



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## Oceania Gymnastics Union



## Oceania Gymnastics Union (OGU) Board Members:

*President – Kitty Chiller (AUS), Secretary General – Brooke Kneebush (AUS), Vice President – Raukura Ellison (COK), Executive Committee Member – Zena Iese (ASA), Board Members - Clare Hanlon (AUS), Darlene Underwood (FIJ), Denis Mowbray (NZL), Suzie Lepani (PNG), Rose Fangupo (TGA).*

## Oceania Gymnastics Union President's Message

### Introduction

In its first year as a ratified Continental Union of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), Oceania Gymnastics Union (OGU) has continued working diligently towards its purpose – Grow the sport, make it exciting and secure the future.

The new board of OGU had an opportunity to come together in September on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia for an Executive Committee, Board and Special General meeting. The meetings were combined with a judge course and observation at Gymnastics Australia's National Clubs Carnival.

### Activities in 2019

- In March, the ONOC / OSFO Annual General Assemblies in Nadi, Fiji were attended by OGU President and Gymnastics Australia (GA) CEO Kitty Chiller, Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) Secretary General Zena Iese, Gymnastics New Zealand (GNZ) President Denis Mowbray and OGU Secretary General Brooke Kneebush. At this time Brooke Kneebush was elected to the Executive Committee of OSFO, an honour recognizing her potential to contribute to the development of sport in our region.
- OGU was honoured with a visit by FIG President Watanabe to the Pacific Games in Samoa in July. It is a strategic priority of the OGU to become recognized as a sport for inclusion in the Games in the near future.
- OGU partnered with Gymnastics Australia on Australian Government funded Pacific Sports Partnerships projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. AeroGym Fiji aims to improve health related behaviours through participation in regular exercise, build leadership capacity of women and improve attitudes to disability inclusion. Inclusive activities in PNG are in partnership with Badminton Oceania and Badminton Papua New Guinea.
- 12 development visits were facilitated across the year, with experienced gymnastics experts conducting coach and judge training, gymnast clinics, schools activities and event management mentoring. OGU appreciates the contributions of the experts, many of whom volunteered their time toward the growth of OGU's developing federations.

### Outcomes in 2019

In May, the first Oceania Continental Championships of the new Union were held in Men's Artistic Gymnastics during the Australian Gymnastics Championships. Australia and New Zealand competed and, in a finish that had the audience on the edge of their seats, Australia claimed a narrow victory, along with the opportunity to compete in the World Championships later in the year.



## Milestone and Best Practice Achievements

- In July, a key OGU strategic priority was achieved, under the pillar of Excel – to develop pathways that enable international representation at key events of athletes from the developing countries. A combined Tongan and Fijian team performed at the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG)'s World Gymnaestrada in Dornbirn, Austria. The team faced seemingly insurmountable challenges in the lead up to the event, but with support from across the globe, managed to overcome all obstacles and perform to packed audiences and receive standing ovations – including from FIG President Watanabe. The team appreciated joining Australia's largest ever Gymnaestrada team at a training camp prior and in the school accommodation.
- In September we were thrilled to announce that at a Special General Meeting of the Oceania Gymnastics Union, the Guam Gymnastics Federation (GGF) was officially accepted as a member of OGU. This followed the FIG granting provisional membership to GGF in May. This brings the total of OGU member Federations to eight, with development activities also conducted in Samoa and Vanuatu, both of which will work towards FIG and OGU membership in the coming year.
- Also in September, OGU proudly welcomed AMCO Gymnastics as Official Partner for the next 5 Years. AMCO is the official supplier of the world-class SPIETH gymnastics equipment in Australia and Director/CEO Pascal Ulrich said that he looks forward to assisting the developing federations and seeing the sport of gymnastics grow in the region in the years to come.
- In keeping with one of OGU 2020 strategic definitions of success – to be leaders in the safeguarding of children in Oceania, OGU member Federation Presidents signed a Child Safe Commitment Statement and approved a Child Safe Policy which has been recognized as an example of best practice.

## Challenges in 2019

Whilst a limited budget is an ongoing challenge for OGU in its infancy, we continue to optimize the development funding provided by the FIG through careful planning and leveraging off alternative funding sources and opportunities.

## Acknowledgement

Oceania Gymnastics Union wishes to acknowledge our partners: The International Gymnastics Federation for providing development grant funding, The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for providing Pacific Sports Partnerships grant funding for projects in partnership with The Gymnastics Federation of Fiji, The Papua New Guinea Gymnastics Federation, Badminton Oceania and Badminton Papua New Guinea and in 2019 OGU was proud to welcome AMCO Gymnastics as Official Partner.

## Conclusion

In 2020, OGU looks forward to introducing Solomon Islands as a "Commencing Country" with development activities to be conducted in partnership with the High-Performance Program at the new Solomon Islands Sports and Leadership Institute.



OGU President Kitty Chiller



## Member Federations

### Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa



*Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) Board Members:*

*President – Leilani Tuamoheloa-Tilo, Secretary General – Zena Iese, Vice President - Bella Asiata, Treasurer – Robert Gebauer*

2019 brought the Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS)'s inaugural Strategic Plan to an end. This provided an opportunity to reflect, refresh and reset, continuing on the Mission "To promote gymnastics as the foundation for all sport and develop future champions."

#### Activities in 2019

- In March GFAS Secretary General Zena Iese attended the OSFO and ONOC Annual General Assemblies in Fiji. This visit was combined with OGU Executive Committee and Board meetings and professional development opportunities.
- In July, Gymnastics Australia's FreeG and GfA expert Chloe Kerr visited American Samoa conducting coach certification education, professional development and gymnast training clinics.
- For the Third Quarter of 2019 the Program Activate initiative was conducted by GFAS in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs with 3 rounds of the program hosted at the DYWA Gym. Over 30 children aged 4 to 17 successfully completed the program and gained certificates of completion.
- In September, GFAS Secretary General Zena Iese attended Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Judge training, an OGU Executive Committee Meeting, Board Meeting and Special General Meeting on the Gold Coast in Queensland. These events were held in conjunction with the Australian Gymnastics National Clubs Carnival providing the opportunity to observe an event incorporating seven gymnastics disciplines with over 4000 participants.
- Level 2 Coach June Maeva participated in a five day immersion coaching experience at GymCity Papatoetoe in Auckland New Zealand. Mentored by experienced coaches, June participated in shadow coaching and training for classes ranging from preschoolers through to adults. The club has been operating for over 30 years and sees nearly 10,000 people through its doors each year. This opportunity has created a club to club relationship that will last for years to come and enabled June to bring back many ideas to implement in American Samoa.

