



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 17 November, 2004

AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES STRONGEST TEAM FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY WINTER GAMES 2005

Australia announced its strongest team today to compete at the 2005 World University Winter Games (WUWG) to be held in Innsbruck, Austria from January 12 – 21.

Of the thirteen member team, five competitors will return to the WUWG to improve on their 2003 results. Leading the charge will be University of New England cross country skier Katherine Calder.

In 2004 Calder made a career break-through with a third placing in the 1km Freestyle Sprint event at the Swiss Championships. The podium result was the first for Australia since 1992. Prior to her third placing at the same competition, Calder finished tenth in the 10km freestyle to qualify for the Australian Team at the 2005 World Championships in Oberstdorf.

Australian team officials are confident of solid performances by the team judging by results achieved during 2004.

"The talent in the team this year is outstanding and with the results we've seen so far from not only Katherine but from Hannes Zirknitzer and Sarah Sauvey in Alpine events and Sarah-Yvonne Prytula in Figure Skating puts us in good contention for podium finishes," said Chris Solly, Australian University Sport World University Winter team Chef de Mission.

For the first time in 2005 the WUWG will introduce a new event – Skier Cross. An adrenaline fuelled competition, skier cross pits four skiers against each other in a full contact race on a specifically designed course including slalom turns, raised ¼ pipe blanked turns, rollers and water jumps.

Australia will be represented by Josh Knuckey (The University of Sydney), Karinya Turnbull (The University of New South Wales) and Sarah Samson (Deakin University) in the action packed skiers cross event.

The WUWG are held every two years under the auspices of the International University Sports Federation (FISU). The 2005 Games comprise competition in ten (10) winter sports disciplines, with Australia being represented in Cross Country Skiing, Alpine Skiing and Figure Skating.

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2005 World University Winter Games 12 – 21 January 2005

Chef de Mission: Mr Chris Solly
 Administration Manager: Mr Peter Schofield
 Assistant Manager: Ms Anne King
 Medical Personnel: Mr Adam Castricum
 Cross Country Ski Official: Mr Finn Marsland
 Alpine Coach: Mr Steven Lee
 Alpine Coach: Mr Michael Dickson

Athlete	University
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	
Esther Bottomley	University of Canberra
Katherine Calder	University of New England
Andrew Circosta	University of Canberra
Nicholas Grimmer	Australian National University
Andrew Mock	University of Melbourne
FIGURE SKATING	
Sarah-Yvonne Prytula	University of New South Wales
ALPINE SKIING	
Hannes Zirknitzer	Whitman College, USA
Patrick Auderer	Deakin University
Sarah Sauvey	RMIT University
Fiona Rae	University of Sydney
Sarah Samson	Deakin University
Josh Knuckey	University of Sydney
Karina Turnbull	University of New South Wales