

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

## **Seven unveils golden Olympic team**

### **Biggest broadcast undertaking in Australian TV history**

After a year when the world faced its toughest fight in a generation, nations that have been darkened by lockdowns, curfews and quarantines will soon be lit by the Olympic flame.

With just 100 days to go until Tokyo 2020 begins, and athletes from all corners of the globe prepare to reunite in Tokyo to prove the human spirit cannot be defeated, the Seven Network has assembled a world-class Olympic and Paralympic commentary team that will lead the country's biggest-ever broadcast and digital event.

For the first time in Australian free-to-air television history, there will be 45 dedicated Olympic channels across Seven and [7plus](#) all live, free and in HD.

Australia's most loved and respected sports broadcaster Bruce McAvaney returns for his 11<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games coverage, with Seven's team featuring some of Australia's greatest ever Olympians, who between them have racked up numerous Olympic and World Championship gold medals and 22 World Titles plus hundreds of Games both as competitors and broadcasters.

On Wednesday, Seven announced its coverage would be anchored by Hamish McLachlan, Abbey Gelmi, Johanna Griggs, Luke Darcy, Matt Shirvington, Edwina Bartholomew, Lisa Sthalekar and Andy Maher.

Leading Seven's contingent on the ground in Tokyo, Mel McLaughlin, Mark Beretta, Jason Richardson and Nathan Templeton will make sure audiences are kept up to date with all the latest news, colour and atmosphere of the Games.

Australia's cycling golden girl Anna Meares, who won six medals including two gold across four Olympic Games, is one of the exciting new additions to Seven's commentary team, along with former champion ironwoman Candice Warner.

They will be joined by fellow gold medallists Nick Green, Giaan Rooney, Scott McGrory, Russell Mark, Debbie Watson and Kerri Pottharst, while decorated Olympians Andrew Gaze, Rachael Sporn, Tamsyn Lewis-Manou and David Culbert also headline Seven's coverage.

Master broadcaster Basil Zempilas leads an impressive team of callers including rugby's leading commentator Greg Clark, basketball expert John Casey, and accomplished callers Brenton Speed and Matt Hill. Jason Richardson will be trackside at the athletics, while Nathan Templeton will be poolside interviewing all the Olympic Games stars.

There are more big announcements on Seven's commentary line-up in coming weeks, including the biggest-ever Olympic Host Broadcasting Service of international callers and experts.

For pre-eminent broadcaster Bruce McAvaney, anticipation is building for what promises to be a remarkable Games across 17 days featuring the world's greatest athletes, new sports and in the perfect time zone:

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Like our Australian athletes, Seven's broadcast team have been deep in preparation for an unprecedented Games.

"We're anticipating milestone performances and a new crop of athletes who'll become household names.

"The Olympics remains the greatest event in international sport and it's exhilarating to be able to share the experience with all Australians, in our own time zone."

Exactly 16 days after the Flame is extinguished in Tokyo, a new one will be lit, signalling the start of the Paralympic Games. Johanna Griggs and Paralympic gold medalist Annabelle Williams will anchor Seven's unprecedented coverage across Seven and [7plus](#) featuring up to 16 live streams.

Seven West Media Chief Revenue Officer and Director of Olympics, Kurt Burnette, said: "Seven will set a new benchmark as the most comprehensive, innovative and technologically advanced Olympic and Paralympic experience spanning all platforms.

"Seven is the undisputed home of the Olympic Games with an unparalleled understanding of the event, since the very first television broadcast of the Games in Melbourne 1956," he said.

"Rarely do we see a moment as historically significant as Tokyo and Seven is setting a new benchmark for the Olympic and Paralympic experience live and free across all platforms – something never offered in Australia.

"We can't wait to deliver to Australians what will be the most-watched Olympic Games since Sydney 2000 and the biggest ever digital event."

Viewers will wake up to all the latest Olympic highlights, news and exclusive athlete interviews each day with Australia's #1 breakfast show **Sunrise** before Johanna Griggs, returning for her seventh Olympic Games coverage, steers Seven's morning broadcast alongside Luke Darcy.

Legendary Olympic sprinter Matt Shirvington and Edwina Bartholomew, who will be covering her third Olympic Games for Seven, then take the reins each afternoon.