## Outcomes in 2019

- Under the strategic pillar of Engage and Enthuse and with a priority to “see five clubs conducting regular gymnastics programs with 300 registered athlete members”, a FreeG club, Cheerleading club, and Gymnastics for All (GfA) club were officially recognised as members of GFAS.
- Under the strategic pillar of Enable and strategic initiative to “Build the capacity and quality of the coaching work force,” coaches have been encouraged to undertake online training to lay a foundation for the practical application. GFAS President Leilani Tuamoheloa-Tilo and Vice President Bella Asiata are also upskilling themselves.
- Through Program Activate four adults gained their Level 1 GFAS Coaches Certification and three adults gained their Level 2 certifications.
- Increased participation and coaching certifications led to planning of a mini display at the DYWA Gym to showcase participants’ skills.
- Zena Iese became the first American Samoan to gain an Intermediate WAG Judges Accreditation.

## Milestone and Best Practice Achievements

In 2019, the GFAS board revised and reset the strategic plan, setting the goals of the Federation for the next five years and a plan to achieve them. In addition, a major achievement has been the development and implementation of the GFAS Child Safe Policy providing key elements of the GFAS approach for providing child safe environments and protecting children from harm.

## Challenges in 2019

Unfortunately, due to a measles outbreak declared for American Samoa, in the fourth quarter of 2019, GFAS was unable to host functions, training, or events. Instead, the focus was on completing Gymnastics Australia online certifications, developing policies and procedures refinement.

## Acknowledgement

GFAS appreciates the support of the Oceania Gymnastics Union (via FIG development funding), the American Samoa National Olympic Committee and Department of Youth and Women’s Affairs. Special thanks go to Gymnastics New Zealand’s Rowena Deadman and GymCity Papatoetoe for hosting a coach immersion experience.





## *Gymnastics Australia (GA) Board Members:*

*President – Sam McKay, Secretary General/CEO – Kitty Chiller, Director - Russell D’Costa (High Performance), Elected Directors – Dr. Clare Hanlon (Sports Governance), Ben Heap, Anna O’Shea (Legal), Nicki Page, Appointed Director - Nicole Adamson.*

In 2019 Gymnastics Australia (GA) celebrated its 70th Anniversary. To recognise this momentous occasion the stories of Australia’s past and present gymnasts were shared on social media and a birthday party was held during the National Clubs Carnival on the Gold Coast in September. The popularity of gymnastics as a sport for all ages and abilities was demonstrated with a 5% increase in attendance at the Clubs Carnival with over 4200 gymnasts participating, the biggest gymnastics event ever in the southern hemisphere.

## **Activities in 2019**

- The largest Australian team ever travelled to Austria in July for the World Gymnaestrada. 340 gymnasts performed alongside over 18,000 representatives from more than 60 countries at the largest event on the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) calendar, the World Gymnaestrada. The Australian Gymaroos team from Taree PCYC had the honour of performing in the FIG Gala along with the best performance teams in the world.
- For the third consecutive year, GA hosted the Australian leg of the FIG’s Individual Apparatus World Cup Series in February. Gymnasts from 32 countries were represented including Olympians, Commonwealth Games medalists and World Championship competitors, all eyeing podium positions and qualifying points for Tokyo 2020.
- 2019 saw the introduction of FIG Junior World Championships in Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics, aiming to bring together the best athletes in their age groups and put on a first-class event while helping the development of the sport. Australia was represented in each discipline with highlights being Men’s Artistic gymnasts Jesse Moore and James Hardy making apparatus finals.
- Gymnasts represented Australia at World Championships, with highlights including Men’s Artistic gymnast Tyson Bull finishing 7<sup>th</sup> on Horizontal Bar, and Women’s Artistic gymnast Georgia Godwin qualifying for the All-Around final – and both also securing 2020 Olympic Games quota places. The Rhythmic gymnasts received some of Australia’s best ever international scores and two synchronised pairs, two tumbling individuals and the Men’s tumbling team qualified for finals at the World Trampoline Championships in Tokyo.

## Outcomes in 2019

- Team Australia saw great success at the Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi in March.  
A team of 3 female and 3 male Artistic Gymnasts competed across Levels 1-3 with each finishing on the podium.
- In May, the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Oceania Continental Championships were held during the Australian Gymnastics Championships. Trans-Tasman rivals Australia and New Zealand competed and, in a fight to the finish, Australia claimed Gold along with the opportunity to qualify for the World Championships later in the year.
- One Men's Artistic Gymnast (Tyson Bull) and one Women's Artistic Gymnast (Georgia Godwin) qualified with named quota spots for the 2020 Olympic Games.

## Milestone and Best Practice Achievements

- Under the Strategic Pillar of Engage and Enthuse, and the objective for our sport to be valued as a driver of physical literacy and the leader in fundamental movement, GA continued in 2019 to rate amongst the top three sports in the Sport Australia funded Sporting Schools program with close to 140,000 participants.
- With a strategic objective to be recognised as an industry leader for child safety and member protection, GA launched a new stand-alone Child Safe Policy (CSP) alongside a comprehensively reviewed and updated Member Protection Policy (MPP). Taking another positive step for Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement, GA announced its new Body Positive Guidelines, aiming to set clear boundaries and guidelines on acceptable language and behaviour in relation to body image.

