

# BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

NOVEMBER 2025



SPECIAL OLYMPICS NZ  
**2025 NATIONAL  
SUMMER GAMES**  
ŌTAUHAHI CHRISTCHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

30

**DAYS  
TO GO**

## Kia ora!

It's hard to believe, but we're now just one month away from the National Summer Games kicking off in Christchurch!

And with that, is the last edition of the NSG Newsletter. Its been a pleasure counting down with you since May, but I must hang up my newsletter writing boots for the year and leave you with one final, very special edition before the big event! 😊

### COMING UP:

**This week:** Sunflower Lanyards & Luggage Labels being mailed out to clubs!\*

**W/C 10<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Games Info Pack emailed to clubs

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Sports Programmes & Results process issued

**W/C 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Bus timetables & final high level event briefing

**9th/10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Clubs travel to NSG and we can't wait to see you!

\*please note only clubs travelling by air will receive luggage labels & only those who requested sunflower lanyards at registration will receive these.

### What's inside?

👋 Meet your Events Crew - say hello to the team behind NSG, from RSC's to Venue Leads, our SONZ intern and everyone else who'll be helping bring every part of the Games to life!

🧳 Packing list – A handy checklist to make sure nothing important gets left behind.

📋 Final reminders – All the last bits of info you'll need before arrival day, like when you'll get your transport timetable to luggage labels and sunflower lanyards.

🛍️ Merchandise update – limited merch (plus a new special edition tee!) will be available to buy at the Games, find out where & and when here!

📅 Sports Programmes - how and when you will receive your detailed sports programmes!



### Unified Exhibition Football Match

On Sunday 14 December, the day following the completion of the official Football competition, a fun unified style exhibition match will be hosted at the Nga Puna Wai football ground. This match is open to all club competition football players, other available club athletes, team management, and volunteers.

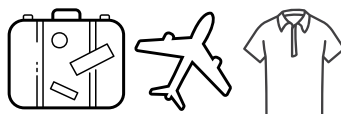
If you are available and keen to be involved or just want to watch, keep Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 11.00am free. We will provide further information and reminders at the NSG.

## PACKING ESSENTIALS!

### Clothing & Gear

- Team uniform and competition gear
- Regular clothes for downtime
- Sports shoes & regular shoes
- Warm layer and rain jacket, Canterbury
- weather can change quickly!
- Something for the Closing Party!
- Hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen

Please do not bring anything valuable that could get lost!



### Personal Items

- Toiletries
- Medication (if needed)
- Reusable water bottle
- Phone and charger
- Cash/Money

### Extras

- A small day bag for venues
- Snacks and any comfort items from home
- A positive attitude and big smile, you're going to have an amazing week! 😊

## Kaha's Corner

Kia ora! I am glad to see you in the last Kaha's corner for 2025! **\*tries not to cry\***



Its been flap-tastic getting to know you in this little corner of the Newsletter.

I'll sniffle my way through the last Q & A, but only if you promise to keep it together too...

**Q:** Dear Kaha, how hot do you think Christchurch weather will be at NSG?

Mostly sunny, but like a kiwi hopping around, you'll want to be ready for a sneaky breeze or shower. Pack a hat, jumper, and sunscreen to stay comfy on the move. **:A**

Just 30 days until Christchurch, and I'm soaring with excitement. Until then... keep your feathers dry... I'm not crying, you are!

## ATHLETE DESIGN TEE

You may remember our awesome winner of the Athlete Design T-Shirt, Bradley Garner.



Bradley's t-shirt design and printing has been finalised and will be for sale in Christchurch as a limited edition T-Shirt! These t-shirts will only be available to purchase at the games, and will cost \$25 including GST.

## Keeping you safe at the games

There's still time to check your measles vaccination status before the Games. Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) recommends that everyone makes sure their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations are up to date.

Staying up to date helps keep you and everyone around you healthy and ready for an amazing week!

## CLOSING CEREMONY "PARTY"



A reminder that this year the Closing Party is a disco with very few formalities. Expect food, music and the best dance moves in town!

Sun 14 Dec, 5.00pm - 8.00pm



# MEET THE TEAM!

**Fran Scholey**


SONZ's CEO Fran will be here, there and everywhere in Christchurch, supporting the team wherever needed.

**Liz Fitzgerald**


The queen of NSG! As Events Director, Liz knows everything about anything and will be leading all the action on the ground in Christchurch.

**Josie Fitzsimons**


Josie is the Venue Lead at Parakiore, making sure everything runs seamlessly across Swimming, Basketball and HAPS.

**Mitch Rhodes**


Mitch is the Venue Lead at Ngā Puna Wai, home to football, athletics, bocce, and powerlifting! He'll be keeping the action running smoothly across all four sports.

**Anna Bastin**


Anna is our Events Manager, the crucial link between all venues and NSG. Across every sport and schedule, she keeps everything on track and everyone connected!

**Hannah McNally**


As Operations and Logistics Lead, Hannah's across accommodation, catering, and travel keeping everything moving smoothly.

**Stephen Berryman**


Stephen is managing the Healthy Athletes Programme, making sure everything runs smoothly and athletes get the support they need.

**Bridie Chetwin-Kelly**


Bridie is leading our incredible team of over 600 volunteers, making sure everyone knows their role and has a great experience!

**Mark Davies**


Mark usually keeps the numbers in check as Head of Finance, but at NSG he's managing merchandise, and cheering on his son Adam in the pool!

