

# MARY FISHER

<b>Sport:</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>DOB:</b>	<b>16/01/1993</b>
<b>Resides:</b>	<b>Wellington</b>
<b>Hometown:</b>	<b>Upper Hutt</b>
<b>Occupation:</b>	<b>Student</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>S11</b>
<b>Disability:</b>	<b>Visually Impaired (Aniridia)</b>



Photo: Hannah Johnston / Getty Images

## **International achievements**

2012 London Paralympic Games

Gold and World Record 200m IM

Silver, 100m Freestyle

Silver, 100m Backstroke

Bronze, 50m Freestyle

2011 Pan Pacific Para Swimming Championships

Silver, 400m Freestyle

Bronze, 100m Backstroke

2009 World Short Course Championships

Bronze, 100m Backstroke

Bronze, 100m Butterfly

## **Other achievements**

2012 New Zealand Order of Merit

Mary Fisher was New Zealand's second most successful athlete at the London 2012 Paralympic Games breaking a world record and bringing home a haul of medals including gold, two silver and a bronze.

Mary enjoys connecting with others from all walks of life by sharing her journey from quiet Upper Hutt kid, to world-record holding Paralympic swimmer. A proud Wellingtonian and Kiwi, Mary takes challenges head-on and is an active part of her community.

After dabbling in many sports at primary school, Mary settled for the pool, first competing in swimming at the age of nine. A love for the sport, and the independence and freedom of water ruled over a lack of natural talent. This determination enabled her to discover her own way of reaching goals and discovering that with the right attitude and support anything is possible.

A genetic eye condition resulted in Mary being born with 10% of 'normal' sight and to steadily lose her remaining vision as a teenager. At Paralympic level Mary races other totally blind athletes. As some have light perception blacked-out goggles are worn by swimmers to ensure equality.

Mary currently juggles pool and gym training with studying a BSc at Massey University's Wellington campus. Since London she has also been speaking at corporate and community events. From bank manager meetings, to award ceremonies, local schools and sports clubs Mary uses her experiences of overcoming adversity to promote the Paralympic values of 'courage, determination, inspiration and equality'.