## Financials

The focus for 2019 was on implementing a more robust and comprehensive financial reporting framework to ensure the Gymnastics Australia Board and the Financial Risk and Audit Committee had all the information they needed in a timely manner to ensure the organisation remained in a strong financial position.

## Challenges in 2019

- By just one position and 1.076 points, the Australian Women's Artistic Gymnastics team missed out on qualifying for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. However opportunities still exist for Australia to qualify further individual Olympic quota positions through the Individual Apparatus World Cup series and the Oceania Continental Championships in April 2020.
- For the first time in 17 years, membership did not increase although significant increases in coach and judge memberships were achieved, proving that we are on track to meet targets under our strategic pillar of Enable: Establish ourselves as a leading developer of our workforce – coaches, judges, volunteers and administrators.

## Acknowledgement

Gymnastics Australia wishes to acknowledge our partners:

- Governance bodies: Sport Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport, the International Gymnastics Federation, the Australian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Australia;
- Equipment partners: AMCO Gymnastics, Spieth Gymnastic, EuroTramp
- Government partners: Tourism and Events Queensland and the City of Gold Coast partnering in delivery of the National Clubs Carnival and the Victorian State Government partnering in hosting the Australian Championships at Melbourne Arena;
- Sponsors and suppliers: SEM, Puma, Mantra, SportsLink Travel, GK, Make It Cheaper, Ray White and Winki Pop Media; and Fox Sports exclusive broadcaster of GA and FIG events in Australia;

## Conclusion

With the Tokyo Olympic Games and World Championships in the non-Olympic disciplines of Acrobatic and Aerobic Gymnastics all occurring in 2020 the year ahead is set to be a big one for Gymnastics Australia.







### *Cook Islands Gymnastics Federation (CIGF) Board Members:*

*President – Raukura Ellison, Secretary General – Teina Taulu, Vice President – Twila Reuther, Treasurer – Samantha Ellison, Committee Members – Kirsten Ashcroft, Rachel Dun, Tamsyn Dearlove.*

### **Introduction & Overview of 2019**

This year has been a year of growth for Cook Islands Gymnastics Federation (CIGF). We have not only increased our club gymnast numbers and interest in the sport but also work has been done to support the training of emerging coaches. CIGF has had two development visits from Gymnastics Australia this year. The first visit in September was focused on the FreeG programme at Tereora College. This is our second year in the college and the level of skill seen has improved dramatically since last year. We are scheduled for another programme in 2020 and aim to get into one other College. We were able to take 5 Tereora College students that have participated in the last two years of FreeG programmes and train them up as Beginner Coaches.

At the end of Term 4 this year we hosted our annual competition, with over 40 participants. The afternoon was a huge success. We received positive feedback from the participants', parents and community members. The event was held at the Tupapa Community Centre which we have secured for our 2020 classes at no cost to the Federation.

### **Activities in 2019**

There were a number of activities taken this year which have all contributed to our success and growth.

- Beginner Coach Training Course with 5 Tereora College Students
- Annual Gymnastics Competition held at the Tupapa Maraerenga Centre
- Coach Development training
- FreeG at Tereora College
- Judge Training prior to our competition
- Apii Rutaki come try sessions x 2
- KinderGym training with Tas Evans from New Zealand
- CIGF President Raukura Ellison participated in an OSEP MISO course in-country
- India Grant funding for van with tow bar - Our application is still under consideration and has passed the first two stages. The decision is expected at the end of March 2020.

## Outcomes in 2019

Following our second year at Tereora College we were able to generate interest with students who participated in the programme to participate in the Beginner Coach Training Course which was fantastic to see. It also demonstrates that the interest is growing and the hard work over the past two years delivering that programme is starting to pay off and the impact that it has had is evident.

Through the Tereora College FreeG programme our coaches have been able to see the results and have made adjustments to their teaching and structure based on their previous experiences. They were also given the opportunity to have another coach from GA come and assist the delivery of the programme which enabled them to see other coaching practices and approaches in action.

## Milestone and Achievements

There were a number of notable milestones for CIGF. The first would be another successful annual competition held in term 4 and the second would be the Beginner Coach Course that was held which will generate 5 new, young and enthusiastic gymnastics coaches. The other Milestone was securing a permanent indoor space to run all our classes at no cost to the Federation. Another great achievement was securing the AusAid grant which allowed us to purchase a lockable trailer to store and transport our equipment. These great milestones were due to the hard work and commitment our coaches have and without them we wouldn't have been able to achieve these.

## Challenges in 2019

- Transportation of our new trailer (only one coach has a vehicle that is suitable for towing however it is not always available and running)
- Securing an indoor venue in term 4
- Coach to gymnast ratio not always ideal this is due to the growing number of gymnasts

## Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge Hannah who helped coach while she was here in the Cook Islands. Another huge meitaki maata to Kirsten Ashcroft who has run her club all on her own for the last 2 years, she is experienced and passionate about gymnastics and will be sorely missed.

CIGF would like to also acknowledge GA and OGU for their ongoing support and our donors CISNOC, AusAid and various clubs in Australia and New Zealand for donating leotards to CIGF. All these parties help in the development of gymnastics in the Cook Islands and play a vital part in the successful operation of our organization. Meitaki Maata.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, after a long, exciting and awesome 2019 we look forward to 2020 and to continue to develop the sport of gymnastics in the Cook Islands.



*Gymnastics Federation of Fiji (GFF) Board Members:*

*President – Darlene Underwood, Secretary General – Mherina Ahmed, Treasurer - Shivnesh Prasad, Directors – Robert Yeal, Tessa Eastgate, Kunjal Nair.*

### **Introduction & Overview of 2019**

2019 was another great year of achievements for GFF, each bringing us closer to our vision "Gymnastics – positively changing lives through fundamental movement, promoting lifelong health and wellbeing for all communities and abilities." Under the strategic pillar of Endure, the federation continues to strive to be recognised as a leader in sport governance. After an extensive recruitment campaign, three new members joined the GFF board, bringing the total to 6, enabling the federation to run effectively and driving it towards achievement of its strategic priorities. Each of the performance measures under the Endure pillar have been met with the achievement of these goals thanks to attendance at the Fiji National Sports Commission NSO Conference, FASANOC Safeguard Athlete Policy training, Pacific Sports Partnerships Transition Planning workshop, and participation in Sports Commission outreach activities.

