

Kerri Pottharst AOM

Beach Volleyball Olympic Gold Medalist & Keynote Speaker

Kerri Pottharst has spent a lifetime decoding human high performance. She is an Olympic champion who has dedicated her life to personal growth and evolution.

As a tall and lanky teenager, Kerri grew up in some ways feeling somewhat out of place. In discovering Volleyball she found a place she could call home, and it was from there she began to rise as one of Australia's most promising young athletes. The turning point came for Kerri when in 1992 a brutal knee injury should have ended her career. What could have been the end, birthed a new beginning. With a winning mindset, she turned pain into purpose, and pivoted seamlessly into the world of Beach Volleyball. The rest as they say is history.



Most Australians will recognise Kerri who alongside Nat Cook became famously known as the Dreamachine after they won gold in Beach Volleyball at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

For Kerri, this was the culmination of a lifetime of hard work and training working with performance coaches in the highest echelons of the sport. In that time, she competed in 3 Olympic Games, winning two Olympic medals - Bronze at Atlanta and Gold on the iconic Bondi Beach in Sydney.

Kerri is a highly sought after Keynote Speaker, MC, Global Sports Commentator, Workshop facilitator, Coach, Mentor and published Author.

Upon retiring from international-level competition, like many world-class athletes, becoming a speaker was an obvious next step. That said, the world of speaking, just like sport, is a game where only the best survive. However, Kerri had a gold winning tool kit from her sporting experiences that would serve her well. As a result, she has spoken to audiences from top-tier corporate organisations in Australia and around the world for over 15 years.

As a speaker, Kerri is charismatic yet credible. She is warm, yet at the same time, her content is designed to challenge audiences to step into a new potential. She is a natural storyteller sharing personal anecdotes that are both emotional and meaningful. Kerri is renowned for being the consummate professional, and thus she embraces a solutions-based mindset, and prides herself on ensuring her content is precise yet at the same time infused with aspiration for what's possible tomorrow.

Alongside her speaking business, Kerri is the author of 'The Business of Being an Athlete'. After years of mentoring and coaching sporting professionals she has transitioned her experience and expertise out of the sporting arena, to work as an executive coach for both corporate and non-corporate clients in the Art of Human High Performance.

More about Kerri

A regular commentator at the Olympic Games and other beach volleyball events, Kerri continues to rise as a respected business thought leader in high performance. Her expertise sits beautifully in the intersection of what it takes to be a world-class athlete alongside how that skill set is applied in leadership, in building teams, cultures, and high performing organisations. Her core approach is to view human high performance as a holistic system that integrates all aspects of the mind, body and soul.

Her Gold Medal Excellence strategies are shared with unforgettable tales that combine motivational messages with fun. She brings her hard earned skills of leadership, teamwork, communication and more to her presentations.

Using entertaining anecdotes from her experiences as a competitor, and as a regular commentator at the Olympic Games and other sporting events, Kerri will motivate and inspire your audience to overcome their fears and self-doubts, to set goals and to push through any barrier to achieve them.

An expert at reinventing herself time and time again, Kerri can relate to the constant need to deal with a changing world to stay successful and reach even greater goals.

Kerri Pottharst talks about:

Gold Medal Excellence - The Mindset of a Champion

Kerri's premier keynote in which she decodes Human High Performance. Kerri shares her incredible journey and the exact strategies and secrets used for success. She aligns these tools perfectly to her audience... to their personal and professional lives.

Don't Just Think It, Ink It!

A practical workshop for goal setting (whether personal or business) designed to meet your current needs. The workshop is also filled with Kerri's personal stories and success strategies.

Fit for Business - Corporate Athlete Training

A practical and eye opening workshop designed to take your staff's health and wellness to the next level. Kerri covers Nutrition, Hydration, Movement, Recovery and Mindset in an easy to digest and fun atmosphere.

Client testimonials

“ What can I say? Over a 20 year corporate career and the innumerable conferences/dinners/events that has involved, I have observed, and occasionally endured (!) many MCs/motivational speakers... You, for us today, were the absolute tops in my experience! Kerri, you were just fantastic. Your energy, passion and presence combined with your very confident style and ability to relate to an audience (& ours is not always an easy one!) and to get them engaged both through those skills and what you spoke about was simply outstanding, and on behalf of all of us at Womensport NSW, a HUGE thank you!

- Womensport and Recreation NSW

“ Kerri's presentation was sensational and the combination of her talk with the glass walking worked perfectly. Kerri delivered an outstanding address as part of Westpac boardroom dinner, keeping her audience enthralled in her sporting experiences both on and off the field. Kerri is easy to listen too, delivering her messages in an down to earth, intimate and candid way.

- Westpac Banking Corporation

“ Kerri's presentation 'package' was very well received by our audience - the combination of video, talk with underpinning theme of goal setting, self belief and personal responsibility in the context of Kerri's drive for 'gold medal excellence', and the willingness to share her Olympic medals with the audience, was perfectly pitched to our audience. ...Bringing the postcards for autographing went down very well, as of course did Kerri's ease in interacting with all and sundry....In short Kerri was professional and charming, resulting in some very happy punters.

- Ernst & Young

“ The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your efforts in coordinating the team building session for our department at Manly. All our team enjoyed learning the skills and playing the game of beach volleyball. There have been many favourable comments on how well the session was run, particularly how there was a very even balance between outlining the skills and the actual games at the end (which as you know became quite competitive). Once again thank you for putting together an excellent team building session. Best wishes for the future success of your business.

- MLC Limited

“ Kerri, thank you for giving us your time and your energy. I know I'm not alone in finding inspiration in your words. I do believe that the reason we all related to you and admire you is that you are so "real". We know that the things you're challenging us to do, you have done yourself, through sheer hard work and determination. The message is clear ... anything can be achieved with a vision, a plan and will-power.

- AGI

“ Kerri was excellent. She was a brilliant presenter and a pleasure to deal with. Kerri covered the brief brilliantly and tied in our messages to her presentation to perfection. The glass walking was talked about for the rest of the conference.

- Financial Services Partners

“ I see a lot of motivational speakers in my role in HR and Kerri and you have been without question one of the most inspiring, memorable and authentic speakers I have come across. I loved what you said and how you said it and I was thinking to myself I want a Kerri Pottharst in my life. Thank you for joining us and inspiring us to be our very best.

- Richard Stokes Constructions

“ Magnificent Presentation last week in Bangkok. I would have to say the best presentation I have seen in a decade of attending these conferences

- Media Travel

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