



MEDIA KIT



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***RIO 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES
8 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2016***

The Paralympic Games on Seven

Unmissable on Seven and Connected Devices

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Foreword

In Rio, we will be part of a global television community that will capture dramatic vision of some of the most extraordinary moments in sports.

We will be undertaking the most extensive coverage of a Paralympic Games ever – every key moment of the Paralympic Games will be delivered to all Australians across 7TWO and connected devices.

The Paralympics Games are a commitment to excellence that invigorates us and we look forward to meeting the challenge of bringing one of the world's biggest and most inspiring events to television and connected devices.

Seven will produce more than 120 hours of live and highlights coverage as well as live Opening and Closing ceremony coverage. 200 people will be involved in the Australian television coverage with major production and transmission centres in Rio, Sydney and Melbourne creating Seven's Paralympic Games coverage through live and exclusive coverage plus Sunrise, Seven News and The Morning Show and Daily Edition. Seven's coverage will access 14 separate vision feeds into the network's coordination centre.

This book reflects our commitment to the Paralympic Games. It tells not only how we will deliver the Games to all Australians, it tells the story of remarkable athletes doing extraordinary things.



How We Will Cover the Paralympic Games

Kirsty Bradmore, Executive Producer, Paralympic Games on Seven

The key for us in covering the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games is to recognise every athlete has a story of achievement to tell. Seven's intention is to inform, entertain and build a connection with the athletes, both Australian and international, as they strive for medal success. Above all else, the Paralympic Games is about elite sport and competition, and that is the reason Seven is so proud to be covering this unique event for the first time on free-to-air commercial television.

The moments I am most looking forward to sharing with our audiences over the 12 days are: following the journey of the Rollers who are striving to take back gold from arch-rivals, Canada in the Wheelchair Basketball, Evan O'Hanlon continuing his unquestioned dominance on the track, Ellie Cole adding to her already sizeable medal haul in the pool, and Dylan Alcott making the move from Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball to Wheelchair Tennis.

The team that has been assembled to host the coverage, Johanna Griggs, Mel McLaughlin, Tom Williams, Lawrence Mooney and Paralympian Annabelle Williams can't wait to share their excitement.

Joining our team in commentary will be Australia's greatest Paralympian, Matt Cowdrey, and six-time gold medalist Heath Francis. WC Tennis star, Dylan Alcott, will compete in Rio and then join our reporting team on the ground.

The Paralympic Games is an event 'beyond sport'. I'm sure Seven's coverage will provide enormous enjoyment for our audience as they witness the elite competition on display. It's also my hope the broadcast can play a small role in changing community perceptions of people with disabilities.

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From Saul Shtein, Head of Sport, Seven Network

Welcome to Seven's coverage of the Paralympic Games.

We have been entrusted with the honour and responsibility to create the coverage of what is undoubtedly today one of the biggest events in television.

We've done big events before. And we'll do it again. But the Paralympic Games is different. It is an extraordinary gathering of athletes, and each athlete has an extraordinary story.

We will be delivering our coverage across broadcast television and connected devices.

It is a coverage designed to give you the best seat in the house.

We journey to these Games with a long and proud association with the Olympic movement. And now we've added an association with the Australian Paralympic Committee. These Games in Rio will create indelible images. They are images that will build their own story, their own place in history as they unfold on television.

We will take you to Rio. It is through Seven that Australians will experience these Games but we recognise it is the athletes who will tell their own story and it is they who will ultimately determine our television coverage. Our responsibility is to their performances and their stories.

We will have the most extraordinary technology in place. You will see coverage that employs some new camera technologies and you will notice our approach to commentary where we will let our images tell the story. Our team is looking forward to being a part of one of the biggest events – and quite possibly most inspiring event - on television this year.

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From Kerry Stokes, Chairman, Seven West Media

The Paralympic Games will touch the lives of all Australians.

They will inspire all of us.

They will tell the stories of extraordinary people.

And all of us at Seven take great pride in being entrusted to deliver those stories and feats of these remarkable people to our audiences in Australia.

Just as with the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games is a journey that has a deep and abiding impact - a journey we share with all Australians whether or not they have touched the prize of a medal, or represented their country at this ultimate gathering of athletes.

These will be our first Paralympic Games. We are committing our resources and our people to deliver an extensive coverage across the Games. We are looking forward to Rio. It will be an extraordinary event that we will see unfold across broadcast television and connected devices.

But beyond our coverage, we remain committed to the Australian Paralympic Team. We are honoured to be not only the network of the Paralympic Games but also a sponsor of a team that inspires and delivers phenomenal performances.

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**From Tim Worner,
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer,
Seven West Media**

We are proud to be the network of the Paralympic Games.

These will be the most available Paralympic Games ever and all of us at Seven are very pleased to have done our bit to back the Australian team.

For us this has been something more than a business proposition. Our entire company has been part of the effort to give the team the chance to chase their dreams of gold in Rio.

This is a first for commercial television and we will be presenting up to 14 hours a day of action. And to make it the most accessible Paralympic coverage of all time, we will be streaming the entire telecast for free so it can be watched anytime anywhere.

Just like the Olympic Games, we know these Games will provide some inspirational and amazing stories. Seven is very proud to bring these stories to Australians and we are going to that in a unique way that is both entertaining and ground breaking whilst recognising the huge amount of hard work these athletes have put in just to get there, let alone to win a gold medal.

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**From Kurt Burnette, Event Director, Olympic Games,
and Chief Revenue Officer, Seven West Media**

We are looking forward to the Paralympic Games in Rio.

We are proud of our long partnership with the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic movement, and we look forward to our partnership with the International Paralympic Committee and the Australian Paralympic Committee.

We are delighted to be able to bring this extraordinary event to all Australians and can't wait to introduce the public to a whole new team of superstars doing super human things.

We met some of them in our special Bruce McAvaney series and heard their already remarkable stories. Now it's time to see them in action. The talking is over. The preparations are complete.

The Paralympic Games take sport and human endurance to new levels, they influence how we think and invigorate all of us, and we take with great pride our responsibility to provide the Games to all Australians across all forms of delivery platforms.

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Seven is ready for Rio

Seven is set to deliver the most comprehensive, innovative multi-platform and technologically advanced Paralympic Games coverage ever seen with its all-encompassing delivery across communications devices of the Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2015, the Seven Network, Australia's most-watched broadcast television platform, confirmed the signing of an agreement for an all-encompassing coverage of the forthcoming Paralympic Games in Rio.

Seven's agreement with the Australian Paralympic Committee delivers free broadcast television and expands beyond television to Seven's digital platforms.

We take great pride in our partnership. Beyond television and beyond our expanding coverage, we are so pleased to be actively involved with the Australian Paralympic Team as a major sponsor and partner. We are backing in great Australians.

We are honoured to be the network of the Paralympic Games in Rio. We are proud of our long partnership with the IOC and the Olympic movement, and we look forward to our partnership with the International Paralympic Committee and the Australian Paralympic Committee. For the next two weeks, we will deliver stories to Australians that will become part of our history.



From The Australian Paralympic Committee

At the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) we help Australians with disabilities participate in sport and compete at the Paralympic Games through partnerships with governments, business, sporting bodies and the community. We are responsible for preparing the Australian Paralympic Summer and Winter Teams for the Paralympic Games, which we have done successfully since we were established in 1990.

At the London 2012 Paralympic Games in which 164 countries competed, Australia was placed fifth on the overall medal tally with 32 gold, 23 silver and 30 bronze medals. We help identify potential Paralympians through our Performance Talent Program and assist athletes to prepare for competition by providing support and funding for coaching, equipment and travel in the lead up to the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games and other major competitions. We act as the National Federation for Paralympic winter sport and the summer Paralympic sports of Goalball, Boccia, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Rugby. The Australian Wheelchair Rugby Team is the reigning Paralympic champion and World Champions.

At the 2012 Paralympic Games, 161 athletes from 13 sports were selected for the Australian Team, 43 of who were identified through the APC's Paralympic talent search activities. For the 2016 Paralympic Games, we are aiming to select a team of more 170 athletes in 15 sports. We have set a goal to finish top 5 on the overall medal tally, as we have done at every Paralympic Games since 1992.

Our partnerships with governments, business, national sporting organisations and disability groups are critical to delivering a successful Paralympic Team to the Games. We believe participation in sport provides positive social and physical benefits to people with disabilities, and plays an important role in changing community perceptions of people with disabilities. As a registered charity, we value the support and contribution of our donors, which is essential to enable us to send Australian Teams to the Games. At the heart of what we do are our athletes, who strive to compete at an elite level, upholding the ideals of the Paralympic movement.



Seven launches 7Live for the Paralympic Games

Seven to deliver all-encompassing coverage across multiple platforms for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio

Seven is set to create and deliver a comprehensive and technologically advanced coverage of the Paralympic Games in Rio to all Australians across multiple platforms.

Building on our coverage of the Olympic Games, Seven will deliver live coverage of the Paralympic Games on broadcast television and through the network's digital products. This will be Seven's first Paralympic Games.

We are delighted to be able to bring this extraordinary event to all Australians. We will deliver a coverage that takes the Paralympic Games to all Australians across a range of digital devices. We take great pride in our partnership and our newly formed agreement as a key sponsor of the Australian Paralympic Team. We look forward to working with them and our marketing and advertising partners in broadcasting an inspiring event in September.

Seven will broadcast the Paralympic Games on 7TWO and across the Screens of Seven with 7Live. It all begins with the Opening Ceremony from the Maracanã Stadium in Rio at 7:00am, AEST on 8 September.

A key component of Seven's commitment to coverage of the Paralympic Games across television and connected devices is the launch of a new free app: 7Live featuring the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.



The extensive broadcast and digital coverage of the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games will be showcased via a new set of digital products - '7live featuring the Paralympic Games' - and we are really excited to showcase the extraordinary talents of these inspirational athletes.

The new app is created and developed as part of Seven's suite of digital products for Android, iPhone and the web. It is available now in the app store, Google Play or at www.7live.com.au.

It will include a live simulcast stream of 7TWO's extensive and exclusive coverage of the Paralympic Games along with medal tallies, profiles of the Australian athletes and video on demand highlights.

The live streaming of Seven's coverage will also be available on multiple devices through PLUS7 and the 7Tennis app. Seven will also be delivering coverage and engaging with fans via 7TWO's social channels on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

All of Seven's content will be free to all users on all devices.

Seven's agreement with the Australian Paralympic Committee delivers free broadcast television and premium television rights, and expands beyond television to Seven's digital platforms.

Seven is creating a model to deploy its Paralympic Games content and coverage across an array of platforms – each leveraging, complementing and extending the network's broadcast television coverage. Seven's plans for enhanced digital viewing for its coverage of the Paralympic Games builds on the success of the network's digital television coverage of The Olympic Games in Rio.

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Seven's Paralympic Games Commentary Team

Matt Carmichael – Early Morning Anchor, 5:00-7:00am

Matt will host the Early Morning Highlights Program for morning competition. This two hour program will include Swimming heats, Athletics heats and finals, Cycling qualifications and finals plus coverage of many other sports, such as Wheelchair Basketball and Table Tennis.

