

GymSports NZ - CEO Update

Dear members,

2011 was an exciting year for the gymsports team. New programmes, new events and more members were just a few of the good things that happened. But it has been a challenge - With the financial climate tightening and affecting many Clubs, the team has been focused on helping and supporting Clubs through what ever has been thrown at them. It is pleasing to see that the Clubs we have worked with are weathering the storms and in fact we have been able to attract new Members in Aspire Aerobics and Gymkids.



We are all aware that the Clubs in Christchurch were severely affected by the earthquake and some continue to work their way through the implications. On a more positive note, the joining together of Christchurch School of Gymnastics and Impact Alpha Gymsports creates sustainability and promise for future growth.

Club development work has been the focus of the Relationship Management team and as we reflect on the last year, we can all be proud of the growing, developing trust and engagement between member clubs and GymSports NZ.

GymSports NZ hosted **4 major events** - a National Championships qualifying event, the New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships, the National Aerobics, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Trampoline Championships and the National Artistic Championships. Approximately **1,700 participants** took part. This is no mean feat when the standard of the events is now set so high. We have begun to investigate which potential international events we could bring to New Zealand and hopefully over the next 12 months we will have further news. Running our events is highly complex and takes a significant amount of detailed planning. Led by Louise Demers; the Sport Development Committees, numerous volunteers and the GymSports NZ staff threw themselves into making them truly athlete centered events. **A massive thank you** goes out to anyone who volunteered - We hope to see you again in 2012 as we loved having you involved.

Sport development continues to move forward with the Sport Development Committees leading the development of sport code Strategic plans. To **date 3 of our 5 codes** have been able to complete their plans and help us look into the future and see where the sports are heading. The Women's Artistic Gymnastics Sport Development Committee led the rollout of the **new STEPs competitive programme** with major success. The programme was **designed to be progressive, comprehensible, retentive, rewarding and laudatory** – after one season we can be confident that this is going to be achieved. There have been many people involved in creating the programme and our heartfelt thanks go out to Shirley Baker, Karen Bevins, Jacqui Godfrey, Michelle Woolf, Natalie Gunn, Clare Laurenson, Svetlana Sazonova and Anna Plourde. To do something different and look forward is brave and all of these amazing people have done so.



Underpinning our purpose statement "Through movement GymSports will lead New Zealanders to do better, feel better, be better", we began to rollout the moveMprove programme through Member Clubs. To date **over 8,350** children in primary schools and early childhood centres have taken part in **over 50,000 different movement experiences**. The feedback has been just fantastic and with more Clubs coming on board in 2012 the year is looking very promising.

As one year finishes and another begins I can reflect on the incredible people within the gymsports community and I am humbled by their undying commitment and enthusiasm to make the gymsports clubs and community better. Thank you for making this sport one of the most enjoyable in New Zealand.

With the next few years focused on club development, the national database, moveMprove, sport code development and growth, the GymSports NZ crew and I look forward to continuing the work which will build on the successes and make the gymsports community the strongest in sport. As Henry Ford said "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Best wishes,

Sarah

Sarah Ashmole
Chief Executive Officer

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Restructure & People Changes

What sets GymSports NZ apart from many other sporting organisations is that it has a bold, logical and long-term vision pulled together in the Springboard Plan. This plan requires great implementation. We need to have adequate dedicated resource to implement the Springboard plan, especially in the areas of sport governance and infrastructure. This is where our vision can yield exceptional results in the long term.



GymSports NZ has had the same internal structure since the initial changes were made in 2008 through the Organisational Transformation Plan. This structure has been excellent for the work that has needed to be done over the last four years but as we move into another stage of the Springboard Plan we needed to take a long look into the future and prepare ourselves for the work ahead.

Over the last few months, the National staff has been involved in creating a new organisational structure. This structure creates a framework for the key areas of work that need to be achieved over the next three to five years to keep increasing the level of engagement across the gymsports community and to retain the momentum on the Springboard Plan.

