

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Liz Dawson, MNZM

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E ngā mana, e ngā reo, tēnā koutou katoa,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on the New Zealand Team's remarkable achievements in 2024. Our athletes inspired the nation with an extraordinary Paris Olympic Games campaign, earning 20 medals, including a record 10 golds. While there is often a focus on medals, I would like to also acknowledge the personal bests and those athletes who gave it their all and pushed their limits – reminding us that success is about the spirit of perseverance as well. The team's performance was incredibly inspiring, and the athletes truly showcased the spirit of Aotearoa New Zealand to the world.

The success of the Paris team reflects not only the strength of New Zealand sport but also our culture, our people, and who we are. Led by Chef de Mission Nigel Avery and supported by the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) staff and 54 team support in Operations, Health, te ao Māori (Cultural Support), and more, our team's dedication to creating a cohesive, supportive environment paid off in outstanding results and strong post-Games satisfaction.

New Zealand's unique culture was on full display in Paris. From the team celebrations featuring the Pou Tangata haka at the Olympic Village, to the Whāngārā Mai Tawhiti haka and poi performances, we shared the beauty and depth of the NZOC's journey in te ao Māori with the world. This spirit of manaaki was felt by all who interacted with our Team, strengthening New Zealand's reputation on the international stage.

We thank the sporting sector – National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), commercial partners, members of the Olympic Foundation, and our sporting delivery partners High Performance Sport New Zealand (HPSNZ) and Ihi Aotearoa Sport New Zealand (Ihi Aotearoa Sport NZ) – for their ongoing collaboration and commitment to sport in New Zealand.

I would also like to recognise a brilliant campaign by the New Zealand Team at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games. New Zealand's emerging winter sports athletes represented us with distinction at these Games, with seven medals as well as numerous personal bests and top 10s across seven disciplines underscoring the depth of talent in our young athletes.

We now turn our focus to the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games, the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games and the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympic Games, as well as a host of pre-elite Games. In addition, as we approach the Brisbane 2032 Summer Olympic Games, our participation in the Oceania region's Pathway to 2032, particularly through Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC), remains a priority. I am especially pleased with the progress of the Oceania Equity Commission, Oceania Sport, Equality and Inclusive Communities Impact Network, and our commitment to safeguarding athletes throughout our region.

As always, I extend my thanks to the NZOC Board, led by Chair Diana Puketapu-Lyndon, for their strategic guidance, and to CEO Nicki Nicol and her team for their dedication and determination in supporting our athlete-centred approach. Together, we look forward to building on the incredible accomplishments of 2024.

Ngā mihi nui



Liz Dawson, MNZM  
President  
New Zealand Olympic Committee