Following **7NEWS** live at 6.00 every night of the Games, two of Australia's best sports broadcasters, Hamish McLachlan and Abbey Gelmi, will take audiences on a prime time golden rollercoaster of competition.

The Olympics will be essential late-night viewing with only a one-hour time difference on the East Coast and as the night kicks on, viewers will be welcomed to **Tokyo Shinya** with Andy Maher and Lisa Sthalekar, a show so mysterious, we can't reveal any more.

Hamish McLachlan said: "After a year that's challenged us like few before, Tokyo is poised to bring the world together again in the most powerful sign yet that the human spirit cannot be defeated. This Olympic Games will be bigger than sport. Simply being there and taking part will be a victory in itself.

"Australia has always had wonderful Olympic Games teams and when you look at our team for Tokyo, sport by sport, it will be another brilliant group of worthy individuals and teams that we will all marvel at when it's their time to perform. We have world champions, world #1s and major winners, everywhere.

"In terms of the broadcast, it's exciting and very humbling to be part of a Seven commentary team that includes Olympic legends like Anna Meares, the iconic Oarsome Foursome's Nick Green, Scott McGrory and Russell Mark. They are some of the men and women I grew up idolising and cheering for," he said.

"Tokyo will see some familiar faces competing as well as some new sports, through which will come a new fascination and new faces. As always, it will be the world's best against each other, at the world's biggest festival of sport. I can't wait for it to begin."

Abbey Gelmi, who embarks on her first Games broadcast, said: "Covering an Olympic Games is the ultimate privilege as a sports broadcaster and to be part of this team is something I've dreamed of.

"The pressure, drama and emotion at an Olympic Games is at a level nothing else can match, and Tokyo promises to be a Games unlike any we've seen before.

"The evening schedule is unbelievable, so to be side-by-side with Home every night as we bring the stories of the Games into living rooms across Australia in prime time is beyond exciting. I cannot wait."

Seven's Head of Sport, Lewis Martin, added: "At Seven, we will unashamedly get behind our Australian team with the rest of the country, but we will never lose sight of the other nations competing. Their triumphs and feel-good stories deserve to be celebrated like never before.

"As always, we will bring unrivalled expertise to our Olympic coverage. You can trust Seven and our extraordinary team of commentators to take you inside every single event, to where the best action is happening at all times.

"Tokyo will be the greatest event you'll ever see. From the opening ceremony to the closing ceremony – and everything in between – the only place you can witness all of the history-making action live and free is Seven, Your Home of the Olympics."

**Sunrise** is the only place Australians will be able to see live competition and all the Olympic highlights every morning.

Kochie and Nat will be live to Mark Beretta at the centre of all the action in Tokyo, while a panel of some of our greatest ever Olympians and athletes' families will be cheering on as our Olympians go for Gold.

**7NEWS**, Australia's official Olympic news service, is the only network with unrestricted access to the Games and will have the biggest team on the ground in Tokyo.

**7NEWS** Chief Correspondent Chris Reason and sports anchor Mel McLaughlin will lead a team of reporters, including Ashlee Mullany, Alex Hart, Matthew Carmichael, Sharnelle

Vella, Rob Scott, Blake Johnson and Ryan Daniels, operating 24-hours a day from inside venues and alongside athletes, taking Australians into the inner sanctum.

And [7NEWS.com.au](http://7NEWS.com.au) will be the #1 online destination for Olympic news, updates and daily event schedules.

The website will feature a dedicated hub for results and medal tallies, plus all the latest breaking news, exclusive content, in-depth features and the greatest stories from the Games.

Mel McLaughlin said: “Having the privilege of working on an Olympic Games is the stuff of dreams in our line of work. I can’t wait to do it all again.

“Nothing beats being there and although things will look more than a little different, there’s no question Japan will deliver perhaps the best – and certainly most anticipated – Olympic Games ever. These Games are exactly what the world needs right now.

“Australia’s team will be its biggest ever and it could be our most successful ever. Our team at Seven can’t wait to bring you all the stories, the goosebumps and all the raw emotion that comes with an Olympic Games.”

Australians will be able to keep up to date with all the latest news, the biggest and best moments, and exclusive content, on the 7Olympics social channels on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), TikTok and [YouTube](#).