Under the strategic pillar of Engage and Enthuse and at the core of what we do, clubs have continued conducting quality programs, including holiday activities with participation numbers and awareness of our sport increasing.

### **Activities in 2019**

Throughout the year, GFF benefited from three OGU Development visits, beginning in March with a visit from OGU Secretary General Brooke Kneebush which included club visits, coach training and mentoring. In July Debbs Van Hagen conducted coach and presenter mentoring and in September Australians Tim and Rebecca Robertson conducted Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Intermediate Coach and Judge training, producing the first Intermediate qualified judges in a developing federation of Oceania. 14 participants attended the training with 9 participating in both courses.

In September, GFF President Darlene Underwood also attended WAG Judge training, an OGU Board Meeting and Special General Meeting on the Gold Coast in Queensland. These events were held in conjunction with the Australian Gymnastics National Clubs Carnival providing the opportunity to observe an event incorporating seven gymnastics disciplines with over 4000 participants.



During 2019, approximately 2,000 people (largely women) participated in ongoing Australian Government Pacific Sports Partnerships (PSP) AeroGym activities. Targeting women and people with disabilities in communities across Fiji and with the objectives of: increasing levels of regular participation in quality sport activities, improving health related behaviours and improving attitudes towards and increased inclusion of people with a disability, GFF Sport Development Officers conducted 6 week programs and mentored leaders to combine gymnastics skills with dance in fast-paced, fun and energetic routines. In July, Australian Aerobic Gymnastics expert Debbs Van Hagen and Cook Islands Gymnastics Federation President Raukura Ellison joined GFF Secretary General Mherina Ahmed conducting a three Day PSP Building Leadership capacity of Women in Sport Workshop Series. 30 AeroGym community leaders came together for the training. Using Aerobic Gymnastics as a conduit, the presenters worked with participants with the goal to empower them as leaders in sport and other aspects of their lives. It was an honour to have Deputy High Commissioner, Anna Dorney and Third Secretary Mark Tamsitt present certificates recognising the skills and training completed. Following the workshops, the leaders took their newly acquired skills back to their communities, to prepare their teams to perform at the 3rd Annual AeroGym Showcase in September. FASANOC Vice President Ms. Cathy Wong gave an opening address at the event which saw 150 women, men, girls and boys of all abilities vying for awards.

Fijian Women's Artistic Gymnast Robyn Eastgate from Gymnastics Fiji club participated in two Australian training opportunities. In January, Robyn attended a camp at Premier Gymnastics Academy in Brisbane. The camp was by special invitation to gymnasts who show potential in national and international competitions. In July, she trained at the NSW Academy of Gymnastics under Australian Sports awardee, coach Bill Parsons. Robyn has been rewarded for her achievements with a 2020 Fiji National Sports Commission scholarship to attend training and competition in Australia.

### **Outcomes in 2019**

A donation of Men's and Women's Artistic apparatus by Christchurch School of Gymnastics Incorporated was received in July. Thanks to a massive collaborative effort bringing the equipment to Fiji, this will enable programs to be expanded and the skill level of existing gymnasts to increase.

GFF has received Fiji National Sports Commission grant funding approval for over FJD\$120,000. This funding supports the federation to engage a Sport Development Officer to conduct club development and community outreach activities, support a Fijian gymnasts to train and compete internationally and to manage a Danish Performance team tour in July 2020.

### **Milestone and Achievements**

In July GFF, joined with Tonga Gymnastics Federation to become the first developing Oceania gymnastics federations to be represented at an event of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). A team of seven from VOU Dance (and Gymnastics) travelled to Dornbirn Austria to perform at World Gymnaestrada, an event attended by 65 nations and over 18,000 participants. This achievement was made possible thanks to a Fiji National Sports Commission grant, funding support from FIG via OGU and extensive fundraising in Australia and Fiji. A FIG Continental Meeting of the Gymnastics for All Committee was held in conjunction with Gymnaestrada with GFF Head of Delegation Michelle Fink Lassen representing Fiji – another first for GFF.



## Challenges in 2019

A major challenge faced by GFF was in the process of securing Schengen visas for the Gymnaestrada team. At the time of application, an office for collecting biometrics from applicants was not available in Fiji and the process would involve travelling first to Australia. GFF was fortunate to receive support from the Gymnaestrada Organising Committee, Austrian Embassy in Australia and VFS Global, all working together to eventually secure the visas in Fiji at the last minute.

## Acknowledgements

The Gymnastics Federation of Fiji wishes to acknowledge the support of our partners: The International Gymnastics Federation, Oceania Gymnastics Union, Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee, Fiji National Sports Commission. Thanks goes to the Australian High Commission in Fiji, the Australian Government's Pacific Sports Partnerships program, managing contractors GHD and partners Gymnastics Australia, Oceania Gymnastics Union and HART (Housing Assistance and Relief Trust) for their ongoing support of AeroGym Fiji. Thank you to Fiji Water, via its sponsorship of FASANOC for supplying the water provided to AeroGym Showcase entrants. We appreciate the contributions of Christchurch Gymnastics Inc., Gymnastics New Zealand and President Denis Mowbray, the New Zealand Defence Force, Williams & Goslings and Greenscape all for their involvement in the donation of equipment, including logistics of transporting it to Fiji. Thank you to our clubs, Board members and volunteers for their continued efforts to develop gymnastics in Fiji.

## Conclusion

With three new, proactive members joining the board and planning well underway, GFF looks forward to another year of big achievements in 2020, including Fijian coaches and gymnast attending training in Australia and the Fiji National Sports Commission funded Danish Performance Team tour.





