

May 2017

Chair's Report – 2016

As I reflect upon the work and achievements of our organisation and the community within it, I am very proud of what has been achieved locally, nationally and internationally. Our membership continues to grow, at rates that are the envy of many sports. In fact, for many of our clubs, the issue is how do they house the growth being achieved? The national facilities strategy that is due for release during the second quarter 2017 will inform this decision process and provide a framework for the future growth and development of facilities throughout New Zealand.

After a very long absence, GymSports NZ was again represented at an Olympic Games in Rio 2016, where our athletes, Dylan Schmidt, Courtney McGregor and Misha Koudinova achieved excellent results. To have three athletes attend the Rio Games was amazing, and reflects the dedication of the athletes and all those that have supported them over the years. As a Board and organisation, we have clearly identified that we do not see this achievement as a one-off, in fact, we see this as the first step on a path to the ultimate achievement; a podium finish at an Olympic Games. The Board is committed to supporting this goal through the provision of as much support as is possible.

The Rio Games were followed by the GymSports National Championships event, which in 2016 was hosted in Invercargill. What an amazing event in so many ways. I really don't think that Invercargill has seen the likes of this before in a sporting event. There was hardly a spare bed anywhere, the atmosphere was amazing and once again the organisation and commitment of all those involved in pulling this major event together was simply outstanding. Congratulations to all involved.

I had the privilege of attending the Federation of International (FIG) Congress that was held in Tokyo in October 2016. It was an important congress for several reasons; firstly it saw Bruno Grandi stepdown from the post of President, one he had held for over two decades. This was followed by the election of Morinari Watanabe as the first non-European President since the inception of FIG in 1881. Mr. Watanabe brings a fresh vision and approach to the role which I am sure will see gymnastics continue to grow and flourish.

Mr. Morinari Watanabe has been the Secretary-General of the Japan Gymnastics Association since 2010, and an elected member of the FIG Executive Committee since 2012. An international businessman, he attended university in Sofia and is fluent in Bulgarian. He ran on a platform of increasing the popularity of the sport of gymnastics around the world. His technical proposals include establishing an official coaches' committee at the FIG, like the committee of athletes' representatives.

Another important moment at the Congress was the nomination and acceptance of three Pacific nations; Fiji, The Cook Islands and American Samoa as federations of the FIG. This was the culminating event in a long journey.

Making movement matter

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The Oceania region now has five affiliated federations. The five federations held our first Oceania meeting in Fiji, at which several strategic objectives were set and the election of officers took place. These elections resulted in my election to the role of President of Oceania Gymnastics, a role I am very honoured to have. We have set ambitious goals for the next three years, which include continuing to grow the number of federations and clubs.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts, understanding and hard work over the last year. It has been a year of significant change and challenge. The challenges will continue; however, I am extremely confident that the team we have is one of the best in New Zealand and will rise to these challenges.

It is important that we remember and thank the many funders large and small that have given us amazing support throughout this past year, thank you. Without you, we would not have achieved half of what we did. Individually and collectively, you, our funders and supporters, have made possible the many things we have achieved. For this, we are very grateful.

It would be remiss if I did not single out our most loyal contributors without whom it would be almost impossible to achieve most of what we do. To the New Zealand Community Trust for their ongoing support of our Regional Relationship Managers' programme. This programme supports member clubs in their local community. The value of this support is immeasurable, thank you from all the GymSports NZ community; it is truly appreciated.

Lastly, we must thank Sport NZ for their ongoing support, and their commitment of funding for the next four years. Without this support, we would not be as strong an organisation as we are today. Thank you, we look forward to continuing our strong relationship.

To everyone who supported, helped or just said thank you, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your dedication, hard work and kindness. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their efforts during the year. They have applied themselves to the work at hand with diligence and commitment; they are an excellent team of people with whom I am proud to be associated.



Denis Mowbray
Chair
GymSports NZ Board