Johanna Griggs – Morning Anchor, 7:00-11:00am

Johanna will host the evening (RIO) competition sessions. Finals in Swimming, Athletics, Track Cycling and coverage of the major events each day such as Triathlon, Rowing, Shooting and Canoe finals plus interviews and victory ceremonies. Johanna will also conduct live interviews with athletes in Rio as well as cross live to our reporters at different venues.

Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and Annabelle Williams – In Rio Today from 8:30-11:00pm

Mel and Lawrence will host the live, primetime program In Rio Today joined by Paralympic gold medallist, Annabelle Williams. All the Aussie gold medals, feature events in major sports, post-event interviews and victory ceremonies from Rio earlier in the day will be included in this program. There will be live athlete interviews with our panel, and friends and family of the athletes will drop into the studio.

Tom Williams – 11:00pm – 2:00am

Tom will present heats and qualifying events from the morning sessions in Rio, in particular Swimming, Athletics and Cycling. Importantly, there will also be some finals included in these sessions. For instance men's Wheelchair Tennis Finals will air as part of the morning competition.

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The Commentary Team

Australia's greatest ever Paralympian, Matthew Cowdrey, has been chosen as Seven's expert Swimming commentator, while in Athletics, we are delighted six-time gold medallist, Heath Francis has joined our team. Joining them in commentary will be broadcasters, Dave Culbert, Brenton Speed and Darren Boyd. Darren Boyd covered swimming at London 2012 Paralympic Games. Dave Culbert is a two-time long jump Olympian and commentator of athletics, cycling, tennis and a range of sports. Brenton Speed is an Olympic and football commentator, but can equally turn his hand to tennis, golf and many other sports.

News reporters Matt Carmichael and Emily Angwin, along with colour reporter Emma Davenport will be the eyes and ears for our viewers. They will be poolside, trackside and out and about in Rio with the athletes. A great addition to the team will be Paralympian Dylan Alcott, joining Seven from Day 7 onwards and hopefully, with his own gold medal around his neck.

Matthew Cowdrey – Swimming

In London 2012, Matt made history by becoming Australia's most successful Paralympian ever. Matthew won five gold, two silvers and a bronze medal in London to bring his total gold medal haul to 13. Matthew retired in 2015 with a total of 23 Paralympic medals.

Heath Francis – Athletics

Heath competed in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Summer Paralympics. In Beijing, he became the first arm amputee athlete to win the sprint treble (100m, 200m and 400m events) in the T46 classification at a Paralympics. Heath won 13 Paralympic medals in total (6 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze). He received a Medal of The Order of Australia for his three gold medals in Sydney 2000.

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Steve Robilliard – Ceremonies, Athletics and Table Tennis

Steve has 30 years' experience covering sport on television, as a commentator, journalist, presenter and producer. He has worked on the Olympics since Barcelona in 1992 on a wide variety of sports. His Olympic and Paralympic experience also includes the Winter Games of Salt Lake, Torino, Vancouver and Sochi.

Will Dowling – Athletics.

Will is an Irish commentator, specialising in athletics and football. He called London 2012 Paralympics for European Television and has been a commentator for IPC World and European Athletics Championships since 2013.

Matt Hill – Athletics and Cycling

Matt has broadcast at four Olympic Games, Beijing 2008, Singapore 2010 (Youth), London 2012 and Sochi 2014. His career highlight to date, was broadcasting Mo Farrah's famous 5000m win in London. He has also commented on Equestrian, Triathlon, Tennis, Volleyball, Rowing and Road Cycling.

Amy Bainbridge – Cycling and Swimming

Amy has been a commentator at three Paralympic Games for the International Paralympic Committee (Beijing, Vancouver and London). Amy has covered a number of international sports events including the Doha Asian Games and Sydney 2000 Olympics.

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Duane Dell'Oca – Swimming

Duane is an Award-winning journalist from South Africa. Known predominantly as a football commentator, his versatility will see him call a range of sports from Athletics to Golf at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. He will call Swimming at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Heather Fell – Swimming

British-born, Heather competed at the 2008 Summer Olympics, winning the silver medal in the women's modern pentathlon event. She also won the European Championships in 2007, gold at the 2008 and 2012 World Cups and silver in the 2009 and 2010 World Championships.

Neil Adams – Judo

Neil is an English judoka champion who has won numerous Olympic and World Championship medals in judo representing Great Britain.

Michaela Breeze – Powerlifting

Michaela is a former British weightlifter and two-time Commonwealth Games gold medal winner (Manchester, 2002 and Melbourne, 2006). She was awarded an MBE in 2011 for service to the sport.

Richard Drew – Table Tennis

A versatile broadcaster and newspaper columnist, Richard has commentated at both summer and winter Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, Youth Olympic Games and Asian Games – all for the Olympic Broadcasting Service.

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Peter Odgers – Table Tennis and Wheelchair Tennis

Peter is a lead commentator for a number of sports organisations including the ATP Tour, Women's Tennis Association and UEFA. He has covered a wide range of sports including the men's and women's gold medal matches in volleyball, table tennis and badminton at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.

Brent Pope – Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby

Brent was born, raised and spent his rugby playing career in New Zealand, but has lived and worked in Ireland for most of his broadcasting career.

Tom Kirkland – Wheelchair Basketball

Tom brings more than 30 years' experience in national and local sports media from the US. He was Opening and Closing Ceremonies' Host for Olympic Broadcast Services at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi.

Dan Strange – Highlights Host and Wheelchair Basketball

Dan is an all-rounder, who has commentated on cricket, hockey and a range of other sports at the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

Gerald de Kock – Wheelchair Tennis and Ceremonies

Gerald is a South African sports commentator specialising in cricket & cycling. He has worked on the last six Olympic Games either for SuperSport or OBS.



The Paralympic Games

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. Its purpose is to organise the Paralympic Games, and to manage, supervise, administrate, and promote Paralympic sporting events. It acts as the International Federation for nine sports, supervising and coordinating World Championships and other competitions.

Founded on 22 September 1989 as a non-profit organisation, the IPC is based in Bonn, Germany and aims to develop sports opportunities for all people with an impairment from the beginner to the elite level.

The vision of the IPC is 'to enable para-athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.' The Paralympic movement began relatively recently as the dream of neurosurgeon Sir Ludwig Guttman in Stoke Mandeville, England. He was inspired to incorporate competitive sports into the rehabilitation of World War II veterans with spinal cord-related injuries. Guttman's dream was realised when the first competition for athletes in wheelchairs was held on the opening day of the 1948 Olympic Games in London.

Soon after, other disability groups established international sport organisations to facilitate athletic competitions. Multi-disability competitions were held and came to be known as the Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Games were first held in Rome, Italy in 1960 and featured 400 athletes from 23 countries competing in 13 sports. Since then, the Paralympic Games have taken place every four years in the same year as the Olympic Games.



Since Seoul 1988 and Albertville 1992, the Games have taken place in the same venues as the Olympic Games. This arrangement has been formalised with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) first in 2000 through a cooperation agreement. In 2001, the two committees signed an agreement securing the practice of “one bid, one city,” meaning the same city will host both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over the years, the Paralympic Games have grown dramatically attracting more athletes, countries, sports, spectators and broadcast and media coverage.

Paralympic sport exists so that athletes with a disability have equal opportunities to compete and be successful in sport. Classification groups athletes who have similar impairments together into classes for competition in their particular sport. Each Paralympic sport has a different classification system.

An athlete who wishes to compete in Para-sport must have an eligible impairment that leads to a permanent activity limitation.

- Physical Impairment. Types of physical impairments for Paralympic sport are limb loss or limb deficiency, muscle weakness, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, joint restrictions, short stature or leg length difference.
- Vision Impairment
- Intellectual Impairment

Each sport specific classification system details the impairment types within their sport. Athletes are required to provide medical documentation for classification that details their impairment type and level of impairment.



There are specific minimal impairment criteria that athletes must meet in order to be eligible for the sport. This is determined through a classification assessment. By grouping similar athletes together, an athlete's disability plays less of an impact on the outcomes of competition. This means that classification helps to allow the fastest, strongest or best athletes in each class to succeed in their sport.

Classifiers are trained and certified, and assess athletes impairments to determine their sport class and sport class status, according to the International classification rules for their sport.

Classifiers have either medical or technical qualifications, combined with sport specific expertise.

In Australia, they are trained and certified by the Australian Paralympic Committee and national sports federations, and work as volunteers at a state, national and international level.

The APC is committed to ensuring that Australian athletes with physical, vision and intellectual impairment have access to classification at all levels of their sporting pathway. The APC leads the strategic direction of Australian classification, ensuring ongoing compliance with IPC Classification Code and the International Federation Classification Rules.

The APC is focused on creating more classification opportunities for athletes at a junior or developmental level and working with the National Federations to drive and develop the national classification directions for each sport.

The APC delivers classification programs for the sports of Alpine Skiing, Boccia, Goalball, Para-snowboard, Powerlifting and classification for athletes with a Vision Impairment across all sports.



National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)

The National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) are national organisations recognised by the IPC as the sole representatives of athletes with an impairment from their respective countries. The IPC currently has more than 170 NPCs, which are responsible for the entry, management and team preparation for the Paralympic Games and other IPC-sanctioned competitions.

International Sports Federations (IFs)

The International Federations (IFs) are independent sport federations recognised by the IPC as the sole representative of a Paralympic Sport. Their responsibilities include technical jurisdiction and guidance over the competition and training venues of their respective sports during the Paralympic Games. There are 16 IFs and four IPC-governed bodies associated with the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.



The Paralympic Games in Rio

The Logo

In September 2009, Brazilian agency Tatil beat 139 design studios and advertising agencies to win the Rio 2016 Olympics and Paralympics logo job. Tatil founder Frederico Gelli and his team created over 50 different logos before arriving at the final design for both events. On December 31, 2010, the emblem was shown to the world.

The Paralympics logo mixes two archetypal symbols: the heart and the infinity symbol. "It's not an obvious heart," says Gelli. "But it was important to find symbols that are perceived as positive in all cultures. "We used 3D because we wanted to create a tactile experience. You have a lot of blind people. We wanted to open a new experience for them."

The Slogan

The official slogan for the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America: "A New World". Along with the Olympic torch, the medals and the mascots, the slogan plays a major part in creating the unique identity of each Olympic Games. For Rio 2016, the core values of the slogan and the manifesto are unity, respect for diversity and the will for change.

The Mascot

The official mascots of the 2016 Summer Paralympics and Olympics were unveiled on 24 November 2014, with their respective names, Tom and Vinicius, chosen via a public vote whose results were announced on 14 December 2015. Nearly 325,000 people took part in the vote and 44 per cent chose to honour musicians and partners Vinicius de Moraes and Tom Jobim. The two are exponents of Bossa Nova, a movement that made everyone know and sing about the beauties of Rio. They were the creators of The Girl from Ipanema, one of the most played songs in the world.



