

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Lonsdale Cup Awarded to Dame Lydia Ko

New Zealand golfing great Dame Lydia Ko won the NZOC's Lonsdale Cup for her achievements in 2024.

The Lonsdale Cup is our most prestigious honour and is awarded annually to the athlete or team that has made the most outstanding contribution to an Olympic or Commonwealth sport.

The award recognises the year in which Dame Lydia completed her set of Olympic medals, winning gold with a clinical performance at Le Golf National in Paris.

The gold-medal win continued Dame Lydia's astonishing record of Olympic success. She made her Olympic debut at Rio 2016 where she won silver and hit a hole-in-one as golf made its return to the Olympic programme. At the next Games, Dame Lydia was again in the medals, winning bronze in extremely hot conditions at Tokyo 2020.

The Lonsdale Cup was first awarded in 1961, with Sir Murray Halberg the inaugural recipient. Since then, it has been won by a host of inspirational New Zealanders who have represented our country with pride and passion. Past winners include Dame Valerie Adams, Dame Lisa Carrington, Barbara Kendall, Sir Peter Snell, Sir John Walker, and many more.

Dame Lisa Carrington Receives ANOC Award

Dame Lisa Carrington was awarded one of the Olympic movement's highest honours in 2024, receiving the Association of National Olympic Committee's (ANOC) Outstanding Sporting Career Award.

Dame Lisa received the award in Cascais, Portugal, at the 2024 ANOC Awards. The event was attended by more than 600 people from the Olympic Movement including IOC President Dr Thomas Bach, as well as representatives from the world's 206 NOCs.

The award recognises Dame Lisa's career to date and came in a dominant year in which she claimed three gold medals at the Paris Olympic Games (K4, K2, K1). The wins took her total Olympic medal haul to a staggering nine medals, eight of which are gold.

"I'm honoured to be recognised by ANOC and to receive this award," said Dame Lisa.

"From winning my first gold in London back in 2012, through to the success this year in Paris, it's been an opportunity for me to reflect on the journey to get to this point. I'm so lucky to do what I do – sport is such a privilege. Thank you to the ANOC for allowing people like me to live out their dreams."

It is the first time a New Zealander has won this award.

NZOC Order Holders

Former NZOC Board Member Tony Hall received the NZOC's highest honour in 2024. Tony was made an NZOC Order Holder, with the honour recognising outstanding service to the Olympic Movement and/or Commonwealth Sport Movement.

A new NZOC Merit Award was awarded to four members of the New Zealand sporting whānau who had made important contributions to Olympic and Commonwealth sport. They were: Mike Kernahan (NZOC Athletes' Commission Chair, NZOC Selector), Dr Chris Milne (sports physician), Pete Miskimmin (Olympian #475, NZOC Athletes' Commission Chair, NZOC Board Member), Lesley Rumball (NZOC Athletes' Commission Chair, NZOC Selector).

New Zealand Orders of Merit

A number of athletes and sports administrators were recognised with honours in 2024. CGF CEO and New Zealand Olympian #497 Katie Sadleir was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in the King's Birthday Honours.

Katie was recognised for services to sports governance and women, having held significant roles since the 1990s.

Four-time football Olympians, Ria Percival (Olympian #1074) and Ali Riley (Olympian #1080), were made Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

New Zealand Olympian #180 Theodora Gotz, who competed in gymnastics in the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for ongoing services to gymnastics.

Sports administrator Sarai-Paea Bareman received a Damehood for services to football governance, while Dr Johanna Wood was made a CNZM. Curling New Zealand President Liz Matthews was made an ONZM for ongoing services to curling.

The NZOC also acknowledges Tennis New Zealand CEO and Women in Sport Aotearoa Co-founder Julie Paterson, who was named an ONZM for services to women and sport.

Māori Sports Awards

The NZOC was recognised at the 2024 Māori Sports Awards for our work to celebrate and share Māori culture during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The NZOC received the Te Tohu Taakaro o Aotearoa Trustees Award for weaving te ao Māori into the New Zealand Team at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The awards panel credited the NZOC for our powerful use of Māori performing arts, te reo Māori, and tikanga which created a significant impact on the world and on New Zealanders.

