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## **AOC governance gearing up for Tokyo 2020**

### ***Judo Australia excited to join with Summer and Winter Olympic compatriots at the upcoming Australian Olympic Committee AGM for crucial vote on its leadership ahead of Tokyo 2020***

Judo Australia is excited about the calibre of candidates running for President, Vice President and the Executive, we believe it is a testament to the Australian Olympic Committee's commitment to the best interests of Olympic sports, and appreciate and applaud the engagement with many of the candidates in authentic, strategic discussions in the lead up to this Saturday's AGM.

Judo Australia Chair Kate Corkery says "We're delighted to play a key role in the future of this important Australian institution and take very seriously the responsibility of our two votes in these contested elections.

The new Committee composition will be pivotal to the Committee's ability to deliver its renewed emphasis on athletes and teams. We're proud to represent high performance sport in Australia for the good of all Australians, and to be part of Australia's democracy which fosters that same democratic spirit in its national sporting federations."

"We're encouraged by the candidates' focus on a change agenda particularly around governance and enhanced collaboration between the Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Sports Commission. Our own sport of judo has undergone considerable governance reforms in Australia and we're realising the benefits of better collaboration, greater transparency and increased participation"

Former Olympian, both as coach and athlete, and now Judo Australia Board Member Angela Deacon has been involved in the Olympic set up for the past 30 years and believes Judo is positioned well since becoming an Olympic sport in 1964 (1992 for Women) and says,

"A highly collaborative Australian Olympic Committee with an energised, future focused leadership team will help realise judo's potential. The opportunity to continue to collaborate with the Australian Olympic Committee and our fellow national sporting organisations will benefit our strategic agenda and the Australian community."

Australia has competed in every Olympic judo competition since the Tokyo 1964 Games where Ted Boronovskis won a bronze medal and then Maria Pekli matched that result in the women's 57 kilogram category at Sydney 2000.

In April 2017 five-time Olympian and International Judo Federation Hall of Fame inductee Maria was appointed by Judo Australia as our first fulltime Technical Director and has just led the Australian Team to a successful Oceania Championships in Tonga, Seniors won 10 Gold medals and Juniors and Cadets won nine and five Gold medals respectively.

At the recent Rio 2016 Olympic Games Judo Australia had seven Olympic debutants, all under the age of 25, and Katharina Haecker and Jake Bensted progressed through to the second round to claim Australia's best Rio results.

Judo Australia also played an important role in bringing governance to the forefront at the recent Oceania Congress in Tonga hosted by the Oceania Judo Union, our region's member of the International Judo Federation and Olympic pathway.

As Australia gears up for Tokyo 2020, the new Australian Olympic Committee leadership will be focused on rebuilding confidence in the Olympic brand in Australia and investing in Australia's greatest Olympic

asset, our athletes. We need vision, effective change, good governance and a professional organisation that encompasses all that is inspiring about the Olympic movement.

Although judo is one of the highest participation sports in the world, its impact in Australia is less developed. As both an Olympic and a community sport Judo can play a unique and important role in the fabric of Australian society. The development of the Olympic pathway will provide a motivation to young people to engage with judo and gain the positive benefits of active, healthy lifestyles and community participation. Corkery concludes,

“We look forward to ongoing robust discussions with the Australian Olympic Committee after this Saturday’s election, and believe that a renewed focus on the Olympic movement will contribute to better Olympic performances as well as inspiration for younger generations to come.”

### **About Judo Australia**

Established in 1952, Judo Australia is the nation’s governing judo body and a member of the International Judo Federation. Funded by Government grants, corporate support, membership fees, events and training camps, Judo Australia has a vibrant history nurturing high performance athletes pursuing their Olympic dream and supporting community clubs from Kununurra to Coolangatta. Our mission is to develop Australian judo at all levels by increasing elite performance, growing participation and enhancing judo’s profile. Characterised as a sport for life, judo brings out the best in people and we live by our organisation values of politeness, courage, sincerity, honour, modesty, respect, self-control and friendship.

[Judo Australia Strategic Plan](#)  
[Judo to the World - Australia](#)  
[Judo Australia Website](#)

### **About Kate Corkery**

Chair of Judo Australia Kate Corkery is an experienced Government sports lawyer, corporate manager, board member and governance expert.

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