Named after Brazilian musician Tom Jobim, the Paralympic mascot represents Brazilian flora and is able to constantly transform, with determination and joy growing and overcoming obstacles. In addition to practicing Paralympic sports, he is constantly on the move. He believes there is no obstacle too hard to overcome. He can pull anything from his big head of leaves to solve even the hairiest of problems. As the ambassador of the Paralympic Games, he will teach others to bring out their best. The mascots' fictional backstories state that they were both born from the joy of Brazilians after it was announced on October 2, 2009, that Rio would host the Games.

The Medals

The cases for the medals of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games have been designed in the shape of seeds, symbolising the courage, perseverance and development of Paralympic athletes. The seeds form an infinite rising spiral, representing the energy and continuous growth of the competitors.

The cases and the spiral have been inspired by the Paralympic motto “Spirit in motion”. The Paralympic medals all contain a surprising sensory innovation. It is now traditional for medal-winning athletes to kiss and bite their new treasured possessions.

At the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, there will be another ritual to follow.

Each medal contains a tiny rattle that will jingle when shaken, providing a new way for Paralympic athletes to celebrate their success. The gold, silver and bronze medals all produce different sounds.

The Brazilian Mint has incorporated the principles of sustainable design into the production of the medals. The gold of the gold medal has been produced completely without the use of mercury. In the silver and bronze medals, 30 per cent of the material used is recycled. In the ribbons for the medals, 50 per cent of the PET plastic comes from recycled sources. The medal cases, and all of the paper used, bear the certification mark of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council®). This guarantees that the wood and paper come only from forests that are managed according to the highest standards of sustainability.



The need to create medals for Paralympic athletes first arose at the games held in Stoke Mandeville, in 1948. This was the precursor event to the Paralympic Games. And, they were not always used – in some editions the winners received trophies and diplomas.

It was only since 1984, at the New York/Stoke Mandeville Games, that Paralympic athletes were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals. Until then, a single medal version was awarded to the first-, second- and third-placed winners.

Torch

The Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic torches were created together, as the result of a unique conceptual platform of Passion and Transformation – the essence of the Rio 2016 brands.

The decision to start from a single design concept reflects the two objects' sense of equality and equivalence of importance. When closed, therefore, the two torches look the same. When open, the Olympic and Paralympic souls reveal themselves in all their specific details.

In the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games' torch, sinuous and continuous reliefs simulate the high and low points in the life of a Paralympic athlete, based on determination and achievements. Its quadrangular texture refers to the four Paralympic values – courage, determination, inspiration and equality – which are also written in Braille on the objects.

When we light the flame of the Paralympic Games, we will illuminate inspiring examples, celebrating creativity, diversity and will be a time to awaken our consciousness regarding a truth that not everyone realises: our differences do not make us different. The flame is carried using torches, in a relay taking the Paralympic message beyond the host city and ending with the lighting of the cauldron at the Games opening ceremony.

As one of the Rio 2016 Torch's main innovative attributes, its segments open in an upward motion, like a body that stretches its boundaries, guided by the values of the Paralympic Movement: courage, determination, inspiration and equality.



Torch Relay

The Torch Relay takes place from September 1 to 7 in Brazil. São Paulo is set to be the first of five cities to welcome the event on September 1. The relay will then head to Joinville in the south, Natal in the north-east and Belém in the north before visiting Brasília on September 5. The decision to pass through the cities, one per day, will allow each of the five regions of Brazil to be represented, with a regional flame set to be lit at every venue.

The lighting of a virtual Heritage Flame will also take place in the British town of Stoke Mandeville, birthplace of the Paralympic Games, on September 2, before all six flames will combine to form the Paralympic Flame in Rio de Janeiro on September 6. The Flame will then be carried around Rio de Janeiro on the last two days of the relay, before being used to light the Paralympic Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony in the Maracanã Stadium on September 7.

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Australians to Watch in Rio

Angie Ballard, 400m, paraplegic, T53

34-year-old wheelchair racer from Sydney is going to her fifth successive Paralympic Games, and is a big chance to win gold for the first time. Under the guidance of coach Louise Sauvage, she claimed silver in the 200m and 400m in London, and bronze in the 100m. Since then she has raised the bar. At an IPC Grand Prix in Switzerland last year she broke a six year old world record for the 400m and went on to claim world championship titles in the 200m and 400m in Doha last year. Angie's paraplegia was the result of a car accident when she was 7.

Carlie Beattie, long jump, left arm limb deficiency, F46

Carlie is the world record holder in her event, with a mark of 6.01m. The 33-year-old Queenslander is also current world champion, turning the silver she claimed at the London 2012 Paralympics into gold in Doha last year. Beattie, born without a fully formed arm, had silver and bronze medals from her previous two world championships in 2013 and 2011. She has excelled at a number of sports including hockey and netball, and made her Paralympic debut at the 2008 Beijing games. She trains with master long jump coach Gary Bourne in Queensland – Bourne coached Mitchell Watt to silver in the long jump at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Beattie is targeting a new world record in Rio.

Aaron Chatman, high jump, right hand amputee, F46

Aaron, who won a silver medal in the high jump and a bronze in the 4x100m relay in Beijing in 2008, has come out of retirement. The 29-year-old Queenslander entered the 2008 Paralympics as the world record holder, setting a mark of 2.05m in 2007. His performance in Beijing was hampered by a bout of chicken pox a week before the Games but he recovered enough to claim silver.

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Richard Colman, 400m, 800m, relay, spina bifida, T53

Rich Colman is heading to his fourth Paralympic Games. He won his first gold in the 800m in Athens 2004 and added another gold in the 800m eight years later in London, along with two bronze medals. The 31-year-old wheelchair racer has been at the forefront of the athletics team for 10 years and is now also coaching. He was the first wheelchair AFL goal umpire in the Geelong League.

Madison de Rozario, 800m, paraplegia, T53

22-year-old Madison is going to her third Paralympics. On target to win a medal after breaking through for her first world title, winning the 800m wheelchair race at the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha last year. Started her athletics career as a sprinter but after the London 2012 Paralympics – where she finished just outside the medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m - switched focus to longer distances. Nicknamed 'Bandit' after the tattoo on her left arm, Madison has transverse myelitis, a neurological disease which inflames the spinal cord. Studies at Murdoch University in WA and has passion for visual art and digital painting. Trains with Angie Ballard under coach Louise Sauvage.

Kurt Fearnley, 1500m, 5000m, marathon, relay, Lumbar sacral agenesis (missing lower part of spine) T54

The last Paralympics for the 35-year-old legend of Australian sport. Fearnley has done it all in his 20-year athletics career, and this will be his fifth Paralympic Games. Has won three gold, six silver and two bronze medals across four Paralympic Games, with back-to-back marathon gold medals in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. His main aim in Rio is beating his British arch rival, David Weir, who pipped him metres from the line in London 2012, denying Fearnley three consecutive marathon victories. His race is on the last day of the Paralympics and victory would be the perfect way to crown an extraordinary career.

Official Broadcaster



Evan O’Hanlon, 100m, 400m, mild cerebral palsy on left side, T38

The Superstar of Paralympic sprinting is promising big things in Rio. His goal is to break his 100m world record of 10.79sec. Set in 2014, it made him the fastest Australian Paralympian ever across all classes, and he also won the able-bodied title at the ACT national titles. Coached by Ukrainian born Iryna Dvoskina for a decade, she is the most influential person in his life. He recently completed his landscape architecture degree and owns a café in Canberra with his wife. At his first Paralympics in Beijing he won the 100m and 200m and broke both world records. He also became the first athlete with cerebral palsy to break 11 seconds for the 100m. In London again won gold in the 100m and 200m and carried flag at the London 2012 Closing Ceremony. In Rio he will also contest the 400m as the IPC has dropped the 200m event in his cerebral palsy class. O’Hanlon is a typical sprinter with plenty of swagger and bravado. He trains in a squad with Scott Reardon and Chad Perris.

Todd Hodgetts, shotput, intellectual disability, F20

Todd aims to defend the shotput gold medal he won in London 2012. That was a world record breaking performance – he threw 16.29m. Will go to Rio as favourite after winning the world title in his event in Doha in 2015. When athletes with an intellectual disability were ruled out of the Paralympic Games between 2000 and 2012, he took up weightlifting and became Tasmanian record holder in the Super Heavyweight division. He also set an Australian Junior dead lift record of 267.5kg. The big man of the athletics team has been nicknamed “The Hulk” by his family and friends.

Madeline Hogan, javelin, Left arm limb deficiency, F46

A javelin thrower, Madeline won bronze at the London 2012 Paralympics. At the world championships in Doha in 2015 she ruptured her ACL and has raced the clock to be fit for Rio, making an incredible recovery. A popular and influential team member who is also talented at several other sports and the piano. Prior to competing in javelin, Madeleine was a talented cricketer and twice represented in the Under 19 National Championships for women’s cricket.

Official Broadcaster



Isis Holt, 100m and 200m, cerebral palsy, T35

Isis was a sensation at the IPC world championships in Doha last year, winning the 100m and 200m. Turned 15 on July 3 and only took up para-athletics in 2014, with a mantra, “my ability is bigger than my disability”. The trip to Doha was the first time that Holt had travelled overseas, but she handled the occasion calmly and broke the 200m world record in her cerebral palsy class with a 28.58sec run.

Torita Isaac, 100m, 200m, 400m, cerebral palsy and vision impairment, T38

Torita, 21, is one of two indigenous athletes on the Australian Paralympic team to Rio and names Cathy Freeman as one of her heroes. Competed at the London 2012 Paralympics, and has risen up the rankings with a bronze medal in the 400m at the 2015 IPC world titles in Doha. Torita was born with cerebral palsy, has no vision in her right eye and can only see things when they're less than six metres away, and on her left side. The 20-year-old will run the 100m, 200m, 400m and 4x100m relay in her T-38 category at Rio. “My ultimate ambition is to show indigenous kids, whether they're disabled or not, what they can do when they don't quit. We don't have to do nothing. Sport saved me,” says Isaac, who is from the Kamilaroi people in the Moree region of NSW. She admits racing can be scary for her, particularly in the 400m, as she has difficulty seeing the lane lines.

Dion Kenzie, 1500m, cerebral palsy, T38

From the tiny town of Penguin, Tasmania, Deon Kenzie will go to Rio as a strong favourite in the 1500m after breaking his own world record earlier this year. Deon was competing nationally as an able-bodied runner (he made two able-bodied state cross country teams) when his coach, Mike Gunson, noticed he had co-ordination issues which affected his ability to accelerate or change pace. He discovered Deon had cerebral palsy which opened up international opportunities. Kenzie claimed bronze in the 1500m at the IPC world championships in Doha last year and Gunson says he is one of the most mentally tough athletes he's coached.