## Guam



### *Guam Gymnastics Federation (GGF) Board Members:*

*President – Jayne Flores, Secretary General – Natasha Francisco, Vice President – Cesar Medina, Treasurer – Gener Deliquina.*

### **Introduction & Overview of 2019**

2019 was a year of achievement and milestones for Guam Gymnastics Federation. FIG provisional membership was finally achieved, GGF board members participated in training in Guam and internationally and most importantly our gymnasts continued training to a very high standard, competed off island and performed at Micronesia Mall thanks to their dedicated coaches.

### **Activities in 2019**

In May GGF President Jayne Flores and Treasurer Gener Deliquina attended the Oceania Sports Education Program (OSEP) Management in Sporting Organizations (MISO) Course.

In September, GGF Secretary General Natasha Francisco attended an OGU Special General Meeting at which GGF was formally accepted as a member. The meeting was held on the Gold Coast in Queensland and included an opportunity to attend WAG Judge training at which Natasha gained an Intermediate qualification. These events were held in conjunction with the Australian Gymnastics National Clubs Carnival providing the opportunity to observe an event incorporating seven gymnastics disciplines with over 4000 participants.

A development visit was conducted in October by Australian volunteer expert Natalie Roberts. Activities included coach training and gymnast clinics at Island Twisters Gymnastics, clinics with dance schools Fusion and Danzjazz and cheerleading groups from Tiyan High School. Upon conclusion of the visit, Natalie said "All of the gymnasts, cheerleaders and dancers that I had the privilege of working with, showed a willingness to learn and improve. Their coaches were hard working and passionate."

### **Outcomes in 2019**

Four gymnasts from Island Twisters Gymnastics Club attended the Magical Classic Gymnastics Meet in Florida in February producing the following outstanding results: Kate Hartley 5th all around, Helena Nuqui 6th all around, Maria Calvo 11th all around, Lorin Lesh 16th on bars, 17th on beam. Coaches Rick and Melinda Heath are to be commended for their ongoing dedication and commitment to training these gymnasts and providing opportunities to compete off-island.

In June, Island Twisters Gymnastics had its 2019 Micronesia Mall Gymnastics Demonstration. More than 120 gymnasts participated, performing gymnastics routines and demonstrating their flexibility and tumbling skills. Medals and awards were given out according to gymnastics level, which ranged from Level 1 through Level 6. Gymnasts also participated in an obstacle course, which included vaulting over a trapezoid vault and jumping in the air off a mini trampoline, demonstrating different kinds of jumps and flips. Advanced gymnasts ended the performance with a team gymnastics dance.



### Milestone and Achievements

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, Guam Gymnastics Federation was officially endorsed as a provisional affiliated member of the International Gymnastics Federation. This endorsement came after the federation was accepted as an associate member of the Guam National Olympic Committee in February. GGF has been working toward this goal for several years in order to create a platform to make the sport more empowering for Guam's gymnasts, dancers and cheerleaders. It will provide GGF access to regional and international training, coaching, and funding opportunities. The next step is to work towards full FIG membership at the next FIG Congress in 2020.

Another milestone occurred in May, with GGF President Jayne Flores and Vice President Cesar Medina attending a reception for IOC President Thomas Bach.

### Acknowledgements

GGF acknowledges our member clubs for whom we work towards our purpose "to support participation in gymnastics exhibitions, competitions, educational clinics and camps for athletes and coaches. Thank you also to FIG, OGU, Guam NOC, supporters of fundraising activities to send gymnasts to the Magical Classic Gymnastics Meet in Florida and special thanks go to Gymnastics Australia's Natalie Roberts for volunteering her time to visit Guam, sharing her knowledge and expertise.

### Conclusion

With GNOC, FIG, and OGU membership now secured, GGF looks forward to a prosperous future. Our gymnasts aspire to compete at FIG events including World Championships and Olympic Games in the not too distant future.



## New Zealand



### *Gymnastics New Zealand (GNZ) Board Members:*

*President – Denis Mowbray, Secretary General/CEO – Tony Compier, Elected Members – Quinton Hall, Angie Dougal, Louise Chapman, Pete Elderkin, Appointed Members – Mark Figgitt, Lisa De Coek.*

Kia ora koutou katoa (Greetings to you all)

The 2019 year has continued the theme from 2018, busy. As I review our achievements, I am both excited and proud of the progress we have made. While reflecting on the past year, I reviewed our progress against the core purpose that governs all Gymnastics NZ's actions; "Growing Great New Zealanders through Gymnastics."

Central to the purpose of Gymnastics NZ is the recognition and advancement of athlete welfare and the adherence to our values of integrity and ethical behaviour in every decision and action undertaken. Our belief is, these responsibilities are implicit in our organisational purpose, and that we must do whatever is necessary to make sure we fulfil them. While we have made progress on many areas of athlete welfare, there is more to do.

The second component that enables achievement of Gymnastics NZ's purpose is the provision of opportunities for our member clubs to reach their desired level of performance; this is different for everyone. Leading this effort is the continued implementation of our project 2020 project which will see a dramatic change to the calendar of events for 2020, with our Gymnastics NZ National Competition shifting from its normal slot in the last quarter of the year to July in 2020 and the development and implementation of a GfA event in either Sept or Oct of 2020. In 2020, we will hold two GfA events, one each in the North and South Islands. From 2021 onwards the event will become a Gymnastics NZ National GfA event. This GfA event will give an opportunity for the other OGU federations to take part in a GfA event closer to home. More details will be provided once the planning is complete.

New Zealand has continued to see exceptional growth in our member numbers, up 5% on last year and a steady growth in the number of clubs. We welcomed three new clubs into Gymnastics NZ in 2019. This growth reflects the continued hard work of Gymnastics NZ staff and member clubs in growing the reach of our sport through mechanisms such as our Regional Action Plans and programs such as Tumbling and Team Gym to attract and keep participants. Maintaining that growth is a key priority for us in the coming 2020 year.

