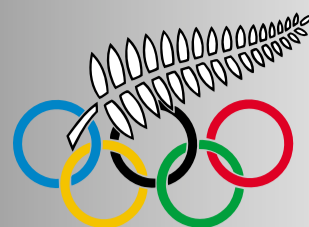


OLYMPIANS



OLYMPIC MUSEUM
New Zealand Olympic Committee

SKIING

Skiing as a sport started in Europe in the 1850s and the first competitions were held in Germany in 1879.

Today it is the winter sport with the greatest number of events on the Olympic Programme. Alpine skiing was the only Olympic Winter Games sport that New Zealanders participated in from 1952 through to 1984.

BILL HUNT



Alpine skier Bill Hunt was in the New Zealand team that went to the VI Olympic Winter Games at Oslo (Norway) in 1952. Bill grew up on a farm near Te Kuiti and began skiing while studying at Massey Agricultural College, going on to become a New Zealand ski champion for many years during the 1950s and early 1960s. Today Bill competes in Masters ski racing at an international level.

FIONA STEVENS (NEE JOHNSON)

Fiona Johnson spent her childhood at Mt. Torlesse near Springfield in Canterbury. Her early years included learning to ski on the farm before moving on to compete in club races at local ski fields. Excellent performances in both New Zealand and international competition led to Fiona's selection for the New Zealand team for Lake Placid (USA) in 1980.



SIMON WI RUTENE

Simon Wi Rutene was born at the site of Pukeroa Pa, Ohinemutu, Rotorua in the late 1960s. Simon went on to become the only New Zealander, to-date, that has competed at four Olympic Winter Games, from Sarajevo in 1984 through to Lillehammer ten years later, fulfilling a Olympic dream from his childhood.

ANNELISE COBERGER

Annelise Coberger of Christchurch began skiing at the age of three and went on to compete on the national and international ski racing circuits in the late 1980s and early 1990s. At the XVI Olympic Winter Games at Albertville (France) in 1992, Annelise became the first skier from the Southern Hemisphere to win an Olympic Winter Games medal.



BOBSLEIGH

The sport of bobsleigh began around 1886 when the first sled was built in Britain. Bobsleigh joined the Olympic Programme in 1924.



BLAIR TELFORD

The drive and determination of a few New Zealanders living in North America in the 1980s led to our first bobsleigh team competing at the XV Olympic Winter Games at Calgary (Canada) in 1988. Blair Telford from Taranaki, already an achiever in New Zealand surf lifesaving, was part of that inaugural team.

SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING

Although ice skating events have been part of the Olympic Games since 1908, short track speed skating only joined the Olympic Programme in 1992.

CHRIS NICHOLSON

Chris Nicholson grew up in Auckland playing a variety of sports and began ice skating as a teenager. Chris is a dual Olympian, having competed in cycling at the Games of the XXV Olympiad at Barcelona (Spain) in 1992, only months after returning from competing in short track speed skating at the XVI Olympic Winter Games at Albertville (France) in February 1992.



SNOWBOARDING

Snowboarding started in the United States in 1965 but it was not added to the Olympic Programme until 1995. Mt Yakebitai near Nagano (Japan) hosted the first Olympic Winter Games snowboard (giant slalom) competition in 1998.

PAMELA BELL

Pamela Bell from Wellington spent many winter weekends with family at Mount Ruapehu. It was her father who introduced Pam to snowboarding and she went on to include worldwide competition in her career. She earned her place in the 1998 New Zealand Olympic Winter Games. Today she is a professional snowboarder through the work of the New Zealand Snowboard Academy.



New Zealand