**AUSTRALIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION CHAIR DEPARTS**

**07/11/2024:** The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) Board is transitioning to a new Chair following **Grant O’Brien’s** three-year term leading the organisation.

Board member **Lisa Cotton** is acting as Chair on an interim basis from October.

Board Member **Andrew Baildon OLY** completes his commitment as a Director on the ASF Board after six years of service.

A national recruitment process has commenced for a substantive Chair and Director, with applications sought by 10 November 2024. Further information is available from Watermark International [here](https://www.watermarksearch.com.au/blog/2024/10/board-opportunity-australian-sports-foundation-chairperson-and-non-executive-director?source=statics.teams.cdn.office.net).

The ASF and Minister for Sport The Hon Anika Wells MP acknowledged Mr O’Brien’s leadership and significant contribution to the substantial growth of the foundation during his tenure.

“Grant has been instrumental in driving the ASF’s growth and impact, helping countless organisations and athletes, from grassroots to elite, achieve their goals. His tenure has seen significant advancements, including support for Australian Olympic and Paralympic team members who competed with distinction in Paris this year.” Minister Wells said.

Minister Wells also paid tribute to Andrew Baildon, recognising his impact on the Board.

“Andrew Baildon has brought a valuable perspective to the Australian Sports Foundation Board with his experience as an Olympian, leader in the sport sector, and businessman. We are grateful for his service.”

The non-profit organisation has distributed a record amount of philanthropic donations to Australian sport in the 2023-24 financial year.

Mr O’Brien, a former Managing Director and CEO of the Woolworths Group, said he had been honoured to Chair the ASF Board, which he joined in 2020.

“I am proud of the ASF’s achievements during the past four years and grateful to have led a talented and hard-working cohort of directors so committed to improving the accessibility to sport and physical activity for all Australians,” he said.

Lisa Cotton, who was appointed to the Board last November, has been deeply involved in sport at elite levels with the Western Australian Government. For the past 20 years, she has been at the forefront of philanthropy and social innovation with a career encompassing Co-Founder, CEO, Non-Executive Director and Chair roles.

She is currently CEO of social impact advisory firm Ideology Group, Chair of the Kennards Hire Foundation and a Member of the Social Impact Hub.

“I congratulate Grant on his outstanding contribution to the Australian Sports Foundation Board and I am confident we will build on those strong foundations,’’ Ms Cotton said.

“I am a passionate believer that sport plays a vital role in many facets of Australian life and that the ASF is one of the guiding lights in spreading that message and helping sport at all levels flourish. I look forward to serving as Interim Chair while a permanent successor is identified.”

Grant O’Brien spent more than 25 years with the Woolworths Group, before retiring in 2016. He is currently the Chair of Tourism Tasmania, Chair of the Port Arthur Historic Sites Management Authority, Chair of the Tasmania Football Club (the AFL Devils), and Deputy Chairman of the Stars Foundation.

As the ASF announces the extension of current Director, Olympian **Kim Brennan AM,** for a further six months, it also welcomes experienced business leader **Kate Thiele** to the Board.

Ms Thiele’s Board experience spans not-for-profit and commercial sectors, including health, aged care, disability (NDIS), higher education, conservation and technology. She is a non-executive director, Chair, CEO and principal of Klarity, a national strategic advisory and executive mentorship service.

**About the Australian Sports Foundation**

The ASF is Australia’s national non-profit sports fundraiser, and the only organisation in Australia for which donations for sport are tax-deductible.

ASF focuses on supporting a thriving Australian sporting sector, where everyone has access to the health and social benefits of sport, regardless of gender, background, location, ability or culture.

For 38 years, ASF has been helping athletes, clubs and organisations raise funds. Since its inception, the ASF has distributed nearly $800 million through its online fundraising platform and community sport grant rounds.

Funds raised with the ASF have surged in recent years, reaching a record $98.8 million in FY24. This was driven by more than 72,900 donations supporting in excess of 3800 fundraising campaigns. Of these, more than 1400 campaigns for individuals successfully raised more than $6.9 million.

The ASF has also established the Australian Sports Foundation Charitable Fund (ASFCF) to enable private and public ancillary funds to invest in a sporting future in which everyone can play.

For more information visit **asf.org.au/**