**Nate Kenah**


Nate is our intern, helping with accommodation and keeping the Athlete Leadership Group on track!

**Robert Kuus**


Even from afar, Robert is keeping things on track in his crucial GMS role!

**Sarah Dalton**


Sarah usually handles social media, but at NSG she'll be competing in equestrian and showing off her dance moves at the closing party!

**Joshua Fransen**


Joshua is managing the guest programme, making sure everything runs smoothly!

**Rachel Goodin**


Rachel is delivering a very special intro to Youth Athletes Programme in Christchurch!

**Rachel Pooch**


Rachel is stepping in as an RSC for equestrian - making sure the action trots along without a hitch.

**Louisa Picker**


Louisa is our Social Media lead, keeping NSG in the spotlight and everyone informed!

**Coen Lammers**


Coen is our Media Lead, capturing every highlight and headline.

## THE RSC'S

**Our Regional Sports Coordinators (RSCs) are here to help your sport run smoothly. They'll be at your venues making sure everything's ready so you can focus on doing your best!**

**Paula Winsor**

### *Upper South Island Regional Sports Coordinator*

Basketball boss at NSG's — of everything except basketball! Fuelled by a passion for sport, people, and creating opportunities for everyone to get involved, have fun, and give it a go. Always up for a high five and a good chat about how your day's going!


**Matt de Jardine**

### *Regional Sports Coordinator Central North Island & Upper North Island Lead*

I'm back for my second NSG, and I'll be fuelled by excitement, caffeine, and the world's best athletes around me. My sport will be Athletics, which I'm overseeing at Ngā Puna Wai, and I can't wait to see all the sports in action at this hub and wherever else I'm able to get to. I'm so excited to see you all in action, catch up with my athlete friends, and make many new ones too.





## Chris Moffitt

*Lower South Island Regional Sports Coordinator*



For my second National Summer Games I'm again involved in the running of two sports. I'll be based at Parakiore, working alongside Swimming's GMS crew. As well as my role at the pool, I'll also be remotely supporting the Indoor Bowls crew. If you see me around the poolside, come over and say hi! I'm not very interesting, but it'd be really nice to get to know you and hear all about your NSG experience! 😊

## Andy Napier

*Upper North Island (South) Regional Sports Coordinator*



I am super excited to be attending my first ever National Summer Games in Christchurch. I will be working at the Equestrian Competition and the Power Lifting. So, I will be going from the quietest sport (Shush – don't frighten the horses!) to the loudest and most boisterous (LET'S GO!!) – I hope I don't get them mixed up! I can't wait to see everyone trying their best, having fun and making new friendships.

## Ben Wallace

*Lower North Island Regional Sports Coordinator*

I'm looking after tenpin bowling at this year's Games. As a proud dad of three and a passionate football fan, I bring plenty of energy, humour, and heart to the event. I love sharing a laugh with athletes and creating an atmosphere where everyone feels supported and celebrated. I can't wait to see you all shine at the National Summer Games!



## Steve Lyster

*Lower North Island Regional Sports Coordinator*

Hi, my name is Steve and I am the RSC for the Lower North Island - West. I'll be hanging out at Ngā Puna Wai at the NSG with the Bocce crew. Please come say hi to me (I am the older dude with short hair and a grey(ish) beard) and if you have a spare moment or two, perhaps you could teach me how to play duck, duck, goose as I'd never heard of this game until recently!!! 😊



## Sophie Leveridge

*Upper North Island Regional Sports Coordinator*



Swimming's biggest hype-woman! If there's a race to be swum, you'll find me poolside, trying not to get splashed! I'll be cheering louder than the starter hooter, celebrating every PB like it's gold, calming the pre-race nerves, and reminding everyone to breathe, quite literally! Always up for a high five or a post-swim chat to see how the race went!



## Chante Du Plessis

*Upper North Island Regional Sports Coordinator*

Football's number one fan! If there's a ball to be kicked, you'll find me there, cheering, organising, or jumping in for a quick game. I'm all about getting people involved, having a laugh, and making sure everyone feels part of the team. Big on good vibes, great goals, and post-match chats about who almost scored that screamer!

## Law Enforcement Torch Run

Kicking off on Saturday 4 October from Whangārei Town Basin, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has travelled through the Bay of Islands, Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Napier, Palmerston North, and even made a detour to Greymouth - shining a light on our athletes along the way.

Next stop is Wellington on 15 November before the Torch heads south to Nelson, Blenheim, Dunedin, and Invercargill, finishing in Christchurch on Tuesday 9 December, the day before our Opening Ceremony.

A huge shout-out to all our Clubs, athletes, and especially the NZ Police and emergency services for their incredible support along the journey.



### MISSED OUT ON MERCH?

**Get it at the Games!**

**Merchandise Stall Location** 📍  
Parakiore Recreation Centre

**Opening Times & Days** 🕒  
(until sold out):

Wednesday | 10.00am – 3.00pm  
Thursday | 9.00am – 4.30pm  
Friday | 9.00am – 4.30pm  
Saturday | 9.00am – 4.30pm  
Sunday | 9.00am – 2.00pm

### Final swimming webinar details:

This will cover the final programme for NSG Swimmers

Tuesday 25 November  
7.00pm



Please contact  
[sport@specialolympics.org.nz](mailto:sport@specialolympics.org.nz) with  
any queries

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