

# Celebrating 2021 International Women's Day



8 March - In celebration of International Women's Day the Australian Curling Federation takes a moment to highlight the trailblazers in Australian Curling history. This is the first Australian Women's Curling team from 1991 featuring left to right: Lead **Tanya Joyce**, 5th **Rhonda Shallcross/Oastler**, 2nd **Janie Pirret**, Skip **Jackie Lund**, and 3rd **Christine Guthrie/Traquair**. The November 1991 Pacific Curling Championships took place in Sagami-hara, Japan with two Women's teams (AUS & JPN) and three Men's teams (AUS, NZ and JPN). Photo courtesy of the Hewitt archives



**Sandy Gagnon** is congratulated on being the first Australian Curler to be named as one of the game umpires for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The World Curling Federation announced all the International Technical Officials in June 2020. Sandy has also competed in 10 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and 5 World Senior Curling Championships. Photos © WCF / Céline Stucki



This is the first Senior Women's Curling team who competed in April 2013 at the World Senior Curling Championships held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Left to right: Skip **Lynn Hewitt**, Vice-skip **Ellen Weir**, 2nd **Gwen Wills**, Lead **Jenny Riordan** with coach Ben Franklin. There were 14 Senior Women's teams at WSCC and 20 Senior Men's teams. Photos © WCF



We acknowledge the most qualified coach in Australia, **Lyn Gill**, who holds a World Curling Federation Level 2 Coaching certificate. Lyn's completed two intense overseas coaching programs with the WCF and assisted with coaching two elite Junior World Curling training camps in Germany. As the long-time coach of the National Junior Women's team since 2008, Lyn has coached the team at both International and World level events since 2009. Nationally, Lyn was recognised as 2009 Coach of the Year by the Australian Institute of Winter Ice Sports for her involvement as a coach of elite Junior curling athletes. In addition, Lyn is an elite player representing Australia at the 2013 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships and 7 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships – the most recent in 2018 with two of her daughters on the team. What a role model and contributor to junior development in Australian Curling. Photos © WCF / Tom Rowland



Individual recognition today goes to **Kim Forge** who, for the past 8 years, has been at the helm of the Australian Curling Federation as the first female President. Prior to this, Kim served as the ACF Vice-President for 3 years and a VCA representative before the VP role. During Kim's time as President, the number of curlers in Australia has increased by 84%. In November 2020, Kim was selected as the sole Australian for the International Olympic Committee Executive Masters in Sport Organisation Management Programme. As a long-time Curling advocate, Kim was elected by fellow athletes in 2016 to serve on the WCF Athlete Commission and is the WCF Female Representative for the ACF. From 2009 – 2014 Kim served on the Pacific-Asia Zonal Commission representing Australian interests in the region.

In addition to the above Kim has represented Australia in 4 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships, 4 World Mixed Curling Championships and 9 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships. © WCF / Céline Stucki 2015