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COOK ISLANDS LAWYERS

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SECTIONS



## Children's first gym comp

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a participant displays one of the gymnastic moves during the competition on Monday. 16102405

**WITH SPARKLING eyes, wide smiles and nerves of steel, 23 children participated in their first gymnastics competition last Monday, in front of a gallery of proud family members.**

Children aged between 4 and 9, including boys and girls, overcame nerves to display gymnastics skills learned over the past 12 weeks. The girls made the most of leotards that were generously donated by Eastern Gymnastics Academy in Sydney.

The event was to provide a positive introduction to a competition for these young gymnasts in their first year of training.

Oceania Gymnastics development manager Brooke Kneebush travelled from Australia to provide judging training and oversee the event.

Volunteer judges evaluated the skills and club coaches guided the young gymnasts through the event.

Six skills were selected from a range of developmental activities to be performed at the competition which was held at the Bluesky Sports Arena, utilising equipment funded by an Australian High Commission Direct Aid Programme Grant.

All gymnasts were rewarded with medals, an Oceania T-shirt, and a certificate – affixed with coloured stickers denoting a banded ranking for each of six skills. As each gymnast was individually called up to the podium to receive their medal, cameras were clicking frantically, capturing that priceless moment on children's faces.

Gymnast clinics and coach training were also conducted by Kneebush to consolidate and extend the existing skill base.

Cook Islands Gymnastic Federation would like to thank gymnastics coaches Emilene, Jamie, Raukura, Teina and Tiahna and the many parent helpers, and local judges Ruth, Kat and Hayley. - Cook Islands Gymnastic Federation

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