

Oceania Gymnastics Union OSFO / ONOC Annual Report 2018

Member Federations:	Clubs	Technical Members (Coaches & Judges)	Athletes	Participants	Development Tours
American Samoa	3	7	25	30	1
Australia	627	8203	239,392	N/A	-
Cook Islands	2	11	45	250	2
Fiji	6	16	200	4224	2
New Zealand	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-
Papua New Guinea	4	21	90	430	2
Tonga	3	12	65	330	1
Development Countries:					
Guam	5	8	250	N/A	1
Samoa	3	21	40	N/A	1
Vanuatu	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	-

Oceania Gymnastics Union President's Message



Image - Oceania Gymnastics Directors met FIG Presidential Commission in Fiji July 2018

2018 has been an historic year for Gymnastics in Oceania with the region finally being ratified as a Union by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). This occurred officially at the FIG Congress in Baku, Azerbaijan on December 2-3. This has been many years in the making and is thanks to a lot of hard work by many people. It bodes for a very exciting future for the growth of Gymnastics in the region.

The Oceania Gymnastics Union (OGU) was formed at the inaugural AGM held in Auckland in early September where Kitty Chiller from Australia was elected as President and Raukura Ellison from the Cook Islands as Vice President. Brooke Kneebush was appointed as Secretary General.

While the formation of the Union was the highlight of the year, there were plenty of other activities:

- In June, the ONOC / OSFO Annual General Assemblies in Apia Samoa were attended by Gymnastics Australia (GA) CEO Kitty Chiller, Gymnastics New Zealand (GNZ) President Denis Mowbray & Oceania Gymnastics Development Manager Brooke Kneebush
- Representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga attended an Oceania Gymnastics Development Group meeting of Presidents in Pacific Harbour, Fiji in July. This meeting coincided with the arrival of the FIG delegates for the FIG Presidential Commission and Executive Committee meetings hosted by the Gymnastics Federation of Fiji (GFF) and provided the opportunity for emerging Oceania Gymnastics Federation Presidents to meet FIG President Morinari Watanabe.
- A new OGU website was launched in November with subsites for each member federation, easy navigation, dynamic calendars and optimised for all devices.
- Representatives from each OGU member federation were provided the opportunity to attend the FIG Congress in Baku in December with Directors from PNG, Cook Islands, American Samoa and Tonga attending along with Australia and New Zealand.

OGU President Kitty Chiller

Affiliated Member Federations

American Samoa



- The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) Secretary General attended OSEP Educator training in Suva, Fiji in July.
- A GA development visit was conducted in June including coach training, gymnastics and cheer clinics and event planning.
- A new venue was accessed at the stadium in Tafuna thanks to the generosity of the American Samoan Wrestling Federation for sharing their facilities and mats. A new Gymnastics for All club program was introduced at this venue.
- FreeStyle Gymnastics was introduced as a pathway to Parkour.

Australia



Image Courtesy Mark Avellino – Chris Remke Gold Vault 2018 Commonwealth Games

2018 was a big year for Australia's fastest growing participation sport, with almost 240,000 registered members. Of primary significance was the signing of an historic Child Safety Commitment Statement with all states and territories and the formation of a partnership with Bravehearts to continue our commitment to ensuring we provide a safe environment for all our young members. 91% of our members are aged 12 years and under and Gymnastics Australia continues to rate amongst the top three sports in the Sport Australia funded Sporting Schools program. The popularity of our sport was evidenced with the staging of Australia's largest ever gymnastics event in September on the Gold Coast, Queensland with over 4000 gymnasts participating in the Gymnastics Australia National Clubs Carnival.

A huge achievement for GA was our 9 medals, including 2 gold at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April. With sell-out crowds and great presentation, the Games were a fantastic showcase for our sport. GA also hosted international competitors at the Australian leg of the FIG's Individual Apparatus World Cup Series in February and a new deal was signed with FOX SPORTS Australia to deliver unprecedented live coverage and streaming each year of International and Australian gymnastics events, including the Australian National Championships, Oceania Continental Championships & Trans-Tasman Challenge held in Melbourne in May.