## **Olympic Games 23 July-8 August**

## **Paralympic Games 24 August-5 September**

## **Tokyo 2020 live and free on Seven and 7plus**

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[7NEWS.com.au](http://7NEWS.com.au)

[#7Olympics](#)

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## THE BROADCAST TEAM

### Hamish McLachlan

Hamish is one of Australia's best and most experienced broadcasters, having hosted and commentated on a wide range of sports including the Olympic Games, AFL, horse racing, tennis and Commonwealth Games. He will co-host Seven's prime time coverage of Tokyo each night alongside Abbey Gelmi. Hamish boasts extraordinary Olympic Games knowledge and a passion and enthusiasm for all sporting disciplines.

### Abbey Gelmi

Abbey has quickly become one of Seven's most versatile hosts, having presented across the network's AFL, cricket, horse racing and Brownlow Medal coverage with poise, grace and an infectious enthusiasm. As the granddaughter of Australian middle-distance great Herb Elliott, sport is in Abbey's blood. She is fulfilling a lifelong dream in joining Seven's hosting team for her very first Olympic Games coverage.

Social – Twitter: [@abbey\\_gelmi](https://twitter.com/abbey_gelmi); Instagram: [abbeygelmi](https://www.instagram.com/abbeygelmi)

### Matt Shirvington

One of the greats of Australian track and field, Matt represented his country at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, the 1998 and 2006 Commonwealth Games and seven World Championships. With 16 years' experience as a host and reporter, Matt has extensive experience in the sports media, while he also sits on the board of the NSW Institute of Sport. In Tokyo, he will bring his vast sports knowledge and warm personality to Seven's afternoon coverage as co-host with Edwina Bartholomew.

Social – Twitter: [@mattshirvington](https://twitter.com/mattshirvington); Instagram: [mattshirvo](https://www.instagram.com/mattshirvo)

### Edwina Bartholomew

The **Sunrise** presenter returns for her third Olympic Games coverage with Seven. Edwina will host the afternoon broadcast alongside Matt Shirvington each day of the Games.

Social – Instagram: [@edwina\\_b](https://www.instagram.com/edwina_b)

### Johanna Griggs

Joh represented Australia in swimming at the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990, winning bronze in the 100m backstroke, before she went on to become one of the most popular television personalities on Australian screens. Joh has been part of Seven's coverage of almost all major sporting events, including the past six Olympic Games, tennis and horse racing, as well as hosting top-rating programs **Better Homes and Gardens** and **House Rules**. Joh will also host Seven's coverage of the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 alongside Paralympic gold medallist Annabelle Williams.

Social – Twitter: [@JohGriggs7](https://twitter.com/JohGriggs7); Instagram: [johgriggs7](https://www.instagram.com/johgriggs7)

### Luke Darcy

A former AFL star with the Western Bulldogs, Luke is regarded as one of the best ruck-forwards of the modern era, winning the Leigh Matthews Trophy as the AFL Players Association's MVP in 2002. Since his playing retirement, Luke has carved out a burgeoning career as a radio and TV personality, establishing himself as a key caller with Seven's AFL commentary team. He will co-host Seven's morning coverage of Tokyo 2020 each day alongside Johanna Griggs.

### Lisa Sthalekar

The former Australian women's cricket captain carved out an impressive career as an all-rounder that saw her honoured as Australian Women's Cricketer of the Year in 2007 and 2008. Lisa has since made an impactful transition to the commentary box with her inside

knowledge of the women's game at the highest level. Thoughtful and articulate, Lisa brings a fresh perspective to Seven's late-night coverage alongside Andy Maher.

Social – Twitter: [@sthalekar93](#); Instagram: [lsthalekar](#)

### **Andy Maher**

Describing himself as the “unfunny one” from **The Front Bar** and “least swashbuckling” member of Seven's BBL commentary team, Andy is also a highly respected journalist and sports presenter on radio and television. Andy's extensive media commitments cover a variety of sports, including AFL and cricket. He will co-host Seven's late-night Tokyo coverage alongside Lisa Sthalekar.

Social – Twitter: [@AndyMaherDFA](#); Instagram: [andymaherdfa](#)

### **Annabelle Williams**

During her swimming career, Annie captained the Australian Paralympic swim team, broke five world records and won numerous medals for Australia, including gold at the Paralympic Games London 2012. Her achievements out of the pool are just as impressive. An accomplished sports broadcaster, international speaker and former corporate lawyer, Annie's humorous and heart-warming storytelling captivates, entertains and inspires.