Official Broadcaster



Chad Perris, 100m, albinism, visually impaired, T13

Chad is known as “The White Tiger”, a nickname he picked up as a teenager playing football in Perth. “I love the nickname now. The footy team that I played for back home was called the Tigers and, because I’m an albino, ‘the White Tiger’ was something that the boys just started calling me,” Perris says. Chad trains in Canberra under Iryna Dvoskina, alongside Scott Reardon and Evan O’Hanlon, and has been on a rapid rise. At last year’s IPC world championships, the 24-year-old placed second in the 200m in a personal best time, breaking the national record by almost half a second to cross in 21.82secs. He also won the bronze in the 100m with a time of 10.96.

Scott Reardon, 100m, right limb below knee loss, T42

Scott lost his leg in a farming accident in 2002. Won a silver medal at the London 2012 Paralympics. Has gone on to be the world champion in his 100m T42 event for leg amputees, winning gold in Doha in 12.13 seconds – just one-hundredth of a second in front of Russia's Anton Prokhorov. At the world titles in Lyon in 2013 he had to share the gold medal with Germany's Heinrich Popow after they dead-heated. Scott, 26, also represented Australia at the World Water Skiing Championships and won the world title in 2007 and 2009. He then moved to Canberra to focus on athletics, where he trains under Iryna Dvoskina, with Evan O’Hanlon and Chad Perris.

Michael Roeger, 1500m, right arm limb deficiency, T46

In June Michael broke the Men's 1500m T46 world record, clocking 3:49.08, and goes into Rio with high expectations. Competed in Beijing and London but didn’t come away with a medal. At last year’s world championships in Doha he came third and is determined to improve at Rio 2016. The 28-year-old has also played Australian football, basketball and cricket. He trains in his home state of South Australia after moving back from Canberra where he previously trained in Iryna Dvoskina’s squad.

Official Broadcaster



Brad Scott, 1500m, cerebral palsy, T37

Scott is a two-time Paralympics silver medallist – in Beijing 2008 he earned silver in the 800m, and in London he came second in the 1500m. After London he left his training base in Canberra and moved home to Perth to train under Lyn Foreman with WA Athletics. Went well at the IPC world titles in Doha in 2015, with another silver medal. He took control of the 1500m race from the start and led for most of the first three laps. He then broke away from the pack alongside his rival Michael McKillop, but was unable to stay with the Irishman in the closing metres. He is confident that in Rio he will improve and keep McKillop at bay.

Russell Short, Shot put, vision impairment, F12

Short, 47, will be going to his eighth Olympic Games in Rio and is one of Australia's most successful Paralympians. Has won six Paralympic gold medals – discus and javelin in Seoul 1988; discus and shot put in Barcelona 1992; and shot put and discus in Sydney 2000. Also two silver in Atlanta 1996 and bronze in both Athens 2004 and London 2012. Short, who lives in Melbourne and works as a massage therapist, was the Australian flag bearer at the Beijing Paralympics. Began losing his sight at the age of 4, due to macular degeneration. In 1993 he kayaked across Torres Strait from Cape York to New Guinea, and he has also walked the Kokoda Track.

Swimming

Michael Anderson, 100m, 200m freestyle, 100m, 200m backstroke, nerve damage to legs, hearing impairment, S10

A silver medal in the 100m backstroke at his first Paralympics in Beijing, then in London in 2012 won gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay and bronze in the 4x100m medley. Part of bronze medal winning relay team at 2015 world championships. Had meningitis when he was 20 months old, resulting in severe hearing loss in both ears and nerve damage to the lower limbs. Michael is a daredevil who has been swimming with great white sharks, backpacked around Asia and learnt to surf.

Official Broadcaster



Blake Cochrane, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, hands and feet limb deficiency, S8, SB

Has swum in the shadow of the great Matt Cowdrey, but now, going to his third Paralympics, it could be his time. Blake earned a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke SB7 in Beijing, and also swam in London 2012.

Ellie Cole, 100m freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, right leg limb loss, S9

A big presence in the Australian swim team and the golden girl of the team. Won four gold medals at the London 2012 Paralympic Games - in the 100m backstroke and freestyle and the 4x100m freestyle and medley relays, and two bronze. Beat her long-time hero and rival, South African champion Natalie du Toit. Took a break and had a double shoulder reconstruction. Her passion for swimming reignited and in 2015, and she broke a world record in her first race at the IPC Swimming World Championships. Ended with three gold and two silver medals. Earlier this year broke eight year old S9 50m freestyle world record at trials in Adelaide. Diagnosed with cancer at the age of two and her parents made the agonizing decision to amputate her leg. She started swimming as part of her rehabilitation.

Rowan Crothers, 100m freestyle, cerebral palsy, S9, SB9, SM9

The 18-year-old showed his talent at the 2014 Commonwealth Games when he won gold in the 100m freestyle and set a new S9 100m world record of 54.58sec. A PR and Communications student, recently awarded the first Griffith University and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Sporting Excellence Scholarship worth \$70,000. Has cerebral palsy and chronic lung disease, a result of being born 15 weeks prematurely. Has a perfect swimmers build, standing 193cm. His cerebral palsy affects the efficiency of his kick, so uses a propulsion style kick to make the most of his leg strength and coordination.

Katja Dedekind, breaststroke, vision impaired, S13

Made a late charge for the Rio Olympic team and will now be the youngest member of the team, born eight days after fellow swimmer, Tiffany Thomas-Kane. Emerged as a genuine Olympic team hopeful only last year, and has improved dramatically. The 15-year-old Queenslander (turns 15 on August 17) has also played in the Australian Goalball Championships and been awarded a prize for her poetry.

Official Broadcaster



Madison Elliott, 50m, 100m freestyle, cerebral palsy, S8

Only 17 years old but is about to go to her second Paralympic Games. She competed in London when she was only 13 and became the youngest Australian Paralympian to win a gold medal. Won gold as part of the 4x100m freestyle relay, and also came home with silver in the 50m freestyle and bronze in the 100m and 400m freestyle.

Brenden Hall, 200m, 400m freestyle, right leg amputee, S9

The 23-year-old Queenslander is going to his third Paralympic Games. In London he won gold in the 400m freestyle and the 4x100m men's freestyle relay team as well as bronze as part of the 4x100m medley relay team. At the 2015 World Championships he won gold in the 100 m backstroke S9 and 400 m freestyle S9 and bronze in the 100 m Freestyle S9. Contracted chicken pox at age six and had to have his right leg amputated. He also lost 70% of his hearing. A qualified surf life saver on the Sunshine Coast.

Ahmed Kelly 100m breaststroke, double arm and leg deficiency, SB3

He and his brother Emmanuel spent the first seven years of their life in a Baghdad orphanage before being brought to Australia by their adopted mother, Moira Kelly. Ahmed, 24, took up swimming eight years ago and went to his first Paralympics in London 2012, and came fourth in the 50m breaststroke. Moira also adopted conjoined twin girls, Trishna and Krishna, who are big supporters of Ahmed.

Matt Levy, freestyle, cerebral palsy and vision impairment, S7

Heading towards his fourth Paralympics, the 29-year-old is in career best form. Won gold medal as part of the 4x100m medley relay in Beijing. In London, at his third Paralympics, brought home relay gold, a silver and three bronze medals. At 2015 IPC world titles took silver in the 200m individual medley and bronze in the 50m freestyle and 4x100m freestyle relay. Born 15 weeks premature and has endured 46 bouts of surgery.

Official Broadcaster



Jeremy McClure, freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, vision impairment, S11

Hereditary condition presented at age 15 and he began losing sight, becoming legally blind in the space of 10 weeks. Took up swimming and two years later made his first Paralympic team. Going to his third Paralympics. Last year he was reclassified as a S11 swimmer due to worsening vision. Broke the 50m backstroke world record in 32.22 seconds this year. The race isn't on the Paralympic program but the result will boost his confidence in Rio.

Tiffany Thomas-Kane, breaststroke, short stature, SB6

Last year, at her first international competition and aged just 13, crashed her way into the record books. Won gold in the S6 100m breaststroke at the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships in world record time of 1m34.95sec. Also took silver in the 50m butterfly and bronze in 100m and 50m freestyle. Broke her own world record in the 50m breaststroke earlier this year. Will be second youngest member of the team after Katja Dedekind. Goes to Ravenswood in Sydney and also loves horse riding. Trains alongside Olympic medallist James Magnusson.

Prue Watt, freestyle, breaststroke, vision impairment, S13, SB13

The 29-year-old is going to her fourth Paralympics and in peak form. Started career with a bang in Athens, with five silver and one bronze medal. In London she finally collected gold, in the 100m breaststroke. In 2013-2014, took a break from swimming and trained with the Australian Paralympic Alpine Skiing Team. Came back to swimming last year and made top eight in freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke events at the IPC World Championships in Glasgow. Born premature at 24 weeks. Now studying health science at UNSW.

Cycling

Carol Cooke, road race, multiple sclerosis, T2

In London, aged 51, Carol won gold in the tricycle class of the individual road time trial. Diagnosed with MS in 1998 and told she wouldn't walk, defied her diagnosis and devotes herself to raising awareness of the condition. A former national swimmer in her native Canada who almost made the 1980 Canadian Olympic Team.

Official Broadcaster



Alastair Donohoe, road race, Erbs palsy, C5

A talented teenage cyclist, Donohoe suffered irreparable nerve damage to his right arm when he was caught in a rope while jumping into a creek in Darwin. Five years later he's a three time world para cycling champion on the track and road, and aiming for gold on the road in Rio. Also competes in able-bodied events and wants to forge a professional career with an elite road cycling team. At the Australian titles in January this year finished fourth in the U-23 able-bodied road race.

Jess Gallagher, tandem sprint, vision impaired, B1

A summer and winter Paralympian, having competed in athletics, alpine skiing and now going to Rio as a cyclist. A Victorian representative in netball at under 17 level, took up Para sport when she began to lose her sight. Was diagnosed with rare eye disease, cone dystrophy, when in Year 12. Made history at the Winter Paralympics in Vancouver 2010 with bronze in slalom – the first time an Australian woman had won a Winter Paralympic medal. Added athletics to her repertoire, competing in long jump and javelin at the London 2012 Paralympics. Another bronze medal in giant slalom at Sochi 2014 Winter Paralympics. Then tried cycling and this year became world champ and new world record holder in the tandem sprint. The 30-year-old Melbourne-based athlete is an osteopath.

Kieran Modra, road race, pursuit, time trial, vision impaired, B3

Going to his eighth Paralympics. Has competed in three different sports – athletics (javelin) in Seoul in 1988, swimming (backstroke) at Barcelona in 1992, and cycling in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012. Has won five Paralympic cycling gold medals including three consecutive in 4km individual pursuit (2004, 2008, 2012). Had bad accident on his bike in lead up to London, broke vertebrae in neck and spine, but recovered to win gold. The 44-year-old is current world champion in 4km individual pursuit.

Official Broadcaster



Sue Powell, road time trial and individual pursuit, spinal cord injury, C4

Won Australia's first gold medal of the London 2012 Paralympics, in the 3km individual pursuit.