Gymnasts represented Australia at World Championships in each of the disciplines, with highlights including Bronze Medals for Ty Swadling and Dominic Clarke in the Men's Synchronised Trampoline Competition, the Women's Artistic gymnasts automatically qualifying a team for the 2019 World Championships and remaining on track for Tokyo 2020 and both of Australia's Senior Acrobatic Gymnastics groups finishing in the top 10 in their respective categories. One individual and a trio of Aerobic gymnasts represented Australia at the FIG Aerobic Gymnastics World Championships – this was the first Senior Trio to be entered since 2010 and comprised individuals from two different states travelling between states to train. With the 2018 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships being the first step on the road to selection to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, this was a great opportunity for a new wave of senior Rhythmic gymnasts to be seen on the international stage. Australia is looking to send its largest contingent of Rhythmic gymnasts to Tokyo with representation in both the Individual and Group categories.

Finally at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games, Australia qualified four athletes to compete across three Olympic Gymsports. In total the Australian Gymnastics Team made five finals and came away with three medals – a Gold, a Silver and a Bronze!

Cook Islands



Image – Freestyle Gymnastics at Tereora College

Kia Orana kotou katoatoa,

2018 saw the start of new growth within Cook Islands Gymnastics Federation and the development of new partnerships and opportunities for executive members, coaches, young gymnasts and the wider community. This year saw the appointment of a new president, development tours for coaches and new initiatives such as Kindergym and Freestyle Gymnastics. As CIGF strives to develop gymnastics 'The Sport for everyBODY- Te tarekareka no te katoatoa' we are working extremely hard to achieve the vision – 'leading the way to healthy living for our people and encouraging easy movement through gymnastics.'

Achievements:

CIGF aims to develop a new avenue for children to get active and for young individuals to develop their own leadership qualities and coaching accreditation through gymnastics. There is no lack of demand for CIGF programs as the two existing clubs for school aged children are currently full, with participants on waiting lists.

Coaches have had training to "kick start" gymnastics in the Cook Islands and investment into their ongoing development is a priority. Recruitment of new coaches continues with several college students trained as coaches for club programs. Two CIGF senior coaches recently attended the Gymnastics New Zealand GfA Symposium in Wellington. CIGF values our coaches and sees the need to give them opportunities to learn and develop their own coaching skills to then benefit the sport of gymnastics and its development in the Cook Islands.

CIGF have not only helped develop coaches but also provided opportunities for executive members to learn and gain new experiences. CIGF President Raukura Ellison attended OSEP Educator training in Fiji in July.

Being a successful applicant of CISNOC's AllSport Grants for the last 2 years, has enabled CIGF to conduct GymSchools Programs at preschool and primary schools, attend Just Play Village Festivals, offer Freestyle Gymnastics programs to college students, and fund Sport Development Officers for targeted programs. Through the Cook Islands Ministry of Health, a grant was received to fund, our first School Holiday Program with a healthy living theme. This was a great success with children, parents and the Ministry of Health. It has placed us in good stead for future programs.

A year of growth and development was topped off with the announcement that a CIGF Australian High Commission Direct Aid Program grant application for a lockable equipment storage trailer had been successful.

2018 Contributors and Partnerships:

- Oceania Gymnastics and Gymnastics Australia - Development of Gymnastics in the Cook Islands
- Cook Islands Ministry of Education - support of Gymnastics in Schools
- Cook Islands Ministry of Health - Grant for school holiday program and purchase of air track and air beam
- CISNOC – AllSports grant funding
- Australian Government – Direct Aid Program grant funding for equipment trailer
- Australian and New Zealand gymnastics clubs - donation of leotards, accessories and small equipment
- St John's GymSports, Hawera, New Zealand - donation of equipment
- Cook Islands General Transport- shipping of donated equipment from New Zealand to Rarotonga
- Tereora College - use of hall for gymnastics classes
- Rose from Tepuka Child Health Clinic - storage of gym equipment
- OSEP – CIGF president participated in OSEP Educator Course

