

Recently appointed Board members Mark Figgitt and Lorraine Thomson provide some background and insight in to their new involvement in the governance of Gymnastics NZ.



Lorraine Thomson



Mark Figgitt

Tell us a little about your background, work and life experiences.

Lorraine

I am a company director with a start-up disruptive technology company and for the past 20 years have been managing director of a media company, publishing New Zealand Fitness magazine, among others. This has been the driver for cycling the 300km Alps to Ocean track and the 160km Round Lake Taupo event and running the London Marathon and Paris Marathon. I am also a member of the Institute of Directors, Global Women [NZ's most influential women leaders] and also an ArcAngel investor.

Mark

Originally from the UK working in the oil industry for 15 years, I moved with my NZ wife to Christchurch in 1995 and have lived there since that time. I have worked in several industries and companies since arriving in NZ and these include Telecom, Meridian, Airways and more recently McKesson NZ. I am a professional, results oriented executive and director with significant executive and board level experience. I have been involved in technology initially at an engineering and project level, through to management and executive roles in technology companies for over 35 years. I have been involved in sport throughout my life as a participant, committee and board member involved in the following sports Rugby, Badminton, Golf, Gymnastics, Rowing and Swimming. This has included encouraging and helping our kids to achieve the best they can in whatever sport they choose to participate in.

How would you describe your key professional and personal attributes?

Lorraine

Prior to undertaking audacious outdoor events, I started my fitness life as a gymnast. I subsequently attended Outward Bound where I learnt the “I can do anything” scenario – a driving force in my personal and professional life today.

Mark

I believe I have a good work ethic and whilst working hard like to have fun. I have a “can do and never say die” attitude and have been recognised by management, peers and staff for having strong management, leadership and people skills, while having the ability to work collaboratively with others to achieve results.

What motivated you to join the Board of GymSports NZ?

Lorraine

My motivation for joining the Board of Gymnastics NZ, is a desire to see more people in New Zealand getting active with gymnastics and overcoming the growing obesity epidemic among school children in this country.

Mark

Having been a past Board member of Olympia Gymnastics, I have a good understanding of the issues facing not only clubs, but those that effect the national body. With a daughter recently retired from the sport, I believed that now was the time to be able to contribute my experiences at a national level.

In two years' time at the end of your appointed term, what would success represent to you regarding your time on the Board and your contribution?

Lorraine

At the end of my appointed Board time, I would like to see gymnastics having moved up the ranks of leading sports in New Zealand and receiving the recognition [social, physical, educational and monetary] it deserves.

Mark

Success for me would be to have assisted the Board and CEO at Gymnastics NZ to drive the sport of gymnastics to even greater levels of participation and international success in a sustainable and repeatable way.