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**Bro. Julius Lockington "Judy" Patching, AO., OBE.
Australian Olympic Icon, Sports Administrator and Businessman**

Australian Olympic achievements;

- Chief starter and member of the Technical Committee at both the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne and the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Perth.
- Athletics Section Manager at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome.
- Assistant General Manager at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.
- Chef-de-mission at both the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City and the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.
- Deputy Mayor of the Olympic village at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, and "runner" (at age 91, the oldest) in the Summer Olympics torch relay in Canberra on 24th April 2008.

Judy Patching was also:

- Delegate to the International Amateur Athletic Federation from 1960 to 1970.
- Secretary General of the Australian Olympic Committee from 1973 to 1985
- Superintendent of recreation for the City of Melbourne from 1966 to 1983.
- Past President and Secretary General of the Victorian Olympic Council and
- Founding Secretary General of the Association of Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC).

Patching has contributed to the Victorian Olympic Council as:

- Honorary Secretary 1971-1973
- Executive Member 1974
- Chairman 1975-1985
- President 1986-1993

His Honours and Awards include Life Membership of:

- The Geelong Guild Athletic Club.
- The Victorian Amateur Athletic Association, now Athletics Victoria.
- The Victorian Olympic Council.
- The Australian Olympic Committee.
- The Archery Society of Victoria. And
- Fencing Australia.

He has also been awarded:

- The award of Merit from the Australian Athletic Union, now Athletics Australia.
- The Award of Merit from the Association of National Olympic Committees.
- The International Olympic Committee's Olympic Order (Silver).
- The Australian Sports Medal.
- The first Oceania National Olympic Committee's Centenary of Olympic Games Awards and
- Honorary Life Patron of the Olympians Club of Victoria in 2003.

Judy Patching was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1970 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1985.

Julius Lockington (Judy) Patching was born in Geelong on January 4th 1917, where his father, Harry, owned the local bus company and his grandfather ran the newsagency. He joined the navy in 1934 and was a sailor for 13 years finishing in charge of the navy's physical education department.

During that time of his life two important things happened. He began competing with the Geelong Guild Athletic Club and ultimately became club captain, starting a lifetime of sports leadership. In 1940 he married Betty James beginning an even more enduring commitment—a devoted partnership that lasted 63 years.

Judy Patching was not only the Grand Old Man of the Olympic Movement but also one of the most loved characters in all Australian sport admired and respected by generations of athletes for the genial down to earth wisdom of his leadership.

His active involvement with the Olympics began when he was chief starter at the Melbourne Games in 1956—without a single false start except when he handed the gun to junior to send the marathon field on its way. He figured. *“No one could bugger up the start of the marathon”* It ended just as perfectly in April 2008 when he strode to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra as a Beijing Olympic torch bearer.

As chief starter at those games he fired the gun in the heats and finals that drove Betty Cuthbert into legend with three gold medals. He always called her “Skipper” and she was his favourite athlete although he maintained lifetime affection and admiration for Dawn Fraser, Shane Gould, John Landy, Ron Clarke and Herb Elliott. He kept close contact with Betty Cuthbert who won a fourth gold medal at Tokyo in 1964. Betty Cuthbert even came from Perth to attend his 90th birthday in January 2007. At that birthday tribute AOC President John Coates said: *“I know of no Olympic or sporting official who is more loved to this day by the athletes in his teams than Judy Patching. That's why our greatest ever female track athlete and his dearest friend, Betty Cuthbert, has travelled to be with him today.”* The IOC President, Jacques Rogge sent this message: *“Dear Judy, My heartfelt congratulations with you birthday. I really cherish our friendship and am very grateful for the excellent advice you gave me during your long career. Australian sport can be very proud to have such an experienced sports leader and great personality.”*

Patching's great strength as a team leader was the amiable but firm rapport he enjoyed with athletes whom he sensibly considered to be the most important element in any games. As assistant general manager of the team at Tokyo in 1964 he took Dawn Fraser's side when she insisted on marching in the Opening ceremony contrary to orders. Later he talked Fraser into competing in the 100 metres final wearing the official Speedo swimsuit after she had earlier refused to do so. He says: *“I did some hard talking, appealing to her as an Australian, convincing her that the official swimsuit was, after all, the team uniform.”* He was probably the only official she respected enough to allow herself to be persuaded to back down.

At the same games he defused what could have been an ugly incident after twelve transistor radios went missing from the athletes' village. He told a busload of

Australian athletes: "Unless the missing stuff is back in five minutes the police will be here. I'm going to walk around the block, When I get back I expect them to be returned." They were.

The late Peter Norman became involved in the protest salute by Tommy Smith and Juan Carlos in 1968 in Mexico when he came second between those two runners in the 200 metres final. On the victory dais they both gave the black power salute with gloved fists and looked down during the American National Anthem as a gesture of racial protest. Peter Norman stood between them wearing a civil rights button and expressed his sympathy for their point of view. When Patching was advised that authorities in Australia wanted Norman punished he called him into his office and said, *OK, Consider yourself reprimanded. Now how many tickets do you want for the hockey?.*"

Patching was also the Chef de Mission at the Munich when the Palestinian terrorists invaded the village and caused so much damage and loss of life.

Patching's day job was as superintendent of recreation for the City of Melbourne. After Munich he took up the full-time appointment as secretary-general of the Australian Olympic Federation. There, he combined with the president, Syd Grange, to form one of the most effective administration partnerships in Australian sporting History. Both veterans of another age-when chook raffles helped athletes get to Olympic Games-they nursed the Olympic movement into an era of sponsorship, professionalism and the Australian Institute of Sport.

When Patching accepted his final hands-on-Olympic task at Sydney's Olympic village his instruction to himself was, *"Well just be Judy Patching."* He always supported Avery Brundage's injunction, *"The games must go on."*

He was indeed: "The Olympians' Olympian."

Julius Lockington (Judy) Patching died on 13th February 2009, survived by two sons, six grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren His wife, Betty had died in 2003.

Julius Lockington Patching was initiated, passed and raised on 18th February 1943, 15th April 1943 and 20th May 1943 respectively in Yarra Yarra Lodge, No 11, Victorian Constitution and was installed as Wor. Master of that lodge on 15th September 1955. He called off on 18th December 1975.

Ref;Gordon, Harry SMH 23rd February 2009
Wikipedia
Records: Freemasons, Victoria.



Amiable but firm ... Judy Patching in Munich in 1972 and in the torch relay in Canberra

Main photo: AP