Fiji



Image – GFF Gymnasts compete at GA National Clubs Carnival in Queensland

- In July the Gymnastics Federation of Fiji (GFF) hosted the FIG Presidential Committee and Executive Commission meetings. President Watanabe presented a gift of rhythmic gymnastics equipment to GFF. FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Director Rosy Taeymans presented to Oceania & Fiji representatives and rhythmic gymnast Son Yeonjae, South Korean 2016 Olympian conducted a masterclass & school program. Vital funding to support this event was provided by the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports. FASANOC also provided support via their sponsor Fiji Water.
- In April, the two directors of Melbourne Gym Sports visited Fiji to conduct coach & judge training and aerobic gymnastics clinics. At this time they selected three scholarship recipients. A Fijian Aerobic Gymnastics team including the sponsored athletes were the first gymnasts from an emerging federation to compete internationally when they travelled to Gymnastics Australia National Clubs Carnival on the Gold Coast, Queensland in September. This was made possible by funding from Melbourne Gym Sports Aerobic Gymnastics club and the Australian Government's Pacific Sports Partnership program.
- An Australian Acrobatic Gymnastics Expert Visit to Fiji supported by Fiji National Sport Commission was conducted in November to coincide with the national competition. Coach and judge training and gymnast clinics were conducted.
- Fiji's fourth annual national competition and showcase event was staged at the Suva YMCA. GFF were honoured to have FASANOC CEO and Secretary General Lorraine Mar give an opening speech to well over 150 participants performing AeroGym, acrobatic and artistic gymnastics routines.

New Zealand



Image – GNZ at World Cup Melbourne

Kia Ora

The 2018 year has been another exciting and very busy year for Gymnastics NZ. There have been a number of important projects and programmes that have been implemented or started in 2018.

This year saw the introduction and rollout of our club management and national database solution. This provides a range of services to our member clubs allowing them to better manage their operations while also providing Gymnastics NZ with data that will give us an in-depth view into gymnastics activity within our community. This will allow us to provide them, and our other stakeholders, with a range of insights, benefits and services to enhance their work and knowledge about gymnastics in New Zealand.

The strategically significant *Project 2020* was also initiated this year, that when completed, will allow for significant service improvement to not only our competitive athletes, but those who participate in the rapidly growing gym-for-all space. NZ has seen significant membership growth in gym-for-all participation, and this project will allow us to better cater for their needs. It will also align our competitive structure to reflect the progression from the local competitive season to international events.

New Zealand has also continued to see exceptional growth in our member numbers and a steady growth in the number of clubs. This reflects the hard work of our member clubs and staff of Gymnastics NZ are doing through mechanisms such as our Regional Action Plans and programs such as *Tumbling* and *Team Gym* to attract and retain participants. Maintaining that growth is a key priority for us in the coming 2019 year.

NZ Athletes participated in many overseas events, including the Commonwealth Games in April, and World Championships in all our codes. Some outstanding performances were recorded including Laura Furse in Aerobics in Las Vegas, Sam Dick for MAG at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Maddie Davidson in Women's Trampoline in St Petersburg and also the MAG Team at the World Championships in Doha. We are naturally proud of all our athletes who competed in overseas events.

On the domestic front, our National Championships were held in Tauranga for the first time at ASB Baypark Arena to much acclaim. They were an outstanding success with almost 1000 athletes competing over four days of fantastic competition. The wider community of Tauranga came alive with the vibe and energy of gymnastics, and we look forward to returning.

In that light, NZ is bidding to host the Pac Rim competition in 2020. The competition will be held in Tauranga the site of our successful National Championships. This event will be extraordinary, and we are really looking forward to welcoming our overseas guests from around, and within, the Pacific Rim to New Zealand.

The Board of Gymnastics NZ and community is proud that after many years of work, the Oceania Gymnastics Union (OGU) was finally formalised at the 2018 FIG Congress in Baku. NZ was proud to have been involved in the development process and to see it through to fruition is something that personally, fills me with pride and will live with me forever.