This structure has seen a number of roles amended, new positions created and the position of Gym For All Manager disestablished. We were sad to say goodbye to Caroline Parkhouse after her work on the Xtnd Youth Leadership Programme. Caroline is heading back to the UK to take up a teaching position in a secondary school and Tas Evans our National Development Manager will be leading the Xtnd programme rollout to Member Clubs.

Three new positions have been created to build on Club development. These include two Senior Relationship Managers (one in the North and one in the South) to work with larger Clubs and Clubs in growth stages plus a Database Officer to lead the rollout of the Gymsports Partnership Database (GPD). The recruitment for these is already underway.

To help you with whom to contact while we transfer to the new structure we have detailed the names of staff and the rolls they do. Further information will be released through e - news as the new structure becomes complete.

Name	Title	Direct Dial	Mobile	Email
Sarah Ashmole	Chief Executive Officer	09 306 0298	021 829 227	sarah.ashmole@gymsportsnz.com
Peter Croft	Business Development Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income generation including sponsorship and other opportunities 	0800 820820		bdm@gymsportsnz.com
Tas Evans	National Development Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees Education and new Gym For All programme development 	09 306 0292	021 638 380	tas.evans@gymsportsnz.com
Edward Duff	Finance Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial reporting & management 	09 306 0290		edward.duff@gymsportsnz.com
Michelle Sommerville (Temporary)	National Office Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order processing, education administration & office support 	09 377 3600		office@gymsportsnz.com
Melissa Chandler (Temporary)	Performance Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration support for overseas events 	09 306 0296		cam.gibson@gymsportsnz.com
Louise Demers	Events Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of the National Gymsports Championships, National Secondary Schools Championships and overseeing all National Qualifying events 	09 306 0294		louise.demers@gymsportsnz.com

Shelley Gilliver	National Foundation Skills Manager • Overall responsibility for the moveMprove programme	04 560 0376	027 653 1122	shelley.gilliver@gymsportsnz.com
Christine Reed	Sport Education Manager • Overseeing and developing all sport education	09 306 0295	021 073 6453	christine.reed@gymsportsnz.com
Michelle Hayward	Relationship Team Manager • Manages the Relationship Management Team	04 560 0382	021 865 501	michelle@gymsportsnz.com
Danielle Halliday	Northern Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Northern region • Covers National Championships provinces Northland & North Harbour	021 984 828	021 984 828	danielle.halliday@gymsportsnz.com
Sara Berry	Auckland Manukau Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Auckland/Manuaku region • Covers National Championships provinces Auckland & Manukau	09 306 0297	021 834 320	sara.berry@gymsportsnz.com
Erica Third	Midlands Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Midlands region • Covers National Championships provinces Taranaki, Waikato & Bay of Plenty	021 957 574	021 957 574	erica.third@gymsportsnz.com
Margaret Wilton (30 hours)	Relationship Manager/SportsForce Officer • Club & gymsports development for the Waikato province region.	07 858 5388	021 242 2625	margaret.wilton@gymsportsnz.com
Ashleigh McCaw	Waikato KiwiSport GymSport Officer • Development of Primary and Secondary school events in the Waikato province		027 653 1199	ashleigh.mccaw@gymsportsnz.com
Megan Preston	Central Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Wellington region • Covers National Championships province Wellington	04 560 0372	027 653 1144	megan.preston@gymsportsnz.com
To be recruited (30 hours)	Central Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Central region • Covers National Championships provinces Hawkes Bay/Poverty Bay & Wanganui/Manawatu			
Carolyn Marlowe	Upper South Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Upper South region • Covers National Championships provinces Top of the South & Canterbury	021 834 965	021 834 965	carolyn.marlowe@gymsportsnz.com
Fiona Jenks	Southern Relationship Manager • Club & gymsports development for the Midlands region • Covers National Championships provinces Otago & Southland	021 984 858	021 984 858	fiona.jenks@gymsportsnz.com

2011/2012 Road show Update

Clubs are the backbone of our organisation. The Road shows are designed for Clubs to discuss what they want, where their needs are and what are their challenges – it is a great time for GymSports NZ to listen, learn and reflect. We have had a regional governance structure which has evolved over time as the environment has changed and with low numbers of people putting up their hand to join Regional Boards it is time to look at what is needed for the future. These Road shows do that.