Added a silver medal on the road a few days later. Only took up cycling in 2007 after hockey injury caused spinal damage. Holds world title for the women's 3km individual pursuit C4 and has claimed a medal at every World Championships since 2011.

Equestrian

Emma Booth, dressage, paraplegic, Grade 11

Emma had never ridden a horse until, at age 11, she won a pony and riding lessons run by TV show 'The Saddle Club.' She developed passion and talent for competing but her world changed in 2013 when she was involved in a serious car accident which left her a paraplegic. Seven months later she was back on a horse again, and focused on riding for Australia at the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

Sharon Jarvis, limited movement on left side, equestrian Grade 111

Sharon is one of the team's medal hopes. She competed at the Beijing 2008 Paralympics and placed fourth despite limited previous international competition. The 37-year-old who suffered bone cancer aged 7, missed the London Paralympics and has set her sights on a strong performance in Rio.

Para-canoe

Curtis McGrath, K1 canoe, double limb loss, KL2

In 2012, McGrath suffered terrible injuries when a bomb exploded under him in Afghanistan, where he was serving as an Australian Army combat engineer. Vowed to represent his country again and took up para-canoeing. Two years later he was on top of the podium at the 2014 Para-canoe World Championships, winning the V1 200m event in a world record time. Always wears a bracelet with the names of Australian Defence Force engineers killed in Afghanistan since 2001, and dedicates his competitions to them.

Official Broadcaster



Amanda Reynolds, Ki canoe, amputee, KL3

The current world champion in the 200m, on track for gold in Rio. Took up paddling only a few years ago, in her 40s after taking part in the 404km Murray Marathon Challenge. Lived with chronic pain, depression and addiction to prescription medication for nearly 20 years following complications from a dislocated knee, until she had leg amputated through the knee in 2012.

Rowing

Eric Horrie, single scull, paraplegia, A5

Gold medal favourite for Rio. Became a paraplegic at 21 in a car accident. Took up wheelchair basketball and debuted for the Rollers in international competition in 2009. Two years later made the switch to rowing and at the London 2012 Paralympics came second, claiming silver a day after suffering a seizure. The 36-year-old hasn't lost a major event since London, crowned world champion in 2013-14-15. In 2014 voted International World Rower of the Year by the international governing body, FISA.

Kathryn Ross and Gavin Bellis, mixed double sculls (trunk and arms)

Strong gold medal favourites. Have won last three world titles in their class. Narrowly missed a medal in London 2012 and have used that as motivation for Rio. Perfect combination of Ross' technique and Bellis' power. Bellis, 42, played and coached rugby union before acquiring hereditary disorder which affects his co-ordination and balance in 2004. Ross, 35, started her Paralympics career in Beijing 2008, and came home with silver, winning Australia's first ever Paralympic rowing medal. Had accident on ride-on lawn mower when she was two, which left her with a deformity in her right leg.

Official Broadcaster



Jeremy McGrath, Kathleen Murdoch, Brock Ingram, Davinia Lefroy (Josephine Burnand coxswain) Mixed Coxed Four (legs, trunk and arms)

This is the first time Australia has qualified a boat in this class. McGrath and Murdoch came second in the double sculls at the 2014 world championships. Brock was formerly a para-canoe athlete and represented Australia at four world championships but switched to rowing. Murdoch and Lefroy are vision impaired, McGrath has his leg amputated below the knee and Ingram damaged his hand in a workplace accident.

Sailing

Liesl Tesch and Daniel Fitzgibbon, SKUD 18

The defending Paralympic champions and reigning world champions. Tesch captained the Australian women's wheelchair basketball team, the Gliders, to two silver medals and one bronze from five Paralympics between 1992 and 2008. Her first Paralympics gold came as a sailor in London 2012, alongside Fitzgibbons who had seen her compete in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and suggested she switch sports. This will be her seventh Games. Tesch was robbed during a visit to Rio last month. Fitzgibbon, 40, is heading to his third Games. A competitive sailor in his teens, he was left paraplegic when he fell off a jetty aged 21. Tesch, 47, fell off her mountain bike when she was 19 and has incomplete paraplegia.

Sonar

Jonathan Harris, Russell Boaden, Colin Harrison

The trio won two World Cup gold medals last year and silver at the World Championships. Harrison, 55, is competing at his fourth Paralympics. They are currently ranked number one in the world so go to Rio with strong medal hopes.

Official Broadcaster



Table Tennis

Daniela di Toro, singles, paraplegia

Co-captain of 2016 Paralympic team. The 41-year-old is going to her sixth Paralympics, but previous five were as wheelchair tennis player. Won nine consecutive Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open singles titles, the last in 2008. Also won the US Open twice and was the World Singles Champion in 1998 and 1999. Silver medal in the women's doubles at Sydney 2000 Paralympics. Works as a Chinese medicine practitioner. Became paraplegic at 14 when a wall collapsed on her.

Melissa Tapper, singles, Erbs palsy, Class 10

First Australian athlete to qualify for both Olympics and Paralympics. Tapper, 26, went to the London 2012 Paralympics but in Rio she's going to both Olympics and Paralympic Games. Began as a junior in able-bodied competitions and made an Australian junior team at 14. By 18 was number one junior female table tennis player in Australia. The APC then suggested she try Paralympic table tennis, and she made the team for London. "It never was an ambition to be the first person to compete at both Games. I've always just wanted to compete at my best. I work towards that every training session, so finally making the Olympic team is just a bonus," Tapper said. Sustained nerve damage in her right arm at birth and only has 30 per cent use.

Tennis

Dylan Alcott, wheelchair tennis, paraplegia

A star of Paralympic sport, won gold with the Rollers at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, and silver in London. Switched to wheelchair tennis in 2014 and has stormed up the rankings, winning 2014 British Open final and 2105 Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open. Currently ranked number two in his class. Likes to 'wheelchair crowd surf' at music festivals. Born with a tumour wrapped around his spinal cord.

Official Broadcaster



Triathlon

Bill Chaffey, triathlon, incomplete paraplegia, PT1

New sport in Rio, and Chaffey is ready. A four-time world champion (2009, 2011-13) wants to make a name for himself and Australia. The 40-year-old police officer was hit from behind by a truck in 2005 while training on his bike for an able-bodied triathlon. Took up Para sport inspired by Paralympic champion John Maclean. In 2011 after winning his world title, he was the first Para-triathlete to be accepted into the AIS triathlon program.

Katie Kelly, triathlon, Ushers Syndrome, PT5

Made her debut for Australia last year at a world Paratriathlon event, and won gold in the PT5 class, with time ranked top five in the world. For Rio, has enlisted Australian Olympic silver medallist and two-time world champion Michelle Jones to be her guide. Kelly's weekly training regime consists of 5km swimming, 250km cycling and 40km of running working also full time as a Marketing Manager at Athletics NSW. Competed as an able-bodied triathlete and marathon runner until her sight degenerated to legally blind status.

Wheelchair Basketball

The Rollers – 12 member team

Went into London 2012 as reigning Paralympic and world champions but lost to Canada 64-58. Have since won another World Championship title (2014) and will go to Rio as favourites. There are five debutantes in the team - Josh Allison, Adam Deans, Matt McShane, Tom O'Neill-Thorne and Shawn Russell. Captain **Brad Ness** is going to his fifth Paralympics; Tristan Knowles and Shaun Norris are going to their fourth. The Rollers have medals from four of the past five Paralympic Games, including gold in 2008 and 1996. Ness is one of the few Paralympic athletes to make a living out of his sport and plays wheelchair basketball professionally in Italy. Has led Rollers to two silver medals and one gold medal as well as the 2010, 2013 and 2014 World Championship titles. Injured in a work accident on a ferry when he was 18.

Official Broadcaster



Wheelchair Rugby

The Steelers – 12 member team

Reigning Paralympic and world champions but will face tough competition from the other top nations – Britain, Canada, USA and Japan. Led by three-time Paralympian, captain **Ryan Scott**, there are eight members of the gold medal team from London 2012 as well as four debutants. Coach Brad Dubberley says the side has more depth than ever. Team member **Ryley Batt** is now widely regarded as the best wheelchair rugby player in the world. During London 2012, he led the team to victory, scoring 160 goals during the tournament, with 37 in the gold medal match. Has a cult following among wheelchair rugby fans from around the world because of his speed and brutality on court. At the 2014 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championships in Denmark, he scored 45 goals in the gold medal match against Canada as Australia won their first ever World Championship crown. The 27-year-old was born with a limb deficiency. Doesn't have legs and needed surgery to separate his fingers from each other. Didn't use a wheelchair until age of 12, preferring a skateboard, using his hands to stop. An adrenaline junkie who rides quad bikes and motorbikes.

Official Broadcaster



International Athletes to Watch in Rio

Archery

Matt Stutzman (USA)

The "*Armless Archer*" won silver at London 2012 and amazed the world with his ability to shoot without arms. In December 2015 he hit a target from 283 metres, breaking the longest Guinness-ratified distance by any athlete or individual in the world. Born without arms and adopted at four months old, Stutzman grew up in a family of hunters in Iowa, and always wanted to be like his father and brother. He purchased his first bow at 16. That one was stolen but he bought another and practiced every day, setting the bow on his right shoulder. He draws it back, the trigger just underneath his jaw bone. Then, moving his jaw slightly backwards, using about as much pressure as it takes to click a computer mouse, he releases the bow.

Zahra Nemati (IRI)

After becoming the first Iranian woman to win a Paralympic gold with success at London 2012, Nemati is competing in both Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Well known and popular in Iran, 31-year-old Zahra held a black belt in taekwondo before she was injured in an accident in 2004 which left her with a spinal-cord injury. Two years after the accident, the uni student took up archery and quickly proved her impairment was no limitation. She is carrying the Iranian flag at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Official Broadcaster



Athletics

David Brown (USA) 100m, 200m, T11

He is coached by Brazilian middle-distance running legend Joaquim Cruz. Brown has set new world records in the 100m and 200m and will be up against the best Brazilian blind sprinters including rising star Felipe Gomes.

Richard Browne (USA) 100m, 200m T44

Has set up a great rivalry with British sprint champion Jonnie Peacock and it will be one of the races to watch. In 2014 Browne beat Peacock in every head-to-head. Peacock withdrew from the 2015 world championships through injury and Browne won the world title in a new world record time of 10.61sec. The rivalry resumes in Rio.

Yunidis Castillo (Cuba) 100m, 200m 400m T46

Known as “The Bullet”, Castillo claimed two gold medals and set new world records in the 100m (12.04) and 200m (24.72) in Beijing. In London 2012 the ‘Queen of Speed’ won three gold medals and set three new world records. She had a child in 2014 and returned to the track last year. Castillo lost her right arm in a car accident aged 10.

Omara Durand (CUB) sprints, T12

She is the world's fastest ever female para-athlete. The Cuban had a remarkable 2015 winning three world titles, and three Parapan American Games gold medals. At those Games she clocked the fastest 100m time ever by a female para-athlete, her first major event back on the track since the birth of her daughter. Her time of 11.65 seconds, was 0.26 seconds faster than the previous T12 record set at London 2012. Lost further sight after she had her child in 2013.