 Dr Denis Mowbray Chair Gymnastics NZ

Papua New Guinea



Image Courtesy Oscana Photography – POM Gymnastics Club PNG Coaches

- Throughout 2018, the Papua New Guinea Gymnastics Federation (PNGGF) President and Secretary attended MOSO training. Managing Olympic Sports Organisations (MOSO) is an Olympic Solidarity Diploma Program.
- The PNG Olympic Committee approved PNGGF membership and the Federation was recognised by PNG Sports Foundation in June. Finally, in December, PNGGF was accepted as a full member of the International Gymnastics Federation.
- To Celebrate Olympic Day, in June, PNG Olympic Committee hosted a come and try day. Eight sports including Gymnastics were invited to attend. Nine schools came through and there was a lot of enthusiasm for gymnastics.
- GA development visits were conducted in May and October including coach, teacher & judge training, gymnast clinics and GymSchools programs.
- Late in the year PNGGF were privileged to receive approval of an application to partner on an Australian Government Pacific Sports Partnerships Program Disability Inclusion Project with Badminton.

Tonga



Image – Australian Government grant funded equipment for Tonga Gymnastics Federation

- Cyclone Gita's unwelcome visit early in 2018 caused devastating damage in the Kingdom of Tonga, including tearing the roof from buildings at ACTS school, one of Tonga Gymnastics Federations' three clubs. But the Tongan community demonstrated incredible resilience, with gymnastics classes back up and running in a

very short amount of time, focused on ensuring that the impact of the natural disaster on children was minimised as much as possible.

- In December, the Tonga Gymnastics Federation was accepted as a full FIG member.
- A 6 week program for ACTS school students, from Kindergarten through to Form 2 was conducted with over 200 students transported each week for special classes utilising the equipment at Teufaiva Fitness Gymnastics Club.
- A GA development visit was conducted in August including a coach training workshop co-presented by Tonga Gymnastics Federation (TGF) head coach Amy Halapua, and Oceania Gymnastics Development Manager Brooke Kneebush. Other development activities included primary and preschool activities. Preschool teacher education has also enabled teachers to include gymnastics components in every day classroom activities.
- TGF received Australian Government grant funded equipment to the value of AUD\$2,700.

Gymnastics Development Countries

Guam



Image – Guam Island Twisters gymnasts

- In January, Olympic Gymnastics Gold Medallist Gabrielle Douglas visited Guam. Guam Gymnastics Federation gymnasts had the opportunity to meet the decorated gymnast in person.
- In February, Guam Island Twisters competed in the Magical Classic Invitational in Florida, a competition hosting 2,500 gymnasts from the US and internationally. Returning with a catch of medals, all Guam gymnasts placed within the top ten of their level.
- Guam Gymnastics Federation directors were delighted to be invited to attend Guam National Olympic Committee Team Manager training in August. GGF are working towards gaining GNOC membership in 2019.
- GA High Performance team member Regan Molyneaux visited Guam in August conducting coach mentoring, workshops, and gymnast clinics.

Samoa



Image – PSP Women’s Leadership training at National University Samoa

In June a GA development visit was conducted, including “Building Leadership Capacity of Women in Sport” Australian Government Pacific Sports Partnerships (PSP) funded workshops in partnership with National University Samoa and Victoria University. The workshops were aimed at removing barriers to women participating in sport and taking on leadership opportunities whilst at the same time offering a new, fun and exciting activity to encourage women to want to get active and improve their fitness.

Australian Deputy High Commissioner Amanda Jewell gave an opening speech and Gymnastics Australia CEO Kitty Chiller co-presented with Samoa Gymnastics Federation director Ruta Schwalger (2017 Pacific Women’s Sports Leadership Program Participant – another Australian Government funded PSP Project).

In addition to leadership training, OSEP Presenter, Aerobic Gymnastics coach, judge and event management training was conducted. SASNOC Board Member Nynette Sass presented participant certificates on the final day and even joined in an AeroGym routine with Badminton Oceania Development Manager Nadia Bleaken.