

For Immediate Release – March 2018

**SPORT STARS LEAD THE FIELD FOR
NEWMAN'S OWN FOUNDATION CHARITY PROGRAM**

Newman's Own Foundation, founded by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman, is acknowledging the important and influential role Australian sportspeople play within the nation's charity sector. Seven sporting personalities were each given the opportunity to nominate an Australian charity to receive a \$100,000 grant.

This special program acknowledges Australia's wonderful tradition of sporting heroes using their profiles to build awareness, fundraise, develop resources, effect change and make a difference. Along with the uplifting effect their individual talents have on sports-loving Aussies, their dedication in promoting awareness of the challenges affecting many in our community makes a huge impact, especially for those individuals who lack opportunities to achieve the same quality of life available to others.

The following inspirational athletes were selected as representative of current and past sports stars who have used their profile to help make the world a better place:

- **Craig Lowndes OAM** – Australia's most recognised racing driver, including a record-breaking 5 Barry Sheen Medals as well as three Championships and 7 Bathurst 1000 wins. Lowndes received an OAM for his motorsport career, as well as for his contribution to the Australian community and particularly through road safety education programs.
- **Alisa Camplin OAM** – Aerial Skiing Winter Olympics Gold medallist. Camplin established Finnan's Gift in 2011, raising funds for cutting edge technology and the advancement of paediatric cardiac care at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.
- **Kurt Fearnley AO** – The three-time Paralympic Gold Medalist has won marathons worldwide, including New York, London and Chicago marathons multiple times. Fearnley is a passionate and effective disability advocate.
- **Liz Ellis AO** – Netball World titles winner, Commonwealth Games gold medallist, and National league titles winner, Ellis is acknowledged for her ongoing support and advocacy for young women.
- **Johnathan Thurston** – First ever four-time Dally M medallist and first ever three-time winner of the Golden Boot Award for the world's best player. Thurston was awarded the Australian Human Rights Commission Medal for this work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- **Ellyse Perry** - The first cricketer for Australia, male or female, to play in 100 Twenty20 International matches and the first cricketer for Australia, male or female, to take 100 wickets in Twenty20 International matches. Perry also represented Australia in the national soccer team. She is highly engaged with a number of charitable organisations.
- **Patrick Dangerfield** – Brownlow medalist, Leigh Matthews Trophy winner, AFLCA Champion Player of the Year and dual Carji Greeves medallist and Malcolm Blight medallist. Dangerfield is recognised for his inspiring commitment to his local community.

Each of the charity grant recipients will be announced over the next few months.

Newman's Own Foundation President and CEO Robert Forrester and longtime friend of Paul Newman said each of these athletes has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to giving back and empowering others, reflecting the values and mission of Newman's Own Foundation.

"While Paul Newman was best known as a movie star, he was also a passionate and successful championship racing car driver," said Mr Forrester. "His other passion was philanthropy, and he believed everyone has the power to make a difference. We're pleased to recognise the commitment of these Australian sports stars to giving back and influencing others to do the same."

Mr. Forrester added that while Paul Newman was a global celebrity, he was a person of profound humility.

"For Paul, celebrity came with the job of being a movie star, whereas he considered himself a working actor, so being a celebrity was like having to wear a wool suit on the hottest day of summer. He was uncomfortable with the idea that celebrity made him any different than the next person, and the only times I can remember him using his celebrity status was to benefit a charity."

ENDS

For more information or to arrange interviews please contact Dimity Pinto on 0412 164 333