

# OBITUARIES



## REMEMBERING MARISE CHAMBERLAIN

Olympian #166

**Marise Chamberlain passed away in 2024, aged 88 years.**

Marise is remembered as an athlete ahead of her time. She remains New Zealand’s only female Olympic track medallist, and for four decades was the fastest New Zealand woman over 800m. She set world records covering distances from 440 yards to the mile.

Her standout performance was in the 800m event at the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games where she won bronze. She also won a silver medal at the Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games in the 880-yard event.

*“Marise was an amazing athlete and a trailblazer at a time when opportunities for women in sport were limited.*

*“Her performance in Tokyo not only showcased her incredible talent but also inspired a host of young New Zealand women to pursue their dreams in sport. She remained connected to the Olympic Movement after retiring from athletics and was a huge advocate for sport and the power it has to change lives for the better. She leaves a brilliant legacy and will be missed by all those who knew her.”*

**Diana Puketapu-Lyndon, Chair, NZOC Board**

**MICHAEL KENNY** OLY#455  
2 June 1964 - 17 July 2024

**Boxing Athlete: 91kg**  
Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games  
Auckland 1990 Commonwealth Games (Gold)

**LAURIE BYERS** OLY#162  
30 March 1941 – 21 July 2024

**Cycling Athlete: Road**  
Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games  
Kingston 1966 Commonwealth Games (Bronze)  
Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games (Bronze)

**KIINGI TUHEITIA**  
POOTATU TE WHEROWHERO VII  
Māori King of New Zealand

21 April 1955 - 30 August 2024

**MARISE CHAMBERLAIN** OLY#166  
5 December 1935 – 5 November 2024

**Athletics Athlete: 800m, 200m, 100m**  
Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games (Bronze)  
Kingston 1966 Commonwealth Games  
Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games (Silver)