NZ Athletes took part in many overseas events, including World Championships in all the codes. One outstanding performance was that of Bronwyn Dibb, who performed superbly at the Tokyo Trampoline World Championships in the double-mini-trampoline (DMT) event, securing a silver medal and missing out on gold by only 0.2. Congratulations to Bronwyn and every other athlete who competed in overseas events during the year.

On the domestic front, we held our National Championships in Auckland with over 1000 athletes competing across the four days of fantastic competition. The event is gathering a much wider audience than just those attending with 50,000 live stream views alongside a total reach of over 700,000 across Facebook and Instagram.

Next year will be another busy year for New Zealand on the competitive front with NZ hosting the Pacific-Rim Championships for the first time in over 20 years. We are very proud to be hosting this event and are looking forward to welcoming the Pacific Rim countries to NZ and Tauranga, which is where the event will be held. Those countries taking part include USA, Canada, China, Russia, Australia, Korea, Singapore and many more. This will be a fantastic event and will be well worth attending as the standard of gymnastics will be exceptional.

Alongside the Pac-Rim event, NZ is hosting the first ever full Oceania Gymnastics Union Continental Championships. New Zealand is very proud to be hosting this event, as it signals to the gymnastics' world that Oceania has arrived as a competitive Union. This event will have extra meaning for both Australia and New Zealand as it doubles up as an Olympic qualifying event for some codes. Earlier in 2019, the Christchurch School of Gymnastics made a kind donation of excess equipment to the Gymnastics Federation of Fiji. The gift included crash mats, pommel horse and a set of uneven and parallel bars. The only problem was transporting this heavy equipment; the combined weight was one ton, from Christchurch to Fiji. After a few calls, it was the NZ Airforce, who came to our rescue and freighted the equipment, free of cost, aboard one of their regular flights that visits Pacific Nations before landing in Fiji. This gift of transporting the equipment meant that aside from a few local costs. GFF has been the beneficiary of a generous gift from both the Christchurch School of Gymnastics (Avril Enslow and team) and the NZ Airforce.

This identifies one of the great strengths of the nations that form the Oceania Gymnastics Union, our willingness to support and give generously in our pursuit of growing the sport of Gymnastics. This generosity of spirit is a strength that all Pacific Nations have, which allows us to achieve so much from such a small base.

**Dr Denis Mowbray FCG FGNZ**  
**Chair, Gymnastics NZ**

Image Credit:  
International Gymnastics Federation





## Papua New Guinea



*Papua New Guinea Gymnastics Federation (PNGGF) Board Members:*

*President – Hannah McManus, Secretary General – Suzie Tongia-Lepani, Treasurer – vacant since November 2019, Vice Secretary – Lynette Baratai-Pokas, Committee Members – Timothy Ward, Jude Addis.*

### Introduction & Overview

2019 has seen the first full year of operations for PNGGF after becoming an official member of the International Gymnastics Federation in late 2018. Our focus has been to grow the sport through delivery of gymnastics programs at youth and school levels and to continue to develop our coaching capacity, with a focus on building a strong foundation for gymnastics in PNG.

### Activities in 2019

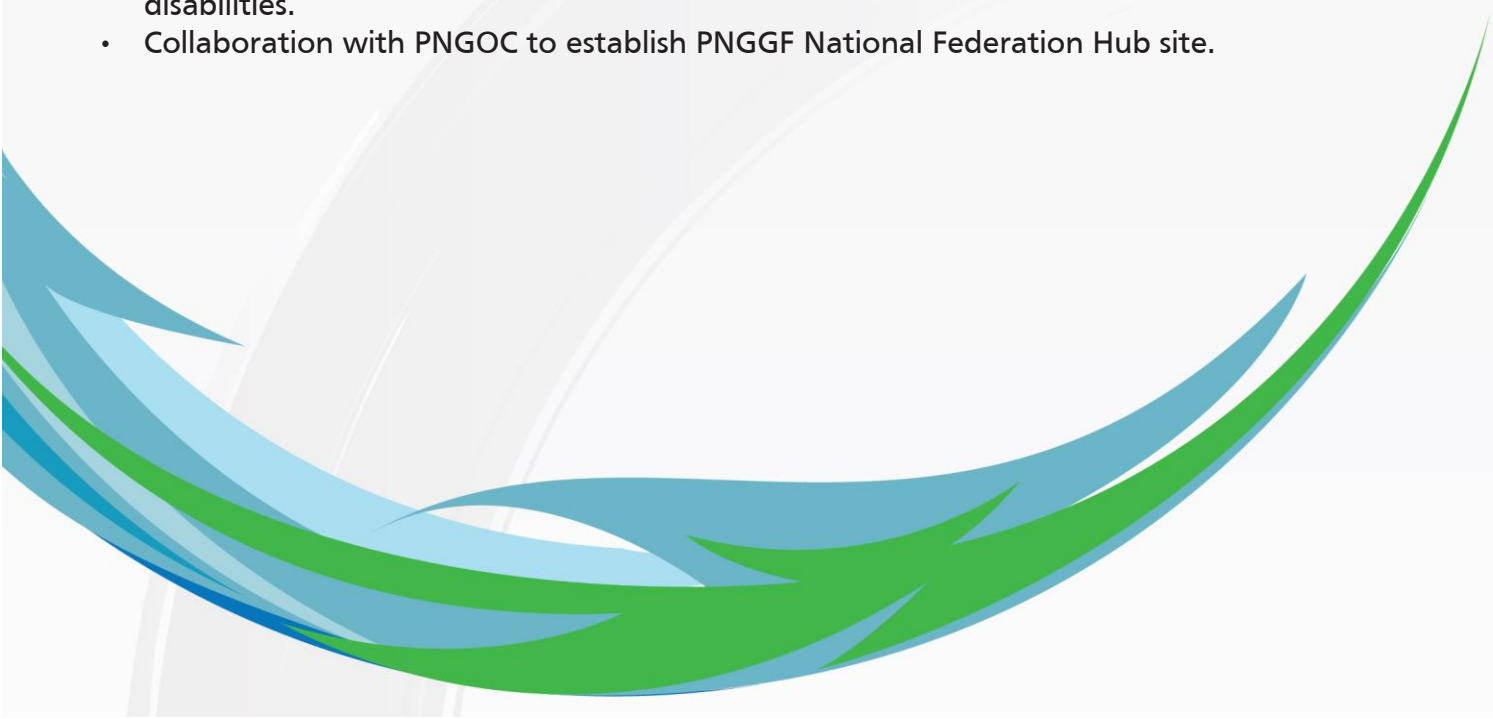
- PNGGF President, Hannah McManus attended the FIG World Cup and VIP function in Melbourne in February.
- Papua New Guinean coaches Linda Pulsan, Hannah Ilave and Eddie Memafu attended an Immersion Program in Cairns in October coordinated by Oceania Gymnastics. Hosted by Baron Valley Gymnastics Club (sister club to POM Gymnastics) in Cairns QLD and focusing on transfer of skills to benefit their regular gymnastics classes/ inclusion activities at home in PNG.
- PNGGF Secretary General, Suzie Tongia-Lepani received Women's Artistic Gymnastics Beginner/ Intermediate judge accreditation after completing a 3-day course on Australia's Gold Coast in September 2019. She also attended a local Gymnastics for All competition in QLD.
- PNGGF Secretary General and OGU Board Member Suzie Tongia-Lepani attended the Oceania Gymnastics Union (OGU) Board meeting in QLD in September.
- School gymnastics collaboration with Paradise School - Classes are delivered three times a week over the course of the school year to students from grades prep to 6. Paradise School Principal Safak Deliismail said "Students have enjoyed (the classes) a lot. It is helping them build self-confidence and controlling their body."
- Pacific Sports Partnership funded program led by Oceania Badminton in partnership with PNGGF continued its "#GymBad" Program, providing inclusive activities for people with disabilities. Gymnastics coaches are key to delivering this program. Weekly sessions have been held in Port Moresby, Kokopo and the Highlands region since July. Participants come from organisations focused on improving the lives of people with disabilities. Sessions focus on social interaction/combined inclusive adapted programs and have seen up to 70 people per session taking part.

