



Star-studded line-up for Parathon

The stars line up this Saturday to help our Paralympians realise their dreams in Rio.

(2 March 2016) Channel Seven will broadcast the **Weekend Sunrise Parathon** LIVE from Sydney's Martin Place this Saturday, March 5 between 7am-12pm AEDT in support of Australia's Paralympic team.

The Weekend Sunrise team of Andrew O'Keefe, Angela Cox, Simon Reeve, Talitha Cummins, James Tobin and Sally Bowrey will be joined by some of Australia's screen, sport and music stars to encourage Australia to dig deep and help our Paralympians realise their dreams in Rio.

Channel Seven stars lending their support on Saturday include *Better Homes and Gardens* and *House Rules* host **Johanna Griggs**; *My Kitchen Rules* judge **Colin Fassnidge** and the "Italianos" **Luciano and Martino**; *7 News* and *Sunday Night* presenter **Melissa Doyle**; *The Morning Show's* **Kylie Gillies**; *The Daily Edition's* **Sally Obermeder** and **Tom Williams**; *Home and Away* stars **Philippa Northeast** and **Scott Lee**; *Saturday Disney's* **Candice Dixon**, **Teigan Nash** and **Nathan Morgan** and *Sunday Night* reporters **PJ Madam** and **Denham Hitchcock**.

Also taking part are a number of para-athletes including the world's best wheelchair rugby player **Ryley Batt**, reigning Paralympic swimming champion **Ellie Cole** and dual World Championship winning wheelchair basketballer **Tristan Knowles**; as well as Paralympic legends including Australia's fastest ever speed-skier **Michael Milton** and International Tennis Hall of Famer **David Hall**.

Joining the Parathon line-up are sporting legends **Michael Clarke** and **Libby Trickett**, while chart-topping singer and current *Home and Away* guest star **Samantha Jade**, 2015 *X Factor* winner **Cyrus** and Aussie blues icon **Russell Morris** will all perform live.

Members of the public are encouraged to come down to Martin Place to be a part of the telecast, meet their favourite personalities and experience exciting fundraising activations hosted by Australian Paralympic Team partners Cadbury, Woolworths and Toyota.

The Australian Paralympic Committee is aiming to send 170 Paralympic athletes from 15 sports to Rio at a cost of \$7 million. All money raised above the Rio funding target will be used for community driven programs to identify future generations of Paralympians and inspire people with disabilities.

Donate now at www.7parathon.com.au or call 1800 441 991 on the day.

#7parathon
@sunriseon7
@AUSparalympics

(cont'd over...)



DID YOU KNOW?

Australia at the Paralympic Games

- Australia has participated at every Paralympic Games since the first summer Games in 1960 (Rome, ITA) and first winter Games (Örnsköldsvik, SWE) in 1976.
- Australia has finished in the top five at the summer Paralympic Games since Atlanta in 1996, and topped the medal tally at the Sydney Games in 2000.
- At the London Games in 2012, 161 Australian athletes competed in 13 sports and finished fifth on the overall medal tally with 32 Gold, 23 Silver and 30 Bronze medals.
- 1,132 athletes and 62 pilots and guides for vision-impaired athletes have represented Australia at the summer and Winter Paralympic Games.
- Australia has won 1,076 Paralympic medals since 1960.

The 2016 Australian Paralympic Team

- 170 athletes from every Australian state and territory.
- 15 sports, including the two new sports of canoe and triathlon.
- Leading gold medal chances will come from the sports of athletics, canoe, cycling, rowing, swimming, sailing, triathlon, wheelchair rugby and men's wheelchair basketball.
- Kate McLoughlin will become the first female Chef de Mission of an Australian Paralympic Team.

A snapshot - Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

- September 7-18, 2016.
- 4,350 athletes from 176 countries a new record.
- 528 medal events in 23 sports.
- Para-canoe and Para-triathlon are making their Paralympic debuts.
- First Paralympic Games held in South America.
- Estimated global viewing audience of 4 billion people.
- Seven is the first Australian commercial network to broadcast the Paralympics.

- END

For further information, please contact:

Greg Smith
Channel Seven
0438 777 164
grsmith@seven.com.au

Tim Mannion

General Manager, Communications Australian Paralympic Committee 02 9704 0506 / 0417 065 409 tim.mannion@paralympic.org.au