Where have they taken place – There have been lots of road shows taking place, in fact 11 to date. The support from Clubs has been fantastic – it has been great to see so many people come along and give their views on the future direction of the regions and to share their local needs. Clubs in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago, Southland and Aorangi have engaged to date in the process of building the new support structure which will be voted on at the 2012 Annual General meeting.

Results to date – Some strong messages have been coming through regarding Club needs – Education, sustainability, promotion, facilities, equipment purchase and club capability seem to be the top priorities. We will be collating the details of all the Road shows and passing them out to members as soon as the last one has been completed in March.

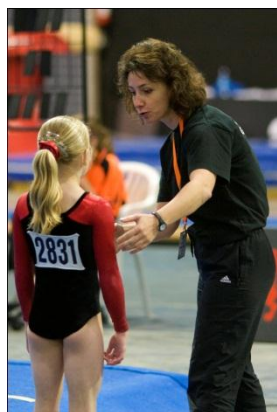
Governance structure – Club support has been the number one request from clubs. With our current regional provision being linked to governance rather than club support it is time to look at a new model which delivers on local club need.

Through the Road shows, we have been able to investigate a possible model and ask questions to help its development. With a range of club needs and a range of volunteers with skills it seems sensible to bring them both together into a simple model with the Club at the core.

As the Road Shows will be completed in March, we will be able to update you all with the final version of the suggested model and how it would work in local gymsports communities.

Where to find out information - We are documenting each Road show and putting it on our website, this means that all interested members can see what has been said. Members will therefore be better informed when it comes to supplying feedback back on the proposed constitutional changes later in the year. Grab a coffee and take a look at what clubs are saying by clicking on [Membership Consultation | NZ Gymnastics](#)

Attention Coaches, Judges & Presenters - Education 360 Strategy



We have been busy getting on with things in the education space, consulting and developing the Education 360 Strategy. The strategy which has had two rounds of consultation is almost at final release. This **five year strategy** has been developed to improve the athlete/participant experience by **enhancing the quality and recognition of coaches, judges and presenters**.



These key people are vital to the growth of gymsports and we will all benefit from technically competent, emotionally intelligent, athlete-centred coaches and judges who create a positive environment for all athletes/participants to flourish.

The strategy has been established to provide for the continuous development of coaches, judges and presenters in **full-time, part-time, paid or volunteer positions in all areas of gymsport activity**. It is aligned to the GymSports NZ Springboard Plan, the 'Moving through Life' Participation Strategy, the World Performance Strategy and the individual gymsport code specific strategies.

It clearly sets out the direction and focus for education over the coming years.

There are 5 key strands to the strategy and they are:

- Development of an Education Framework which is easy to understand and shows clear pathways for all;
- Development of Coach, Judge and Presenter so that they fully achieve for their athletes and their own personal goals;
- Development of a mentoring and support network so that everyone feels they can achieve;
- Recruitment, retention and recognition of coaches, judges and presenters through an active programme;
- Communication which is clear and effective between coaches, judges, club governors/administrators, presenters and GymSports NZ.

Keep your eyes on e news for the final version of the strategy and take a look at where education is heading.



Aerobics/Rhythmic Gymnastics/Trampoline National Championships

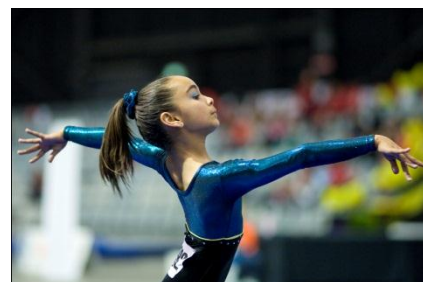
In 2011, we delivered the first “split” National Championships at the North Shore event centre in Auckland with the support of North Shore Trampoline. The feedback was great with lots of positive comments from everyone involved – it has set a high standard for 2012.

