

Natalya Kushnirenko

From: Kate Blincoe <blincoekate@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 12:41 pm
To: Natalya Kushnirenko
Subject: Thank you for your support
Attachments: 2024 World Championships.pptx

Hi Natalya,
Please could you pass on the following to the trustees of the Jaycee Trust Travelling Fellowship Scheme.

To the trustees,

I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support and contribution towards my sport, which allowed me to participate in the recent Canoe Polo World Championships, held in China.

I am thrilled to inform you that the Paddle Ferns are current world champions after defeating Italy 6-1 in the final. We had a very successful campaign and throughout the build up of the tour were progressing well, culminating in a convincing win in the final. We won the open B grade national league in New Zealand which was a huge accomplishment. We were invited to attend the ICF Super Cup prior to world champs, and this served nicely as a warm up tournament. With some slight challenges like boats arriving only the night before we played, and needing to apply stickers etc, this tournament didn't quite go as planned. We played well, but we were still recovering from jetlag, and finding our feet. Although our intention was to win this pre-tournament, we came away with fourth, which was initially a disappointing result for us as we knew we were capable of more. It turns out we could not have asked for more, as we carried on building from here and ended up winning the most important tournament. This is a massive achievement, and the second time in history that the New Zealand Senior Women have won the world championships (the first time was 2016). It was incredibly special to bring home the trophy, especially as we drew inspiration from that 2016 team. I was 15 when those senior women won, and I vividly remember one of the local team members bringing the trophy to a competition in Palmerston North. I got to hold the trophy and thought it was amazing. I never thought I would have the opportunity to play for that team, let alone captain it to another title. Personally, I hope that our win will go on to inspire other young players to bring the trophy back to NZ again in the future.

This win has also qualified the team to compete at the World Games, which will be held in Chengdu, China, in August 2025. This accomplishment is a shared one, and I thank you for your sponsorship. I really loved the entire experience and gained a lot as an athlete but also as a person. I felt that with your support, I was able to focus on my training and this meant I could play at the top of my game at worlds.

In November last year, on our return from worlds, myself, three other Palmerston North members of the team, and the manager, did a presentation of our experience for the culture and sport committee. Please find attached the presentation.

As I mentioned in my application, playing for the national team year after year gets incredibly expensive especially as a young working professional. I initially thought I would like to take a year off completely, to give myself a rest, however I guess my love for the game has won again, because during this time I have put my name down and been selected to coach the NZ U21 Women. In April I took the NZ U21A team to Gold Coast, Australia, where we had great success at the Oceania tournament, coming third, and contributing to New Zealand retaining the Julian Carter Memorial Trophy again. The current depth and ability within the young women's teams is outstanding, and I am fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to coach another U21 Women's team to Ireland to attend the Junior International Competition, as a development tour, in mid July this year. There are four ladies in the team from Manawatu, and we have our training camps here locally at the lagoon (we had our first one here the weekend). I look forward to the potential of this team. Additionally, I am still coaching local teams, I coach both the PNGHS senior A team and Junior A team, who play on Monday and Tuesday nights at the freyberg pool in the schools competition.

Thank you again for your generous support of both me and indirectly the whole polo community. I am immensely grateful for your involvement in my sporting journey.

Thank you for the invite, and my apologies again for not being able to attend the morning tea in December to congratulate last year's Jaycee Trust Travelling Fellowships recipients - as a nurse my shifts are planned well in advance and are hard to rearrange, but I would have loved to attend.

Kindest Regards,
Kate Blincoe

2024 World Championships

Deqing, China



The build up....

- Two selection (trial) camps
- Team named 5th March
- Four training camps
- Three rounds of national league
- Departed 7th October



**paddlefernsnz**



paddlefernsnz Introducing your New Zealand Paddle Ferns for the 2024 World Championships in China! 🇨🇳 ...



National League Champions



Travel



(Palmerston North → Auckland → Singapore → Shanghai)



3hr bus ride Shanghai-Deqing



Pre-tournament

ICF Super Cup
(4th Place)



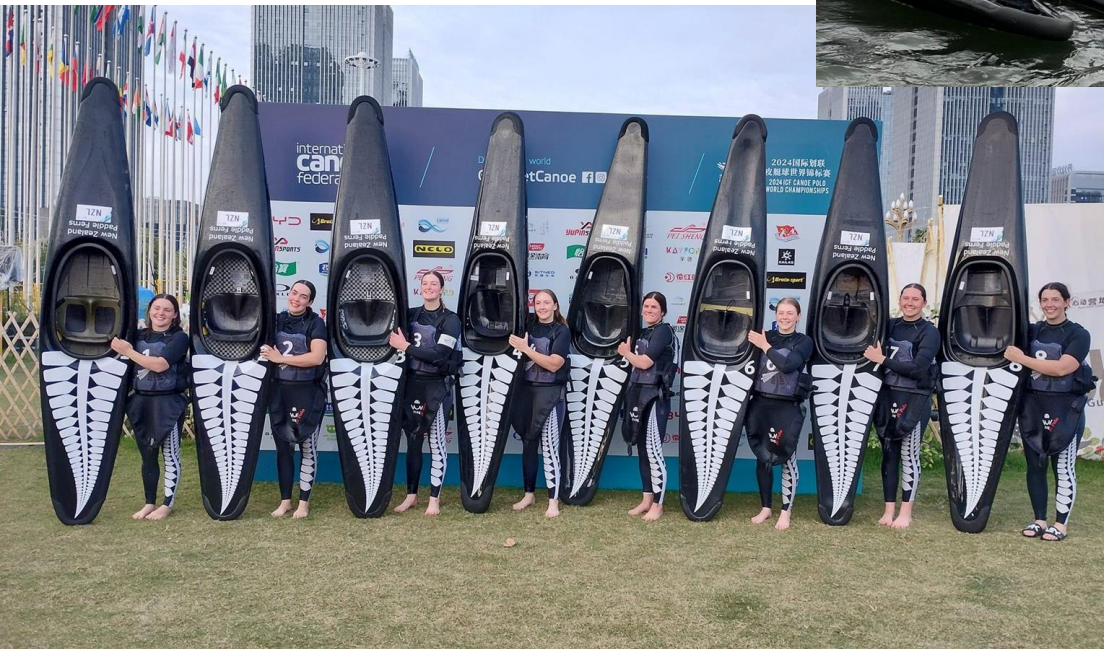


Palmy Seniors

World Champs

17-21st October

- 17 teams in SW division
- 37 countries at World Champs





Georgia



Klara



Jannell



Kate



Alyssa

Haka from
NZ team









PADDLE FERNS DEFEATED ITALY 6-1 IN FINAL

breakfast

TROPICAL STORM • BEYONCÉ APPEARANCE AT HARRIS RALLY CONFIRM

AWL

23°

7:48

2024国际划联皮艇球世界杯

2024 ICF CANOE POLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

