



Athletes Train With The Stars

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Sporting Hero Encouragement Program

Transplant Australia this month launches our Sporting Hero Encouragement Program. This program involves eight Australian sports stars who will coach our Aussie athletes at exclusive training clinics over the six months leading up to the Games.

The first clinic will be held on April 5 with world record holder and Australian swimming great, Samantha Riley and Olympic swimming coach Michael Bohl.

Keep an eye out on the website <http://www.worldtransplantgames09.com/> to get your swimming tips and see the photos which will be uploaded after the event.



These generous sporting heroes are lending their expertise to support Australian athletes going to the World Games and to promote organ and tissue donation. Check the World Games website details of all the training clinics.

Your team can have a sporting hero too! If you're interested or know of a sporting star in your country who may be interested – get in touch with teresa.vella@transplant.org.au to provide you with all the materials, and help you organise this under the World Transplant Games banner.

Over 1000 registered!

Registration numbers are ever rising. We have participants registered from over 30 countries. This is promising to make for an exceptional atmosphere that you won't want to miss. Remember registration closes on 15 June. Register online [here](#).

Volunteering

If you wish to volunteer at the Games or know someone who is interested, you can now apply on the World Transplant Games website. There are many positions to fill from event management, umpiring and timekeeping to general assistance. If you are travelling internationally and need accommodation, consider registering for the Games package. This is a wonderful event to get involved in and we are relying on volunteers to help make these Games a success. So register today online!



Official Games Airline



Qantas is the World Transplant Games Official Airline. Participants going to the Games from international destinations can receive significant reductions in airfare, some up to 45% off published prices. This offer is only available to registered participants of the Games. To secure this great offer please contact your Team Manager who is managing your team's travel to the Games. Have a safe journey.

Tour with Great Deals from Experience GC

The Gold Coasts very own tourist company Ticketmates is partnering with the Games to offer participant with some great deals to visit some of the Gold Coast's and Australia's iconic attractions. Deals will be available before, during and after the Games. To see what packages are on offer, [click here](#) and follow the links on the home page.

Swimming at the Chandler Aquatic Centre

Images supplied by The Sleeman Centre

If you're competing in Swimming at the Games or enjoy being a spectator, you can look forward to a world-class experience at the Chandler Aquatic Centre.

The Chandler Aquatic Centre is one of Queensland's best indoor swimming centres. The two day swimming event (Wednesday August 26 and Thursday August 27) will be staged in the 50 metre pool with grandstand seating up to 4,300. Competitors will have full access to all change room facilities and there will be plenty of refreshments for the athletes to rejuvenate between events.



The trip to the Chandler Centre will just be over an hour each way, so there will be early starts both mornings for competitors. Buses for spectators will leave after the athletes have been transported.

The Chandler Aquatic Centre has hosted some of Queensland's greatest aquatic events including the XVII Commonwealth Games, the 2001 Goodwill Games, World Masters Games, National Championships and Olympic and Commonwealth selection trials, and soon, the World Transplant Games. We hope you are in training and getting excited about competing at the fantastic facility.

To visit the Chandler Aquatic Centre website, [click here](#)

Please note that the training day will be held at Miami Pool on the Gold Coast, again a fantastic facility, but closer for athletes to have a practice session. The Practice Session will be held on Tuesday August 25 from 9am to 12 noon.



Interview with a Volunteer

Mary Long, Australian World Games Team Manager

Why are you inspired to be involved in the Games?

Initially, it was a focus and goal setting for Magnificent Mal 239 (Mary's late husband) to help regain his strength and physical fitness, and to demonstrate to our Donor Family and Transplant Team, the value that we placed on their precious and generous gift of life. There is no greater gift one can receive, than that life saving gift of an organ from a stranger. As we developed friendships and became acquainted with more people touched by transplantation, I was inspired in different ways.

Transplantation is a unique journey and one that is a privilege to have had. Transplant members are my special family – a family that gave support and had special meaning for me when Mal died. The bond and understanding that occurs between recipients is like no other that I have witnessed. I have to pay tribute to Jan and Daryl Wall who have voluntarily devoted much of their lives to helping transplant members. They have been a huge inspiration to me.



What are you involved in?

It is a privilege to be in the position of Australian Team Manager. A role that I would never have envisaged fulfilling.

How are these Games going to be memorable?

I know it will be an emotional roller coaster but to see donor families and athletes march into the Opening Ceremony is an incredible and moving experience. The friendships that result at a world level during the week of the games are to be valued. To have the opportunity to be a supporter, continues to be important in the acknowledgement and thanks for this transplant journey. I hope that I can responsibly assist individual athletes and their supporters, in the realisation of their dreams and goals.

The 17th World Transplant Games - August 22-30, 2009. Proudly supported by