This year the Championships will move south and take place in Dunedin at the **Edgar Centre from 9 to 13 October**. We regularly get asked why move events to different cities and the answer is very simple, with the number of competitors,

judges, event volunteers and parents, our community makes an impact and is very visible in one place and this raises the profile of the sports for the local clubs. We particularly wanted to go to Dunedin as it is a “hot bed” of rhythmic talent, aerobics is growing well and there is a will to develop trampoline within the clubs. The GymSports crew are looking forward to going south, connecting with the volunteers and helping to raise the profile of the sports even higher.

National Artistic Gymnastics Championships

The 2011 Championship was a fantastic event held in Timaru at the SBS Centre. Waimate Gymsports, South Canterbury Gymsports and Timaru Gymnastics club were awesome hosts and we are very grateful for all that they did to support the GymSports NZ crew to make the event a success. The event saw the results of the new women’s artistic gymnastics STEPs programme and it culminated in many different provinces achieving medal places – this is great to see from a sport development perspective.



In 2012 the event moves to top of the south island to the Marlborough Lines Stadium 2000 in Blenheim from **3 to 7 October**. GymSports NZ Life Member Tony Quirk is helping us to prepare for the Championship and connect us with local expertise to help the event run smoothly. Once again, the first newsletter will be out in February so keep your eyes on our e newsletter and website.

National Database

With recruitment underway for our Database Officer, the national database will be one of our key projects for the next three years.

Significant work has been done to ensure the database is robust and available to members when they want to get on it and not when they have to get on to it. Held in a “cloud computing” environment accessed via the internet, the national database houses over 85,000 contacts with membership data stretching back to 2009, two years of national championships data and every school in New Zealand. This database is not just a place to collect data but it is leading our ability to serve and support our members.

The database has so many applications for both clubs and national body which can drive and define both of our organisations. This is not always clear on a quick review of the concept but when you look a little deeper and contemplate the benefits of a single repository of information on coaches, our judges, our athletes, contacts, our performance records...then the efficiencies and possibilities begin to materialise.

We always want to improve the database and as clubs come on board they will be able to be part of groups looking at improvements and modifications so that it becomes the central point for our community to understand itself.

Some of the advantages built into the database are:

- **Class Management** which helps Clubs to manage their Members in classes — book them in, check their attendance and produce management reports for funders, councils, stakeholders and Club Committees/Boards.
- **Gym for All Awards** — Helps clubs record the badges and awards achieved by their athletes.
- **Screen views** — Data at the flick of a button so you can see how your numbers in different areas are going.
- **School Information** — Record school contacts and create reports
- **Member Management** – (including relationships with siblings, caregivers and parents);
- **Manage memberships by term;**
- **Qualifications** — view Coach and Judge qualifications;
- **Training courses** - Enter Coaches & Judges;
- **Nationals Qualifying events** - Enter athletes;
- **Market & communicate** with stakeholders in an easy way (segmenting the data in different ways such as just coaches, just judges, just gym for all athletes)

Our challenge has been to get it out for clubs to use and having low IT resource in house this has been an issue. With the recruitment of the Database Officer we will be kicking into action. This key member of the GymSports crew will be leading the education and training of club administrators, looking at new amendments to enhance the use of the database and support club administrators with questions and queries.

moveMprove Foundation Skills Programme - what a year!



Just in case you haven't had a chance to read any previous communications, **moveMprove is a quality controlled movement learning programme** which aims to help children to develop the foundation and fundamental movement skills in club, school and community environments. The content of the sessions is a fusion of traditional Recreation Gymnastic programmes which teach basic and intermediate movement skills and patterns with programmes from Artistic, Rhythmic, Sports Aerobics, Trampoline and Display Gymnastics.

If we were to highlight five key points that the programme achieves they would be:

- 1) The delivery of a set quality standard, building on the gymsports community's reputation.
- 2) The strengthening and building of a clubs capability and sustainability.
- 3) It introduces more children to what gymsports is about.
- 4) It increases the visibility of clubs in their community; and
- 5) It raises the importance of what gymsports clubs do.



To date **8 Member clubs** have delivered over **50,000 movement experiences** to over **8,350** children in 92 different schools and six early childhood centres. 6 of the 8 clubs **exceeded their original targets** by over 70%! That's pretty incredible from a standing start.