Social – Twitter: [@anniejwilliams](#); Instagram: [anniejwilliams](#)

### **Mel McLaughlin**

Mel leads Seven's broadcast and **7NEWS** contingent on the ground in Tokyo. The highly respected sports anchor and live-to-air broadcaster has covered a host of major international sporting events, including both summer and winter Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, the FIFA World Cup, cricket and tennis. Mel will be in her absolute element in Tokyo.

Social – Twitter: [@Mel\\_Mclaughlin](#); Instagram: [mel\\_mclaughlin](#)

### **Mark Beretta**

Mark, or “Beretts” as he's more affectionately known, is one of Australia's best known and most admired sports commentators. He has covered almost every major Australian and international sporting event in an incredible career spanning three decades, including every Olympic Games Seven has covered since 1996, the AFL, Australian Open tennis and Supercars. For the past 17 years, Mark has been a much-loved member of Australia's #1 breakfast show, **Sunrise**, keeping viewers up to date with all the latest sport headlines from Australia and around the world, while he is also a 10-time Australian water ski champion.

Social – Twitter: [@MarkBeretta](#); Instagram: [markberetta](#)

### **Jason Richardson**

“Richo” is a Stawell Gift winner who has carved out an impressive broadcasting career with Seven. He has hosted and commentated on various events including the Australian Open, Olympic Games Rio 2016, Spring Racing Carnival, Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Social – Twitter: [@JaseRicho](#); Instagram: [jaserichardson7](#)

### **Nathan Templeton**

With close to two decades' experience in sport reporting from events such as the Australian Open tennis, the Ashes in the UK, the World Swimming Championships in Russia and three Commonwealth Games, Nathan will be in Tokyo for his second Olympic Games coverage.

Social – Twitter: [@nathantemp7](#); Instagram: [nathantemp7](#)

## COMMENTATORS

### **Bruce McAvaney**

On the world stage, Bruce is one of the greatest sports broadcasters we've ever seen. He returns for his 11<sup>th</sup> Olympics Games coverage for both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and to call the athletics. In recognition of his outstanding career, last year Bruce was honoured with the Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award. This follows his induction into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2002, and a Medal of the Order of Australia that same year. Bruce's depth and breadth of sporting knowledge is peerless, while he brings an unbridled passion and enthusiasm to the Olympic Games and track and field.

### **Tamsyn Lewis-Manou**

A three-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist and winner of 18 Australian Championships at 400m, 800m and 400m hurdles, Tamsyn will join Bruce McAvaney for expert commentary at the athletics.

Social – Twitter: [@tamsynlewis](#); Instagram: [tamsynlewismanou](#)

### **David Culbert**

A long jump finalist at the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992 and two-time silver medallist at the Commonwealth Games, Dave has established himself as a renowned Olympics Games broadcaster and will provide expert athletics commentary, along with calling the canoe and kayak events.

Social – Twitter: [@Culbert\\_Report](#); Instagram: [culbert\\_report](#)

### **Basil Zempilas**

Basil has been a commentator with Seven's Olympic Games coverage since 2000, including his famous call of Steven Bradbury's unbelievable come-from-behind win and Australia's first Winter Olympic gold medal in Salt Lake City in 2002. Basil will again be a valued member of Seven's commentary team when he dives into his sixth summer Games as the lead swimming commentator.

Social – Twitter: [@BasilZempilas](#); Instagram: [basil\\_zempilas](#)

### **Giaan Rooney**

A gold medallist at the Olympic Games Athens 2004, two-time silver medallist at Sydney 2000 and former captain of Australia's swim team, Giaan's passion and commitment to the sport shines through in her expert commentary.

Social – Twitter: [@GiaanRooney](#); Instagram: [giaan.rooney](#)

### **Anna Meares**

A champion and true sportswoman, Anna is one of Australia's favourite sports stars. She is a four-time Olympian, having won a total of six Olympic medals including two gold in Athens and London, an 11-time world champion across four different disciplines and a five-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist. Anna was the flag bearer for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games Rio 2016, where she was also the Australian Olympic Team Captain. Anna brings unrivalled insight to the cycling competition.

