INTRODUCTION

MODERN OLYMPISM

Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, who in 1894 established the Olympic Movement, is recognised as the father of modern Olympism. He modernised Ancient Greek ideals and launched them to the rest of the world through the staging of a modern Olympic Games. Today the Festival celebrates the ideals which remain at the heart of Olympism. By blending sport with culture and education, Olympism promotes a way of life based on:

- The balanced development of body, will and mind
- The joy found in effort
- The educational value of being a good role model
- Respect for universal ethics including respect for human rights, generosity, unity, friendship, nondiscrimination and respect for others.

Olympism seeks to use sport to promote the balanced development of people as an essential step in building a peaceful society that places a high value on human dignity. The Goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through sport, free of discrimination and in the Olympic spirit. This requires a mutual understanding in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games blend sports competition, cultural festivals, ceremonies, village life and youth camps into an integrated whole. When people bring into this arena, attitudes and performance that reflect the ideals of Olympism, they encounter an Olympic Experience and the festival becomes a powerful means of building a better and more peaceful world.

This exhibition celebrates New Zealand’s participation at the Olympic Winter Games between the years 1952 and 1998. Seven New Zealanders who competed at these various Olympic Winter Games reflect on their experiences and emotions. Through their words and personal photographs, an insight is offered into the makeup and spirit of each athlete. There are common themes of Goal Setting, Self Sacrifice, Determination to Succeed, and Being the Best that They Can Be. Each of these Olympians is special yet they are all fused into the New Zealand story of a determination to excel.