The impact on children has been amazing and based on assessment results there has been over an 85% increase in the children's capability in the foundation skills.

Well done and congratulations to **Tri Star, Argos, Invercargill, St Johns, Christchurch School of Gymnastics, Olympia Gymnastic Sports, Rimutaka and Hutt Valley** for their excellent delivery. We have been very impressed and delighted with the professionalism and quality that you have been able to achieve all of which is building the reputation of the whole gymsports community in New Zealand.

moveMprove was delivered on behalf of the Halberg Trust by Tri Star Gymnastics Club and Westpac Bank volunteers to a group of children with disabilities – it was inspiring to join in with the children and see them have a wonderful time experimenting with all the different activities and achieving so much.

With five new clubs signed on already and national funding available to support education and subsidise delivery, the future looks very bright for moveMprove so watch this space!



Sport Governance – Sport Development Committee Update

Thank You to all Sport Development Committee members who have contributed hugely to the organisation in 2011. We are looking forward to work along side you to continue the great work you have been doing to grow and develop the sports codes.

Women's Artistic Gymnastics: Next Meeting 11 & 12 February to complete the sports strategic plan and review the feedback from the women's artistic gymnastics community on the STEPs programme.

Trampoline: Nominations for the new roles closed before Christmas and names to be announced imminently.

Men's Artistic Gymnastics: Next meeting 12 February with new member Adrian Coman (Athletes Representative).

Rhythmic Gymnastics: New Chair to be announced imminently.

Aerobics: New programme developed and released, an increased number of events in 2012 and National Championship athlete qualifying marks set for the first time ever. The Sport Development Committee has been very busy over the last few months!

With lots going on in the sporting codes please keep your eyes on e-news for the announcements as they unfold.

I understand how important the sporting codes are to our members as they grow the life long volunteers through their passion for the sports. My next communication will therefore contain details on how the sports are doing against the back drop of the changes that were made four years ago.

Snippets

London Test Event

Congratulations to Patrick Peng (Tri Star) and Jordan Rae (Counties Manukau) for performing at the London Olympics Test event in January.

Pac Rim 2012

Congratulations to the team selected for the Pac Rim Championships in the USA in March. Four of our gymspports will be represented, Trampoline, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics. We will be fielding a team of young athletes to give them exposure to the highest level of gymspport competition outside of a World Cup, World Championship or Olympic Games. Go New Zealand!

Trampoline World Championships and World Age Group Championships

At the World Trampoline Championships in Birmingham, the New Zealand **Senior girls qualified a spot for the 2013 World Games** in Cali, Colombia . Now the fun starts as we have a number of excellent senior ladies who will be fighting for the spot!

Congratulations to up and coming star **Dylan Schmidt who achieved a silver medal** in the Trampoline World Age Group Championships a short time after breaking his toe. Hopefully this is not a trend as prior to the last World Championships he injured his ankle but managed to get the gold medal! During 2011, GymSports NZ was able to attract a small three year individual sponsorship for Dylan to help with his travel expenses.

Swescore

GymSports NZ has been able to negotiate a license for all member clubs to use the Swescore Trampoline competition software. If you are looking to run either a full competitive or just a fun trampoline competition this software is for you. We are investigating training opportunities around the country for volunteers to learn the programme and then use it in their club – keep your eyes on e news. To get access to the software please email Christine.reed@gymsportsnz.com

A **BIG THANKS** to **New Zealand Community Trust** for their continuing support of our Relationship Management Programme. Working directly with clubs is a core part of our work and your support has allowed us to provide direct support and benefits at the grass roots level.

Also a **BIG THANKS** to the **Lion Foundation** for their support of the moveMprove programme which is building the gymspport community on so many different levels and making a difference to 1000,s of kiwi children.

And finally a **BIG THANKS** to **Bruce Pulman**, honorary member of GymSports NZ for his continued patronage of the National Gymspports Championships. The event would not look, feel and be the event it is without his passion for the young people of New Zealand and the benefits they get from being a part of the gymspports world.