- Federation member POM Gymnastics continues their regular after school gymnastics program twice a week which has a focus on beginners. Children learn the basics of fundamental body movement.
- PNG was grateful to host three Oceania Gymnastics Development Visits from Brooke Kneebush throughout the year in February, May and October. Focus was on developing coaching skills and building the confidence of volunteers. Sessions were delivered to approximately thirty coaches and volunteers from the PNG gymnastics community.
- PNG Gymnastics Federation Secretary General Suzie Lepani attended a PNG Olympic Committee function for visiting International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach.
- PNG Gymnastics Federation President Hannah McManus graduated from the Managing Olympic Sports Organisations MOSO diploma course in October.
- PNG Gymnastics Federation President Hannah McManus received a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honors for her services to Gymnastics.

### Outcomes in 2019

- Increased capacity to deliver gymnastics activities through the up-skilling of coaches and judges as seen through the Coaching Immersion program, development visits of OGU and attainment of judging certification for the first time by a Papua New Guinean.
- Increased administrative capacity with the creation of a PNGGF page on the PNGOC's NF Hub platform, the opening of PNGGF bank account and PNGGF President receiving her MOSO certification. PNGGF is also fully compliant with the PNG Olympic Committee's annual good governance compliance requirements and was congratulated by the PNGOC Secretary General Ms. Auvita Rapilla.
- Greater engagement through social media with a 24% increase in PNG Gymnastics Federation Facebook likes.
- Australian Volunteer Program application completed for the position of a 'Gymnastic Program Development Mentor' to commence in May 2020. This is a joint application between PNGGF and PNG High Performance with Gymnastics Australia as the Australian based organization.

### Milestone and Achievements

- Opening of PNGGF Bank Account.
  - PNGGF Secretary General Suzie Tongia-Lepani became first Papua New Guinean to receive gymnastics judging certification.
  - PNGGF President Hannah McManus received Queens British Empire Medal for contribution to Gymnastics
  - Collaboration with Oceania Badminton to deliver inclusive programs for persons with disabilities.
  - Collaboration with PNGOC to establish PNGGF National Federation Hub site.
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## Challenges in 2019

- Filling Treasurer Board member position.
- Installation of essential equipment at Taurama Aquatic and Indoor Centre in Port Moresby.

## Acknowledgement

Papua New Guinea Gymnastics Federation appreciates support from: Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee; Oceania Gymnastics Union and in particular Brooke Kneebush; Gymnastics Australia; PNG High Performance and Manager Mr. Cornelius Papau; the Australian Volunteer Program; the Australian Government's Pacific Sports Partnerships program and managing contractors GHD, with special thanks to Badminton PNG and Oceania Badminton, particularly Kinivanagi Karo for his lead work on the Inclusive Pacific Sports Partnership program "#GymBad"; Paradise School gymnastics programs for supporting PNGGF coach run programs; Thank you to POM Gymnastics Club for active involvement and growth of the sport through their activities at Taurama Aquatic and Indoor Centre; Thank you to Baron Valley Gymnastics Club in particular Manager Bede Campbell for hosting, Karen Hansor and Kerry Taylor for accommodation and logistics for the immersion visit to Cairns; Thank you to all of our Board members and volunteers for their continued efforts to develop gymnastics in PNG.

## Conclusion

2019 has been a foundational year for PNGGF. We were glad to see an increase in our activities through partnerships with our regional body, the OGU and fellow national federation Badminton PNG.

We were grateful for the opportunities presented to our coaches, volunteers and board members to develop their capacity.

In 2020 our focus is on increasing our reach and delivery of. We look forward to receiving our first Australian Volunteer in 2020, in the position of Gymnastic Program Development Mentor.

All of this will help progress the PNGGF towards achievement of our vision:

A cohesive and diverse delivery network, providing quality gymnastics activities across PNG.