Social – Twitter: [@AnnaMeares](#); Instagram: [annameares](#)

### **Andrew Gaze**

An Australian basketball legend, Andrew led the Boomers to five Olympic Games and was the Australian flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games Sydney 2000. On the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of that unforgettable moment, Andrew joins Seven's broadcast team to provide expert commentary of the basketball.

Social – Twitter: [@AndrewGaze10](#); Instagram: [andrewgaze10](#)

### **Candice Warner**

The youngest ever Australian ironwoman to turn professional, at just 14, Candice went on to become a state ironwoman champion and won 20 national and three world championship medals in surf lifesaving and ironwoman events. Candice will draw on her experiences in elite sport when she joins Seven's team to commentate on the men's and women's triathlon and marathon swimming.

Social – Twitter: [@CandiceWarner31](#); Instagram: [candywarner1](#)

### **John Casey**

One of Australia's best-known commentators and journalists with more than three decades' experience broadcasting at home and abroad, John has covered multiple Olympic Games, four basketball world championships, AFL, NBL, WNBL and SANFL. He will commentate the men's basketball matches alongside Andrew Gaze.

Social – Twitter: [@JohnCasey2880](#); Instagram: [johncasey2880](#)

### **Rachael Sporn**

One of Australia's basketball greats, Rachael was a key member of the Opals teams that won bronze at Atlanta 1996 and silver medals at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. A dual WNBL MVP and part of five WNBL championship teams, she also played in the WNBA with Detroit Shock. Rachael will call the women's basketball, with Team Australia an undeniable medal chance.

### **Scott McGrory**

An outstanding Australian cyclist and sports broadcaster, Scott won gold in the Madison at the Olympic Games Sydney 2000 in one of the most remarkable stories every told. His accomplishment alongside Brett Aitken is the stuff of legend and he will be ready to carry that knowledge and emotion into his Tokyo commentary.

Social – Instagram: [scottmcgrory](#)

### **Nick Green**

One of Australia's Olympic heroes as a member of the iconic "Oarsome Foursome", Nick has won nearly every individual and team honour in rowing, including two Olympic gold medals, in Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996. At the Olympic Games Sydney 2000 Opening Ceremony, Nick was invited to carry the International Olympic Flag. Nick leads the rowing and canoeing calls for Tokyo 2020.

### **Kerri Pottharst**

Became a darling of the Australian public when she and Natalie Cook won gold in the women's beach volleyball in Sydney 2000, with the star duo having won the bronze medal four years earlier in Atlanta. Kerri joins Seven's team to cast her expert eye over all the action in this year's beach volleyball.

Social – Twitter: [@kerripottharst](#); Instagram: [kerripottharst](#)

### **Matt Hill**

Matt is a leading Australian race caller and sports broadcaster. Recognised throughout the industry for his flair, commitment and accuracy, he has honed his art over many years calling a myriad of sports from horse racing to greyhound racing, tennis, AFL, the Olympic Games and more. In Tokyo, Matt will call the rowing, canoeing and kayaking.

### **Russell Mark**

Russell is an Olympic gold medallist having won the double trap shooting in Atlanta 1996, along with silver in Sydney 2000. Russell will deliver expert commentary on the shooting in this year's coverage, helping viewers to understand the intellectual and psychological skill required in this demanding sport.



Social – Instagram: [russellmarkgold](#)

**Debbie Watson**

One of the best women’s water polo players to have graced the pool for Australia, Debbie’s the only Australian female water polo player to have won gold at World Cup, World Championship and Olympic level. She’ll provide expert commentary and analysis on our water polo teams as they vie for gold in Tokyo.

**Greg Clark**

The voice of rugby in Australia, Greg’s stellar calling career has spanned more than 20 years, over 200 Test matches and countless Super Rugby classics. Greg will bring his trademark accuracy and entertaining commentary style to the Rugby Sevens in Tokyo.

Social – Twitter: [greg\\_clarkie](#); Instagram: [greg\\_clarkie](#)

**Brenton Speed**

Brenton is one of Australia’s most well-rounded sport commentators, having called athletics, rowing, football and swimming. In Tokyo, he will call football, beach volleyball, tennis and basketball.

Social – Twitter: [@BrentonSpeed](#); Instagram: [speedbrenton](#)

\*Seven will announce full details of its coverage plans for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in coming weeks