

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR DISTRIBUTION MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

GOLD COAST UNITES BEHIND FUTURE OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC HOPEFULS

TEN FUTURE STARS ANNOUNCED IN LANDMARK GROW FOR GOLD PROGRAM

Grow for Gold is one of Australia's most ambitious community-driven athlete funding programs. It's backing a team of ten elite young athletes chasing their dream of competing at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Built on belief and fuelled by community, the program provides **\$10,000 in funding per year for seven years** to each athlete — ensuring financial barriers do not stand in the way of pursuing the world's biggest sporting stage.

Created by **Sports Gold Coast**, in collaboration with **the Aussie Athlete Fund**, and proudly supported by the **City of Gold Coast**, Grow for Gold has launched with a powerful mission: to elevate the next generation of Gold Coast champions.

More than **150 young Gold Coast athletes** applied, with the final 10 chosen through a rigorous, independent process led by Olympic and Paralympic representatives and an elite Olympic coach.

*“This is a movement powered by belief,” said **Sports Gold Coast CEO Geoff Bower**.*

“Grow for Gold has a united community rallying behind our own — giving these athletes the opportunity to chase their Olympic or Paralympic dream, regardless of their financial circumstances.”
“And when the world is watching in 2032, we will know the Gold Coast helped get them there.”

A LEGACY BUILT TO INSPIRE A NATION

Olympic Gold Medallist and **Aussie Athlete Fund Director Natalie Cook OAM** said the program represents a new model for how communities back future champions.

“This is what happens when a city throws its arms around its own,” Ms Cook said.

“A village raising champions. A legacy built together. The Gold Coast community should be so proud. It’s quite incredible”

CITY OF GOLD COAST — SUPPORTING ATHLETES TO COMPETE ON HOME SOIL

As part of the Gold Coast 2032 Legacy Strategy, the City of Gold Coast is a founding sponsor of the Grow for Gold athletes fund program — helping support and invest in our future local champions.

With the Gold Coast serving as a **Co-Host City for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, the mission is clear — to ensure local athletes have every opportunity to compete on home soil, in front of the community that raised them.

Grow for Gold will empower some of our emerging elite athletes with the potential to represent the Gold Coast and Australia at the Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Games — reinforcing the Gold Coast's status as a world-class sports city with a world-class legacy.

“What a time to be part of Gold Coast history with the 10 recipients of Grow for Gold sponsorship announced today,” said Mayor Tom Tate.

“This program aligns with our Gold Coast 2032 Legacy Strategy and I am delighted the City is a founding sponsor. I also applaud the businesses who have stood up to financially support these wonderful young athletes on their pathway towards 2032.

“Let’s come together to follow their dreams with just seven years until the cauldron is lit. Bring it on.”

MEET THE ATHLETES — GOLD COAST’S NEXT GENERATION OF CHAMPIONS

Ashley Bryden – Para Triathlon (PTVI3)

Strength, resilience and rapid progression through Australia’s Paralympic pathway.

Maguire Reid – Canoe Sprint

Focused Podium Potential athlete representing Australia at senior World Cups.

Amelie Sanders – Road and Track Cycling

Oceania and National Champion with world-class speed and determination.

Xavier Gilbee – BMX Freestyle

International competitor rising quickly within Australia’s elite freestyle ranks.

Aspen Anderson – Triathlon

Tactical, powerful junior athlete benchmarking against future Olympians.

Luca Free – Rowing

World Championship medallist rebuilding toward Brisbane 2032 glory.

Natalia Drobot – Canoe Sprint

Hard-working, international medallist poised for Olympic-level success.

Sarah Nicki – BMX Freestyle

World Championship finalist and role model for women in action sports.

Thewbelle Philp – Athletics

One of Australia’s fastest young sprinters with elite podium potential.

Madeleine (Maddie) Kelton – Wheelchair Basketball

Australian Gliders prospect with strong LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032 ambitions.

Each athlete brings genuine potential to take the Gold Coast to the Olympic or Paralympic world stage.

BACKED BY BUSINESS BELIEF — LED BY THE PROPERTY SECTOR

Grow for Gold would not be possible without the support from City of Gold Coast and the incredible generosity of the Gold Coast business community. Driven largely by the region’s leading property organisations their commitment to the program and Gold Coast athletes has been quite extraordinary.

Athlete Partners

Azzura Investments
Wagner Corporation
McPhee Group of Companies
Homecorp
GemLife
OTP Group

Supporting Partners

Amir Prestige
Risk Advisory Partners
GFA Strategic Accounting
Koste

“Grow for Gold simply would not exist without the belief and generosity of these organisations,” Mr Bower said. “They are investing in people, in potential, and in the future of our city.”

With several new partnerships currently under negotiation, Grow for Gold is on track to expand its support to **15 athletes** — ensuring more Gold Coast talent can pursue their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

EVENT DETAILS

(Media welcome — interview and photo opportunities available)

-  Gold Coast Sport and Leisure Centre — Currumbin Room
-  Monday, 3 November 2025
-  3:30pm – 5:00pm

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Sports Gold Coast is inviting the wider Gold Coast community and business sector to join the Grow for Gold movement as athlete partners, support partners or Sports Gold Coast Members — helping more young athletes reach the world stage.

MEDIA CONTACT

Geoff Bower

CEO, Sports Gold Coast
+61 414 112 882

geoff.bower@sportsgoldcoast.com.au
www.growforgold.com.au