Petrrucio Ferreira (BRA) 100m, 200m T47

Although he missed last October's World Championships, made a huge impression in 2015 breaking the 200m T46/T47 world record with a time of 21.49sec. He only took up para athletics in 2014 and on home soil could be a star in Rio. Could be up against compatriot Yohansson Nascimento and Poland's Michal Duras.

Official Broadcaster



Felipe Gomes (BRA) 200m T11

The Brazilian won gold in the 200m T11 at the 2015 World Championships, ahead of US rival and world record holder David Brown. In Rio he will be looking to defend his 200m Paralympic title from 2012. He is a blind sprinter from one of Rio's most notorious favela (slum) communities.

Terezinha Guilhermina (BRA) sprints T11

Will be one of the faces of the Rio Paralympics. The vision-impaired athlete was excited last year when Usain Bolt ran with her as her guide runner. Born with pigmentary retinitis in 1978, only took up para athletics thanks to her sister who let her borrow her shoes so she could take part in a local running event. Won gold in the 100m and 200m T11 at the London Paralympics.

Sophie Hahn (GBR) 100m, 200m T38

Has a strong rivalry with Brazil's Veronia Hipolito over 100m and 200m T38. The 19-year-old won gold in the 100m T38 at last year's Doha World Championships, but Hipolito was absent. Will resume their rivalry in Rio.

Veronica Silva Hipolito (BRA) 100m, 200m, 400m T38

Won a gold and a silver medal at her first world titles in 2013, aged 17, to show she will be one to watch in Rio. Had a tumour removed from her brain in 2008. Later she suffered a stroke which affected the movement of the right side of her body but she competed in able-bodied athletics until 2013, when she found out she was eligible for para athletics. Known as one of the happiest, sunniest athletes on the scene.

Maria Lyle (GBR) 100m, 200m T35

Will go up against Australia's emerging teenage star, Isis Holt. Both will be 15 in Rio. Lyle set world records in 2014 and won European titles. In 2015 Holt, at her first international meet, had the better of Lyle, taking both her 100m and 200m world records at the 2015 IPC Athletics Grand Prix in Brisbane. Holt also beat Lyle to gold in both the 100m and 200m T35 races at the 2015 IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Official Broadcaster



Michael McKillop (IRE) 1500m T37

The athlete that Australia's Brad Scott is chasing in the 1500m T37. McKillop has dominated for several years and won gold in the 800m and 1500m in London 2012. He clocked the first sub four minute 1,500m by a T37 athlete, in 2012, and the time of 3:59.54 still stands. Also current world champion in 800m and 1500m.

Yohansson Nascimento (BRA) 100m, 200m, T46

This year Nascimento can look forward to passionate home crowd support in Rio. His trademark celebration is a cartwheel, first performed at the London Paralympics. After he won gold in the 200m in a world record time, he pulled out a piece of paper in front of the cameras, asking his girlfriend back home in Brazil to marry him. The cartwheel onto the podium to collect his gold medal told the world she said yes. The reigning 200m world champion in the T46 class will be up against Poland's reigning 100m world and European champion Michal Derus. They ran a close race in London in July.

Jonnie Peacock (GBR) 100m T44

In London 2012 won the 100m T44 final in 10.90 seconds, claiming gold and the Paralympic record in front of a huge home crowd. Coached by American Dan Pfaff, making Pfaff the only man to have coached 100m gold medalists in both Olympics and Paralympics. Pfaff coached Canada's Donovan Bailey to 100m gold in Atlanta Olympics 1996. Peacock's rivalry with US athlete Richard Browne in Rio shouldn't be missed. Peacock had his right leg amputated below the knee aged five after contracting meningitis.

Official Broadcaster



Tatyana McFadden (USA) 400m, 800m, 1500m, T54

One of the stars of Paralympic sport and arguably the best female wheelchair racer of all-time. Incredible story – born in St Petersburg with spina bifida, she was left in an orphanage with no wheelchair and had to walk on her hands. She was adopted by American Debbie McFadden, then commissioner of disabilities. Competed at the Athens Paralympics aged just 15. Came up against the great Canadian Chantal Petitclerc in Beijing but then in London 2012 won three gold – 400m, 800m and 1500m in the T54 class. Has won the ‘Grand Slam’ - Boston, London, New York and Chicago marathons - in 2013-14-15. In 2014 she took up skiing and made the US team for the Sochi 2014 Winter Paralympics, claiming a silver medal in the 1km cross-country sprint. Last year she was back to wheelchair racing, setting new world records in the 400m, 800m and 1,500m.

Jason Smyth (IRE) sprints, T13

Confirmed his status as the fastest para-athlete in the world last year by winning a 100m challenge that pitted the best sprinters from different disability classifications against each other. The Irishman’s world record of 10.46 seconds in the T13 class for visually impaired athletes is the quickest Paralympic mark across all categories.

Rawat Tana (Thailand) 1500m, 5000m T54

Showed his wares at the World Championships in Doha last year when he won the 1500m and 5000m. For years was in the shadow of David Weir and Marcel Hug, but the 39-year-old is will be keen to take it up to them again in Rio.

Jarryd Wallace (USA) sprints, T44

Wallace held off Paralympic champion Jonnie Peacock to win the men’s 100m T44 in 10.80 in the London Grand Prix in late July and theirs will be one of the races to watch in Rio.

Official Broadcaster



David Weir (GBR) 800m, 1,500m 5,000m, and marathon T54

Great rival of Australia's Kurt Fearnley. Six time gold medallist from the 2008 and 2012 Paralympic Games, and has won the London Marathon six times. In 2007 he beat Fearnley by a second at a time when Fearnley was undefeated in his past eight marathons. The following year he won again, four seconds ahead of Fearnley. In 2009 Fearnley turned the tables in a course record. Won four gold medals in London 2012 Paralympics - three at the Olympic Stadium and one in the marathon. He's the most successful British Paralympian. Was born with a spinal cord transection that left him unable to use his legs.

Richard Whitehead (GBR) 200m T42

British sprinter and Paralympic champion smashed his own world record for the 200m in the T42 class for so-called 'blade runner' amputees at the Grand Prix in London in late July 2016. Whitehead won in 23.03 seconds, almost half a second faster than his previous world best.

Boccia

Direcu Jose Pinto (BRA)

At Rio 2016, Pinto will be targeting a unique triple double of Paralympic titles having won individual and pairs gold at Beijing 2008 and London 2012. In 2014, he finished fifth in the World Championships and finished 2015 ranked seventh in the world.

Maciel Sousa Santos (BRA)

Santos will head into Rio 2016 as the defending Paralympic champion in the BC2 class and will start the year as the world No.1. He won bronze at the 2014 World Championships and in 2015 won team BC1/BC2 and individual gold at Toronto 2015.

Official Broadcaster



Canoe

Markus Swoboda (AUT)

Swoboda made his international debut in 2010 and has dominated his category since. At the 2015 World Championships he lost his first race in six years, but recovered to win his sixth world title – it was in a close race against his strong rival, Australia's Curtis McGrath. He has also won five European golds.

Jeanette Chippington (GBR)

As a S6 swimmer Chippington competed in five Paralympic Games winning 12 medals. In 2011 she took up canoe and has since won six world and four European titles.

Edina Muller (GER)

A London 2012 gold medalist in wheelchair basketball, Muller is the rising star of canoe. In 2015 she won silver at the World Championships and European Championships in the K1 200m KL1 and will be hoping to win gold for the first time in her new sport at Rio 2016.

Cycling

Alex Zanardi (ITA)

One of the stars of London 2012 after winning two Paralympic gold medals, Zanardi was in superb form in 2015 winning world titles in the time trial and road race events in Switzerland. His rivalry with South Africa's Ernst van Dyk and the Netherlands' Tim de Vries will be one to watch at Rio 2016.

Sarah Storey (GBR)

After winning four golds at London 2012, Storey is one of Britain's most successful ever Paralympians having won 22 medals. In 2015 she won four world titles, bringing her overall career tally to 17. She won rainbow jerseys in the 3km pursuit and 500m time trial events at the Track World Championships and took gold in the time trial and road race at the Road World Championships.

Official Broadcaster



Powerlifting

Siamand Rahman (IRAN)

The world's strongest Paralympian will be aiming to break the 300kg barrier at Rio 2016. He is the defending world and Paralympic champion who breaks a world record nearly every time he competes in the men's over 107kg class.

Yakubu Adesokan (NGR)

Adesokan won gold at London 2012 in the men's up to 48kg class with a stunning world record. He followed this up with a world title in 2014 in the men's up to 49kg class and sealed silver at the 2015 Asian Open Championships.

Sherif Othman (EGY)

Othman is arguably the world's strongest pound for pound powerlifter. He won gold at the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Paralympic Games, as well as the 2010 and 2014 World Championships in the men's up to 56kg category. In 2015 he moved up to the 59kg class and quickly broke the world record.

Sailing

John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and Stephen Thomas (Great Britain)

Rio 2016 will be the trio's fourth Paralympic Games together. Having won the 2015 world title in the sonar class, edging out favourites Australia (**Colin Harrison, Jonathan Harris and Russell Boaden**) they will be looking for their first Paralympic medal as a group. The crew finished fifth at London 2012.

Official Broadcaster



Shooting

Jonas Jacobsson (SWE)

If selected, Rio 2016 will be Jacobsson's 10th Paralympic Games. Since his first Games in 1980 he has won 17 gold, two silver and nine bronze medals. His career also includes 19 world and 22 European titles.

Michael Johnson (NZL)

Michael Johnson has competed at every Paralympics since Athens 2004 where he won gold in the R4 (mixed 10m air rifle standing SH2). Since then he has won numerous medals and broken multiple records. He showed he is in great form for Rio 2016 by setting a new R5 world record at a 2015 World Cup meeting in Poland.

Swimming

Ihar Boki (Belarus) 100m freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly, S13

Dominated his S13 class at London 2012. In his first Paralympics he took home five gold and a silver medal and broke four world records. The 22-year-old is expected to dominate the class again in Rio.

Andre Brasil (BRA) 50m and 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, S10

At the world titles in 2015 he was formidable, winning three titles and clocking Championship records in the 50m freestyle and 100m backstroke. He won four gold medals in Beijing 2008 and another three gold and two silver in London 2012. Brazil's emerging swimmers, Brasil and Phelipe Rodrigues, along with Canada's Benoit Huot, form one of the most formidable groups of athletes in para-sport with their combined medals and world records in the men's S10. Look out for all three at Rio 2016. Brasil contracted polio as a child.

Official Broadcaster



Daniel Dias (BRA) 50m, 100m, 200m freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, S5

Daniel Dias is Brazil's most successful Paralympic athlete ever and was Brazil's flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. At the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships, Dias brought his career world title count to 24 from four championships. In Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games he won nine medals including four golds, the most decorated athlete at the Games. Four years later in London he won six gold and set four world records, and at 28, is still improving. He was born without hands. His right arm stopped at his elbow, while his left arm was also shorter and had just a single finger. His right leg finishes at his knee and he has no foot, so he uses a prosthetic to walk.

