nelson. There is still plenty of time to enter (and train), and visit one of New Zealand's best regions.

How can you help?

The NZTGA is looking for people of all abilities to get involved in The Spectacle and use your chosen event as an opportunity to fundraise for next years World Transplant Games, being held in Leuven, Belgium - let each step become that little bit more meaningful.
Representing New Zealand at the World Transplant Games is truly a unique and moving experience. Being entirely self-funded, any money raised will go towards the NZTGA team expenses (registration, uniforms etc).
In addition to the financial gains, you will contribute towards growing awareness, not only about the NZTGA, but the importance of looking after yourself and organ donation. We are living proof that you can lead a healthy and active life following a life-changing organ donation and participating in events like The Spectacle (and the World Transplant Games) is real evidence of this. You don't need to have had a transplant to help us, we will welcome anyone that is willing to run for our cause.

We would like to thank those that have already got on board. If you are keen to get involved, get in touch or register directly via The Spectacle website.

Enter to run: https://www.thespectacle.co.nz/
Register to fundraise: https://spectacle26.grassrootz.com/

Can't make it? No worries, you can still donate money to any of our fantastic legends that have chosen us as their charity to run for – every dollar helps.
Feel free to pass this newsletter on, or share our social media platforms, with anyone that is keen to Run the Spectacle!

Donate now:
https://spectacle26.grassrootz.com/the-new-zealand-transplant-games-association

Full list of running options include:

100 mile / 160km (trail)
50km (trail)
22km (trail)
10km (trail/road)
10km relay (trail/road)
5km (road)
1 mile Open (road)
1 mile Elite (road)
There are also Junior specific categories in some events



Above: Photos from throughout the weekend, including our very own NZTGA President, Conal Beban, crossing the finishing line for the "Racing Rod for Ranui" relay, held during the first ever Spectacle running weekend in 2024.

THE SPECTACLE
SEEING IS BELIEVING

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In brief:

Soon to be seen.....
Earlier in the year we received a funding grant to purchase a NZTGA gazebo and teardrop banners, along with a few other associated accessories. They are currently in process of being signwritten, and once done, we aim to get out into the community more and have a visual presence at selected events throughout the year. If you have any ideas or recommendations on good community events you would like us to target (preferably active / wellness based events), and/or you are involved with any directly, feel free to get in touch and we will try and get along.

Off to Oz.....
As mentioned by our President, the Australian Transplant Games are only a couple of weeks away. Held every alternate year to the World Transplant Games, New Zealand is warmly welcomed to the Australian based event and, like the Worlds, it offers a memorable experience, celebrating life.
We wish all of our athletes a safe trip and an enjoyable time. Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for photos and updates.
The Australin Transplant Games – Launceston, Tasmania. 26th September – 3rd October 2026. https://australiantransplantgames.com/

Less than 12 months to go.....
We are now well under 12 months to go until the next World Transplant Games, being held in Leuven, Belgium. This week long event is a special experience, bringing transplant survivors from all over the world together for one memorable week. We hope you enjoyed the previous newsletter, outlining a typical week at the Games.
The NZTGA welcomes both new and returning athletes that are willing to join our team. If you have any queries about the event, feel free to get in touch, we would love to have you on board.
The World Transplant Games – Leuven, Belgium. 1st – 8th August 2027.
https://wtg2027.com/

Out and about
Great to see some of our members out and about over the last few months. We love seeing members of the transplant community out enjoying themselves, so if that's been you, don't be shy, let us know and send through a photo or two.



Allen Chote recently represented New Zealand at the Seniors World Cup, an annual invitational football tournament, held in Thailand. Here we see him (#15) in action for New Zealand in their Group game against France.



Meanwhile Jennie Parker has been clocking up the miles.... Not only did she complete her 200th Park Run this winter, she also completed the full Sydney Marathon in late August. A massive well done from the NZTGA.

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And lastly, hot off the press.....

The World Transplant Games Federation have just announced the next host cities for the World Transplant Games. Following Leuven, Belgium in 2027, Vancouver, Canada will host the games in 2029, followed by Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in 2031.

Following an extensive international bidding and evaluation process, both cities presented ambitious and inspiring visions — combining outstanding sporting environments with a deep commitment to transplantation, organ donation awareness, healthy living and celebrating the gift of life.

Each Games will bring together transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, supporters, medical professionals and volunteers from around the world — united through sport and the shared celebration of the gift of life.



The last word.

That's all from us, the NZTGA, for this newsletter. Spring is a great time of year to get out and about, so be sure to keep living life to its fullest and enjoy the longer days.
Noho ora mai.