

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Diana Puketapu-Lyndon (Ngāti Porou)

Tuia te rangi e tū iho nei
Tuia te papa e takoto ake nei
Tuia te taura here tangata
Ka rongo te pō, ka rongo te ao
E ngā tini mate o te wā, haere atu rā
Ko te pō ki a koutou, ko te ao mārama ki a mātou
Tihei mauri ora!

Bind all that is celestial
Bind all that is terrestrial
Bind all kinship strands of humanity
May peace prevail, in death and in life
I bid farewell to the multitudes who have passed on
It is beyond the veil where you return
It is the world of light where we remain
I acknowledge all life.

Rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou katoa,

The year 2024 has been a milestone for New Zealand Olympic sport, highlighted by the outstanding achievements at the Paris Olympic Games. Our athletes' performances brought pride to every corner of Aotearoa New Zealand, underscoring the resilience and excellence of our New Zealand Team.

This year, we welcomed Richie Patterson (Olympian #1072), Marcus Daniell (Olympian #1264), and Dallas Seymour to the NZOC Board. Their combined expertise greatly enriches our work, with Richie joining as Chair of the NZOC Athletes' Commission, Marcus as an International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission representative and Dallas as Chair of Te Urunga Tū (the NZOC Māori Advisory Committee).

We also farewelled Sarah Cowley Ross (Olympian #1134), who concluded her tenure as Chair of the NZOC Athletes' Commission. I would like to extend a huge mihi (thanks) to Sarah for her leadership and guidance during her time on the NZOC Board. She has been exceptionally forward thinking and has helped us deliver on the NZOC's mission of ensuring the athlete's viewpoint is at the heart of every decision we make.

In late August, we joined all of New Zealand in mourning the passing of the Māori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII. Our relationship with the Kiingitanga was first established in 2004 with the late Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, who named the

New Zealand Team's very first Olympic kākahu (traditional Māori cloak), 'Te Māhutonga'. This connection was renewed in April 2024 when her son, Kiingi Tuheitia, oversaw the blessing of the second Olympic kākahu, 'Te Hono ki Matariki', at Tūrangawaewae Marae. The relationship grew further with Kiingi Tuheitia and his whānau attending the Paris Olympic Games and witnessing first-hand the largest celebration of sport and culture in the world.

We were pleased to host our patron, the Governor-General of New Zealand Her Excellency the Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, and the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Honourable Chris Bishop, as the New Zealand Team's Paris 2024 distinguished guests of honour. We thank Dame Cindy and Minister Bishop for their support of sport and its role in the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

New partnerships flourished during 2024, with a 25 per cent increase in partner support from 20 New Zealand and 15 global partners, and 400 stakeholders engaged through Paris events.

Sending a team to an Olympic Games requires a significant amount of funding and we are grateful to our commercial and philanthropic partners and HPSNZ, whose support enables our athletes to excel. We extend a warm welcome to our new New Zealand Team partners – 2degrees, Lotto NZ, My Food Bag™ New Zealand and Westfield – and thank our long-standing Olympic Foundation members and Olympic Solidarity for their continued support.

This year, we proudly shared financial success with our stakeholders, distributing funds to support member sports and athletes. To all those who make these accomplishments possible, my sincerest thanks.

Mā tini, mā mano, ka rapa te whai – A great number will achieve what few cannot. There is strength in unity.

Nāku noa nā,



Diana Puketapu-Lyndon
Chair
New Zealand Olympic Committee