Bethany Firth (GBR) 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, S14

At the 2015 British Para-Swimming International Meet in Glasgow, Firth set new world records in the 200m individual medley, 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke S14. Although she missed the 2015 World Championships due to injury, Firth will be back in action for her second Paralympic Games at Rio 2016.

Keichi Kimura (JPN) sprints breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle S11, SB11

With a long-term target of Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Kimura scored double gold in men's S11 events at the last two World Championships. He will go head-to-head with Bradley Snyder (USA) in Rio for what will be his third successive Paralympics.

Mary Fisher, (NZ) freestyle, backstroke, S11 - Fisher won gold at the 2012 Paralympics in the 200m individual medley and has since widened her repertoire, winning three gold at last year's world championships. Born with a condition called aniridia which means she has no irises in her eyes. Was only able to distinguish colours as a child and her sight has steadily deteriorated. She has also recently taken up para-triathlon as a second sport.

Official Broadcaster



Jessica Long (USA) freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly S8, SB7, SM8

Won eight medals - five gold, two silver and one bronze - at London 2012. Made her international debut when only 12 years old, in Athens 2004 and won three gold. Now 24, she already has 17 Paralympic medals, including 12 gold. Long was adopted from a Russian orphanage at 13 months old. In 2013 she returned to Russia where she met her biological parents. Her legs were amputated below the knee at 18 months old. She was born without fibulas, ankles or heels.

Kevin Paul (RSA) 100m breaststroke SB9

The Beijing 2008 Paralympic champion has returned to his best form. In early 2015, he smashed the 200m breaststroke SB9 world record in the heats at the national trials. That meant he became the first South African para-swimmer to make the able-bodied finals at Nationals. He also retained his 100m breaststroke world title from 2013.

Aurelie Rivard (CAN) freestyle, S10

Rivard won six gold medals at the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games to become the most decorated female athlete across all sports. The Canadian also broke New Zealander Sophie Pascoe's 100m freestyle S10 world record in Toronto, following on from her first world titles in the 50m and 400m freestyle just weeks before.

Bradley Snyder (USA) 50m, 100m, 400m freestyle, S11

Won gold at London 2012 in the 400m freestyle on the one year anniversary of losing his sight in Afghanistan. Now one of the USA's favourite and most successful para-athletes. In 2015 he made his World Championships debut and won gold in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle. While serving in the US Navy in 2011, Snyder was blinded by an improvised explosive device. His limbs weren't badly damaged but both his eyes had to be replaced with prosthetics. Using his experience and talent as a former Male Swimmer of the Year in his senior year at Naval Academy, he took up para-swimming.

Official Broadcaster



Yang Yang (CHN) backstroke and freestyle, S2

Known as the “Flying Fish”, Yang set four world records in three events in 2015. In Rio he will aim defend his four gold medals from London 2012. He will be just 19 when he competes at his second Paralympic Games in Rio. Yang’s premature birth caused cerebral palsy, and between 2001 and 2005 he underwent seven operations. He took up swimming in 2007 to help his recovery.

Table Tennis

Natalia Partyka (POL)

Partyka is one of the most recognised para-table tennis players on the international stage. The 26-year-old has competed in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games – a feat Australia’s Melissa Tapper will emulate in Rio. Patyka won Paralympic gold in the singles class 10 in London. She also captured the 2014 ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championship title in the singles and added the European title in 2015.

Lin Ma (CHN)

Ma is one of the all-time greatest para-table tennis players in the history of the sport. Having won the men’s class 9 singles world title in 2014 and then the Asian title in 2015, Ma remains the No. 1 player in the world in his class. He has always been ranked in the top five in the world in class 9.

Triathlon

Martin Schulz (GER)

Germany’s Martin Schulz has dominated the PT4 class for the past two years, winning every single triathlon race he competed in between June 2013 and September 2015. Having won world titles in 2013 and 2014, the four-time European champion, lost out on gold at the 2015 World Championships to Canada’s Stefan Daniel.

Official Broadcaster



Stefan Daniel (CAN)

The Canadian teenager turned the triathlon world upside down at the 2015 World Championships becoming the first athlete since June 2013 to beat Germany's Martin Schulz. The 30 second margin of victory over Schulz makes him a strong medal contender for Rio 2016.

Lauren Steadman (GBR)

Steadman competed as a swimmer at Beijing 2008 and London 2012 and has since become one of the world's most successful tri-athletes. She is unbeaten since May 2014 and has won nearly every title there is apart from Paralympic gold which she will be aiming to win in Rio.

Wheelchair Basketball

Steve Serio (USA)

The 3.5-class forward has a reputation as a match winner and is one of the world's purest shooters from a distance. He is one of the top scorers in wheelchair basketball, shooting at a high percentage from almost anywhere on the floor. He won bronze at London 2012 and silver at the 2014 World Championships.

Shaun Norris (AUS)

Norris is gearing up for this fourth Paralympics having won a medal at every Games so far since his debut at Athens 2004 with a silver medal. In Beijing he won gold, and after winning the world title in 2014 will be confident of winning again at Rio 2016. Tends to turn it on and score highly in big games.

Official Broadcaster



Wheelchair Tennis

Shingo Kunieda (JPN)

The most successful man to play wheelchair tennis won three singles Grand Slam titles in 2015, finished the year as world No.1 and lost just two matches all season. At Rio 2016 he will be looking for his third successive Paralympic singles title.

Stephane Houdet (FRA)

The former world No.1 is gearing up for his third Paralympics in Rio where he will be looking to improve on the singles silver medal he won at London 2012. In 2015 he won two doubles Grand Slam titles with victory at the Australian Open and US Open.

David Wagner (USA)

Rival for Australia's Dylan Alcott. Rio 2016 will be Wagner's fourth Paralympic Games having made his debut in Athens in 2004. In his three previous Games, he won three gold medals in the quads division - all in doubles. Up until 2015 he was the world No. 1 but has slipped down a spot since the emergence of Alcott.

Wheelchair Rugby

Chuck Aoki (USA)

Inspired to take up the sport after watching "Murderball", Aoki is one of the best players in the world. He made his international debut in 2009 and was a key part of the USA's bronze medal success at the 2014 World Championships.

Tomas Hjert (SWE)

Hjert was a former ice hockey player who switched to wheelchair rugby after he was paralysed from the chest down due to an injury sustained on the ice. He is 2.5 player who played a big part in Sweden's silver medal success at the 2015 European Championships.

Official Broadcaster



A Day by Day Guide to The Paralympic Games on Seven

NB. The details which follow are current as at 5 September, 2016 (All times AEST, subject to amendment, check local guides)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

KEY STAT: Rio roars back to life with the Paralympic Opening Ceremony, followed by live Paralympic action!

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Eight-time Paralympian **Russell Short** opens the Australian medal chase in the men's shot put

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Angela Ballard** (athletics), **Russell Short** (athletics), **Kieran Modra** (cycling), **Tiffany Thomas Kane** (swimming), **Prue Watt** (swimming), **Libby Kosmala** (shooting)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
0700-1015	OPENING CEREMONY - LIVE -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Johanna Griggs, Lawrence Mooney and Annabelle Williams
2030 – 2230	OPENING CEREMONY REPLAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best bits of the Rio Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony
2230-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Rio Today kicks off Seven's sport coverage with Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and Annabelle Williams.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO – LIVE Day 1 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics including six-time gold medallist, Russell Short (shot put) and sprinter Angela Ballard chasing her first gold medal Cycling headlined by multiple gold medallist, Kieran Modra Swimming with 14-year-old World Record holder, Tiffany Thomas-Kane and experienced campaigner Prue Watt

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

KEY STAT: Australia brings out some firepower for the first full day of competition, with World Record holders **Carlee Beattie** (long jump) and teenage swimmer **Tiffany Thomas Kane** leading the charge. The Aussie **Rollers** begin their quest for gold in men's wheelchair basketball.

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Expect the Aussies to be right in the medal mix across swimming, cycling and athletics as finals get underway.

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Daniela di Toro** (table tennis), **Rollers** (men's wheelchair basketball), **Carlee Beattie** (athletics), **Chad Perris** (athletics), **Angela Ballard** (athletics), **Tiffany Thomas Kane** (swimming), **Prue Watt** (swimming), **Maddison Elliott** (swimming)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis with team captain, Daniela di Toro • Shooting including veteran Libby Kosmala • Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights from the best of the morning competition, including Swimming and Cycling heats; finals from the Athletics and competition from the Table Tennis • Men's Wheelchair Basketball Australia vs Netherlands • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 1 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics finals including long jumper Carlee Beattie and sprinters Chad Perris and Angela Ballard • The Aussies chase the first swimming medals with Tiffany Thomas-Kane, Prue Watt and Maddison Elliott expected to be in the mix • The first Track Cycling medals • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up - featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 2 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics finals including Long Jump and Shot Put • Swimming headlined by Paralympian gold medallists, Ellie Cole and Brenden Hall • Rowing with Erik Horrie, Gavin Bellis & Kathryn Ross • Hosted by Tom Williams

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

KEY STAT: Track cyclist **Jessica Gallagher** tries her hand at a third Paralympic sport (after London 2012 athletics and Winter Paralympic alpine skiing); the **Rollers** back up for an important wheelchair basketball game against Turkey, and quad tennis World No.1 **Dylan Alcott** gets his Paralympic campaign underway.

AUS MEDAL WATCH: All eyes on the velodrome when **Jessica Gallagher & Madison Janssen** (pilot) take to the track, plus Four-time world champion, **Bill Chaffey** aims to win the first gold medal in Para-triathlon

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Kurt Fearnley** (athletics), **Jessica Gallagher** (cycling), **Dylan Alcott** (tennis) **Bill Chaffey** (triathlon), **Rollers** (men's wheelchair basketball)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track cycling including Jessica Gallagher & Madison Janssen (pilot) • Athletics including Chad Perris and Claire Keefer • Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Basketball Australia v Turkey • Highlights from morning competition including Cycling, Athletics and Swimming • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 2 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming finals with Brenden Hall, Matthew Levy and Ellie Cole expected to be in the mix • Athletics with Kurt Fearnley opening his campaign in the 5000mT54 • Track Cycling Finals with Alistair Donohue expected to feature • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO – LIVE Day 3 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World champion, Bill Chaffey goes for gold in the Triathlon • Athletics 100m hopeful Sam McIntosh and Angie Ballard in the heats of the 400m • Hosted by Tom Williams

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

KEY STAT: Team Captain **Kurt Fearnley** chases his first medal of the Games; the Aussie Rollers face off against Canada in a re-match of the 2012 Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball final; while 2016 Olympian **Melissa Tapper** heads back to Rio to start her Paralympic table tennis campaign.