# Tonga



## *Tonga Gymnastics Federation (TGF) Board Members:*

*President – Rose Fangupo, Secretary General – Kathryn Smith-Tupou, Treasurer – Amy Halapua, Board Member – Soana Kaitapu.*

## **Introduction & Overview**

2019 proved to be an exciting year for Tonga Gymnastics Federation. The sport is growing slowly but surely on the local front and has begun to incorporate FreeG into the current Gymnastics for All programs. The highlight of the year was participating in World Gymnaestrada, a major milestone for the growth & awareness of gymnastics in Tonga; and an unforgettable experience for the participants.

## **Activities in 2019**

Tonga Gymnastics Federation hosted activities for a group of kindergartens' annual Sports Day competition, alongside some other local sporting groups who also participated. TGF head coach Amy Halapua & several volunteers enjoyed a lively day introducing basic gymnastics to young children aged 3-5. The gymnastics circuit proved to be one of the favourite stations of the day! 2019's most notable activity was participating in World Gymnaestrada in July, held in Dornbirn, Austria. Two young ladies, Aiona Prescott and Aniselina Nishi were honoured to represent Tonga on the world stage, whom also teamed up with the Fiji team in a joint performance to collectively represent Oceania. Coming from a dance background of both traditional Tongan and contemporary styles, the girls choreographed their own unique routine blending the two styles of dance. "The concept of our piece is inspired by the bible verse Colossians 3: 13-14, which talks about unity and coming together. Our piece is about how different all of us are, in everything we do; yet our culture and heritage unites us as one." This was an overall amazing experience for these young athletes, which they will treasure forever.

In August, we welcomed Tonga FreeG expert, David Eggleton. He ran an intensive two day coaches workshop with several participants, including TGF's existing head coach, as well as other potential coaches with and without prior experience in Parkour-style gymnastics. All participants found the training worthwhile, and are working to incorporate this type of gymnastics into their existing clubs and activities geared towards kids.

## Outcomes in 2019

Following the FreeG training in August, many elements of freestyle gymnastics and Parkour have been introduced and incorporated into the ongoing kid's classes offered through TGF by head coach, Amy Halapua. Luckily, we were able to do this without requiring any additional equipment. Since FreeG can usually be implemented in any environment with minimal specialized equipment, we have seen a huge potential to grow and promote this discipline of gymnastics here in Tonga.

After Team Tonga returned from World Gymnaestrada, those athletes returned with a renewed excitement and vision to help grow & promote gymnastics on the local front. The young ladies have since been assisting in the ongoing kid's classes offered through TGF, which helps to vary the activities offered based on the coach/assistant coaches background, strengths & preferences.

## Milestone and Achievements

This year's most notable milestone was attending World Gymnaestrada - a huge feat for a young federation. Team Tonga was privileged to have FIG President Watanabe and OGU President Kitty Chiller in the audience in which their performance received a standing ovation. Besides witnessing other stunning performances, one of Team Tonga's highlights of the week was a personal invitation to have lunch with President Watanabe.

## Challenges in 2019

A recent challenge was that our end-of-year Exhibition, which was to be put on by the participants in the ongoing classes offered through TGF, was unfortunately cancelled due to a measles outbreak. All primary schools in Tongatapu were cancelled for the last 2+ weeks of the school year, and after-school activities and programs were urged to follow suit. Although this was an unexpected & unforeseen closure, it was more important that our children were not put into any unnecessary risk.

Challenges are constant in a young sporting federation such as in Tonga. One of the biggest challenges is lack of man-power needed to grow the program. The current board of directors are stretched thin, and are in need of additional reliable coaches and perhaps a sports development officer. However, funding is also a challenge, which further hinders efforts to grow the program. Despite that, gymnastics is slowly gaining popularity amongst the locals and we have managed to maintain offering ongoing after-school programs for three years now, with several dedicated children whom have been growing with us since day one.

## Acknowledgement

TGF would like to acknowledge the continued support of GA and OGU. A special mention to those who provided financial assistance for Team Tonga to attend World Gymnaestrada including FIG, Gymnaestrada Organizing Committee Support, Australian Gymnaestrada Team donations, Australian Fundraising Online Auction; and not forgetting our local supporters including the Australian High Commission in Tonga and all businesses & individuals involved in our local fundraising efforts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, after an exciting year that included attending World Gymnaestrada and introducing FreeG into our current programs, we look forward to welcoming 2020 and aim for another year of growth & awareness of gymnastics in Tonga.



## “Commencing” OGU Federations

### Samoa

Despite facing some challenges in 2019, the Samoa Gymnastics Federation (SGF) managed several excellent achievements, helping to drive them towards their goal to grow the sport of gymnastics in Samoa. Stemming from the 2018 Australian Government funded Pacific Sports Partnerships Women’s Leadership Workshops, SGF President Puna Mua’itau introduced the AeroGym (Aerobic Gymnastics) program to trainee teachers in the Faculty of Education at the National University of Samoa. The student teachers then introduced the program into Primary Schools through their HPE lessons sharing Fun, Fitness, Fundamentals and Friendship.

SGF launched a Facebook page and attracted significant media attention throughout the year including internet, broadcast and print media. Key messages promoted Aerobic Gymnastics leading to healthy bodies and minds, and gymnastics for life.

A highlight for SGF came in the form of a visit from FIG President Watanabe during the Pacific Games. Although Gymnastics is not yet a sport included in the Games, it is a goal that OGU is striving for.

Unfortunately regular after school classes and the AeroGym Showcase event were understandably postponed, however the Federation is determined to continue and expand programs in the new year, aiming towards seeking FIG membership in the near future.

### Vanuatu

The first Gymnastics Development visit was conducted to Vanuatu in October with three organisations involved in coach / teacher education and gymnast clinics. Programs ranging from KinderGym for under five year olds through to FreeG & Parkour for youth and adults are being developed.

A dedicated group will work towards establishing a Federation with the goal being to seek FIG membership in the not too distant future.

