

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [News Archive](#) » 2015

Introducing Oceania's newest Gymnastics Federations

The Oceania Gymnastics Development Plan, with funding from The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and in partnership with Gymsports New Zealand has been introducing, supporting and expanding our wonderful sport in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji and Guam. Each of these island countries has a unique culture and faces some challenges, but all have the common goal to grow and develop gymnastics from the grass roots through to a high level of performance.

It was as recently as July 2015 that gymnastics was introduced to American Samoa when Sports Commissioner Ethan Lake recognised the valuable contribution that gymnastics could make to the development of physical abilities for all sports. Kindergym and GfA programs are offered and sports such as American Football and Wrestling have benefited from gymnastics coaching for cross training. Cheerleading is also popular in American Samoa and the 5 High School Cheer Programs will come under the umbrella of the Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa.



Most Cook Islander adults fondly recall participating in gymnastics as children. Gymnastics used to be included in the school curriculum, after school programs were offered and The Boys Brigade included vault and acrobatics within its activities. Now a highly motivated group of individuals from various sporting backgrounds have come together to re-establish The Cook Islands Gymnastics Association. Two clubs are supported by a capable team of coaches and schools programs will be introduced in 2016.

Hayley Anderson who learned gymnastics herself as a child in Zimbabwe is running Kindergym and GfA sessions “island style”, outdoors when weather permits, making the most of lovely soft grass, coconut trees, and whatever else mother nature has to offer, combined with play equipment and traditional gymnastics equipment.

Geoff and Olivia of Tumuora Crossfit offer Gymnastics for All programs in their venue that is well suited, with equipment such as rings, ropes, improvised bars, and mats.



The three clubs offering gymnastics programs in Fiji are looking forward in the not too distant future to holding “friendly” interclub competitions and eventually a National Championships. The clubs are working co-operatively to ensure that the sport grows across the country for the benefit of all.

Pacific Fitness in Denarau offers Kindergym and GfA and will soon introduce AeroSchools.

Crib Fitness Nadi offers GfA for children and adults in collaboration with ACATA trust, a charity focused on improving the health of Fijians through education and fitness. Women’s Crib Suva is offering holiday gymnastics activities.

Rob Yeal offers Artistic Gymnastics for boys and girls at Pacific Harbour Multi Cultural School and Suva International School. Many of Rob’s gymnasts have been training since the club began three years ago. Suva International School was the site of Fiji’s inaugural gymnastics competition.



Island Twisters Gymnastics Club in Guam is home to nearly 200 gymnasts. Head coach and owner Melinda and husband Ric Heath are supported by experienced coach Monique Williams-Duenas and an enthusiastic team of junior coaches in providing competitive and recreational artistic gymnastics programs for girls and boys.

Island Twisters will be taking a team to compete in Hawaii next month. This opportunity for Guam gymnasts to compete against others from around the world (including Australia), although

financially challenging is invaluable.



These Oceania Gymnastics Development Plan phase one countries, along with Gymnastics Australia (GA) and Gymsports New Zealand (GNZ) will become founding members of the Oceania Gymnastics Union. GA and GNZ will continue to provide support and look forward to introducing new countries in phase two of the project later in 2016.

News

Media Releases

Subscribe to Newsletter

Flickin' Back Archive

News Archive

[2016](#)

[2015](#)

[2014](#)

[2013](#)

[2012](#)

[2011](#)

[2010](#)

[2009](#)

[2008](#)