AUS MEDAL WATCH: **Todd Hodgetts** aims to defend his Shot Put gold won in London; and **Kurt Fearnley** is expected to be in medal pursuit in the 5000m final

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Kurt Fearnley** (athletics), **Bill Chaffey** (triathlon), **Melissa Tapper** (table tennis)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming headlined by Tiffany Thomas-Kane, Prue Watt and Monique Murphy • Melissa Tapper opens her Paralympic Rio campaign in the Table Tennis • Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights from morning competition including the Triathlon, Table Tennis, Swimming, Cycling and Athletics • Rollers v arch rival Canada in the Wheelchair Basketball • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 3 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming hopefuls Blake Cochrane, Monique Murphy and Prue Watt • Todd Hodgetts attempts to go back-to-back for Paralympic gold in the shot put • Sue Powell competes in the Individual 500m at the velodrome • In the pool Blake Cochrane will swim for gold in the 100m breaststroke • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 4 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Athletics, Kurt Fearnley will chase gold in the 5000m, with Richard Coleman in the 400m and Brad Scott 1500m • Track Cycling Matthew Formston & Nicholas Yallouris (pilot) along with Jessica Gallagher & Madison Janssen (pilot) • Hosted by Tom Williams

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

KEY STAT: Swimming medals are there for the taking; Australia's promising **rowing** contingent continues its Paralympic campaign; the **Rollers** face Spain, excitement machine **Rheed McCracken** hits the track for the 100m and **Kurt Fearnley** is back in action.

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Swim stars **Brenden Hall**, **Rick Pendleton** and **Prue Watt** lead the Aussie hopes at the Rio Aquatic Centre

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Rollers** (wheelchair basketball), **Kurt Fearnley** (athletics), **Rheed McCracken** (athletics), **Brenden Hall** (swimming), **Prue Watt** (swimming)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowing with Gavin Ballis & Kathryn Ross and Erik Horrie Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted by Matt Carmichael Highlights from morning competition featuring the best of the Swimming, Athletics, Cycling plus the Rowing Wheelchair basketball Spain vs Australia
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 4 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Athletics will see Rheed McCracken tack to the track in the Men's 100m as well as Angie Ballard in the women's 400m At the Aquatics, Brenden Hall will again compete for gold, along with Rick Pendleton and Prue Watt Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 5 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics Kurt Fearnley in the heats of the 1500m Swimming with Ahmed Kelly, Brendan Hall and Tiffany Thomas-Kane Table Tennis continues with Daniela de Toro Hosted by Tom Williams

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

KEY STAT: Golden girl, **Ellie Cole** races for gold in a jam packed day of Paralympic action that also features one of the world's fastest Paralympians, sub-11 sprinter **Evan O'Hanlon** in the men's 100m, plus team favourite, **Ahmed Kelly** (swimming)

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Swimming headlined by **Ellie Cole** and athletics with **Rheed McCracken** in the mix

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Ellie Cole** (swimming), **Tiffany Thomas-Kane** (swimming), **Ahmed Kelly** (swimming), **Rheed McCracken** (athletics), **Angie Ballard** (athletics), **Madison de Rozario** (athletics), **Evan O'Hanlon** (athletics), **Rollers** (wheelchair basketball)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden girl, Ellie Cole takes to the pool again along with Rick Pendleton Bronze and Gold medal matches of the Table Tennis Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights from Swimming and athletics Australia v Japan in Wheelchair Basketball Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 5 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming with Ellie Cole, Tiffany Thomas-Kane and hopeful Ahmed Kelly Athletics with Rheed McCracken in the men's 100m, the 1500m with Angie Ballard, and Madison de Rozario and Aussie track star Evan O'Hanlon in the heats of the 100m Wheelchair Tennis with Dylan Alcott Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 6 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics medal hope Maddy Hogan will aim to add to her medal collection in Javelin. Daniel Michel is in action in the Boccia Hosted by Tom Williams

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

KEY STAT: Kurt Fearnley is expected to chase individual track gold for a final time in the 1500m (he will also contest the marathon and possibly a relay). In one of the biggest days of the Games, World Record holding sprinter **Isis Holt** races for gold, **Melissa Tapper** should have a place in the table tennis medal matches, **Dylan Alcott** and **Heath Davidson** will be in the mix for tennis quad doubles gold, **Ellie Cole** and **Brenden Hall** fly for 50m freestyle glory- AND the wheelchair rugby team begins its campaign against Great Britain. Strap in for a monster day of Paralympic action!

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Kurt Fearnley (athletics), Isis Holt (athletics), Melissa Tapper (table tennis), Angie Ballard, Christie Dawes and/or Madison de Rozario (athletics), Ellie Cole (swimming), Brenden Hall (swimming)

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: Steelers (wheelchair rugby), Kurt Fearnley (athletics), Isis Holt (athletics), Dylan Alcott (tennis), Ellie Cole (swimming)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian with Emma Booth • Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of morning competition including Equestrian, Boccia, Swimming and Athletics • Quarter finals of the Wheelchair Basketball get underway • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 6 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dylan Alcott & Heath Davidson are a strong chance for the Quad Doubles gold medal match • Melissa Tapper hopes to feature in the Table Tennis gold medal game • Kurt Fearnley is expected to chase gold in the 1500m • Angie Ballard, Christie Dawes, Maddie De Rosario in the women's 1500m • Swimming with Ellie Cole and Brendan Hall in the 50m freestyle events • Wheelchair Basketball quarter finals with the Rollers • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 7 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steelers start their campaign in the Wheelchair Rugby with a heated contest against Great Britain • Athletics with Christie Dawes and Madison de Rozario in the 5000m; Scott Reardon competes in the 100m and Richard Coleman in the 800m, plus sprint sensation Isis Holt racing for gold in the 100m • Hosted by Tom Williams

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

KEY STAT: World No.1 **Dylan Alcott** chases gold in the men's quad tennis final, plus the women's road race and canoeing finals with medal hope **Curtis McGrath** leading the Australian charge

AUS MEDAL WATCH: **Dylan Alcott** (tennis), **Rheed McCracken** (athletics), and the road cycling contingent

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Dylan Alcott** (tennis), **Rheed McCracken** (athletics), **Curtis McGrath** (canoe)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Cycling with Sue Powell and Lindsay Anderson Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights from morning competition including, Archery with Jonathan Milne, Road Cycling, Swimming, Athletics and Wheelchair Rugby Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 7 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Milne will be vying for a spot in the final of the Archery Rising star of Athletics Rheed McCracken is looking for gold in the 800m Swimming Prue Watts, Ahmed Kelly and 4 x 100m Men's S34 Cycling Carol Cooke and Keiran Modra Quad gold medal singles Wheelchair Tennis with hopeful Dylan Alcott Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 8 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics with Aussies on the track including Jake Lappin in the 800m Canoe with Curtis McGrath and Dylan Littlehales in the finals Equestrian with Emma Booth Hosted by Tom Williams

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

KEY STAT: There are medal hopes galore across swimming, athletics and cycling plus the Aussie rollers face Brazil in an all-green-and-gold showdown

AUS MEDAL WATCH: Watch for athletics contenders **Scott Reardon**, **Maddie De Rosario** and **Richard Coleman** and at the pool **Brenden Hall** and the **4 x 100m free women's relay**, plus boccia athlete **Daniel Michel**

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), **Evan O'Hanlon** (athletics), **Scott Reardon** (athletics), **Brenden Hall** (swimming)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming heats with Brenden Hall, Tiffany Thomas-Kane Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights from morning competition Swimming, Athletics and Canoe Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 8 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics with strong medal hopefuls Scott Reardon, Maddie De Rosario and Richard Coleman Swimming Brenden Hall and the 4 x 100m free women's relay Wheelchair Rugby Australia vs Brazil Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO – LIVE Day 9 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics with Evan O'Hanlon and the women's 4 x 400m T53 Road Cycling with Simone Kennedy and Amanda Reid Swimming with Ellie Cole and Maddison Elliott Hosted by Tom Williams

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

KEY STAT: Australia faces Canada in a rematch of the London 2012 Wheelchair Rugby final. This clash is not to be missed!

AUS MEDAL WATCH: **Ellie Cole** leads the Australian swim charge

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), **Ellie Cole** (swimming)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Tennis singles medal matches • Sailing with Daniel Fitzgibbon and Leisl Tesch
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights from morning competition Swimming and Athletics • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 9 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Rugby - Australia vs Canada • Athletics finals continue and Isis Holt flies again • Swimming finals heat up with Ellie Cole out to add to her medal tally • Boccia with a strong chance with Daniel Michel • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies.
2300-0200	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO – LIVE Day 10 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics including Kath Proudfoot in the shot put, plus the women's 800m • Road Cycling with Simone Kennedy and Amanda Reid • Football 5-a-side Finals • Hosted by Tom Williams

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

KEY STAT: It's the one the **Rollers** have been waiting for since losing the London 2012 gold medal match to Canada; the **Steelers** hope to defend their wheelchair rugby gold; plus the final session of **Swimming**.

AUS MEDAL WATCH: **Rollers** (men's wheelchair basketball), **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), **Athletics** and **Swimming**

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Rollers** (men's wheelchair basketball), **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), possibly **Kurt Fearnley** (4x400m)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian hopefuls Sharon Jarvis and Emma Booth • Hosted by Tom Williams
0500-0700	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights from the mornings events such as Swimming, Athletics, Road Cycling and Equestrian • Final of the Women's Wheelchair Basketball • Hosted by Matt Carmichael
0700-1100	EVENING SESSIONS FROM RIO-LIVE Day 10 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Basketball Gold Medal match expected to feature the Rollers • Big night in Athletics with women's 800m potentially Angie Ballard and Madison de Rozario and the men's 400m Evan O'Hanlon, plus the 4 x 400m which may feature Kurt Fearnley • Swimming final night Tiffany Thomas-Kane, Maddie Elliott and Daniel Fox • Hosted by Johanna Griggs
2030-2300	IN RIO TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel McLaughlin, Lawrence Mooney and swimming gold medallist Annabelle Williams host a supercharged Paralympic catch up- featuring all the Aussie medals, interviews and victory ceremonies. • Table Tennis with potentially Melissa Tapper
2300-0300	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE Day 11 of Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Rugby gold medal game with the Steelers hopeful of being in the final • Hosted by Tom Williams

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

KEY STAT: Catch the marathon events with **Kurt Fearnley** and **Christie Dawes** plus highlights from the wheelchair rugby final which will hopefully feature the Aussie **Steelers**

AUS MEDAL WATCH: **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), **Kurt Fearnley** (marathon)

BIG NAMES & TEAMS: **Steelers** (wheelchair rugby), **Kurt Fearnley** (marathon)

AEST	7TWO	HIGHLIGHTS
2300-0200* <i>continues</i>	MORNING SESSIONS FROM RIO - LIVE	<i>Continues...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hosted by Tom WilliamsMarathon cross to live for Kurt Fearnley and Christie Dawes
000-0900	MORNING HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highlights from the Marathon and the Wheelchair Rugby Final
0900-1100	CLOSING CEREMONY- LIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hosted by Johanna Griggs, Lawrence Money and Annabelle Williams