

## HISTORY OF COUNTIES MANUKAU GYMNASTICS (INC)

- 1973 Steering committee formed to set up gymnastic Club, in Manurewa. Marie Hammond was on the steering committee.
- 1974 Club started, called Manurewa Gymnastic Club, offering twice weekly classes for Recreational gymnasts, at the Manurewa Recreation Centre.
- 1975 Artistic competitive classes started for Junior National girls and boys. Rhythmic classes offered.
- 1981 Membership grown, now 150 children on a waiting list.  
Second venue needed.  
Classes started at Ardmore Teachers Training College Hall.  
Club enjoys a fully set up gymnasium for the first time.  
Club name changed to Counties Gymnastic Club.
- 1983 First gymnast selected to represent NZ in the Elite grade. Deborah Peake.
- 1984 A foam pit is installed at our Ardmore venue.  
Vanessa Thornton selected in NZ Elite team to compete at Pacific Alliance in the USA. Marie Hammond is selected as coach.  
Warwick Wilson is our first National Grade male gymnast to compete
- 1985 Vanessa Thornton competes at the World games in Montreal.
- 1986 Vanessa Thornton represents NZ at the Commonwealth Invitational in Scotland.
- 1988 Tas Evans introduces a Parent & Child Pre School gymnastic programme called Tumble Tots.
- 1989 Trampoline classes are started at Manurewa.  
Junior coaches are enrolled in the NZG CIT youth leadership training programme, on completion they will gain a National coaching qualification.  
Marie Hammond is now an Artistic FIG Brevet judge and judges at the World Games in Germany.  
David Phillips joined the Club. He later trained at Tri Star and went on to win a bronze medal on floor at the Commonwealth Games in 1998.  
Several club members are involved in the organisation of the gymnastics competition at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.  
Ian Thornton is Competition Director.
- 1991 Special classes offered for 5 year olds, called Gymfun.  
Three of Counties artistic gymnasts won four medals in International Competitions, they are Megan Grice, Fiona Pulman & Justine Kilpatrick.  
First Introductory Competition organised.  
Club operating out of three venues.  
Committee decides to start fundraising for a purpose built gymnasium.  
Marcus Leslie is the first trampolinist to compete at open Elite level.
- 1992 Bruce Pulman becomes Club President and his company HEB Contractors sponsors our fundraising competitions. This sponsorship has continued to the present day.  
World Age Trampoline Champs held in Auckland. Scott Glover and Chris Ormond win medals



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- 1993 Three female gymnasts accepted into the Counties Manukau Sports Foundation Silver Fern Club, they are: Karen Bennett, Deborah Peake, Vanessa Thornton. Teen Gym classes started.  
The Executive committee decide to pursue the Papakura District Council site at Walters Rd, Papakura, for a purpose built gymnasium.
- 1994 Fiona Pulman, now training at North Harbour Gymnastics, with International stream gymnasts, is selected to compete at Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada. Papakura District Council approves the development of our Gymnasium at Bruce Pulman Park, in Papakura.  
Club members took part in the Auckland Display Gymfest.  
Trampoline classes move to a fully set up gymnasium at the Papakura Army Camp.
- 1995 Senior gymnasts took part in a group display at the opening ceremony of the Manukau festival of sport.  
NZGA gives a Merit Award to Marie Hammond (Stechman) for her organisation of the Pacific Alliance International Competition in Dec 1994.
- 1996 The Ardmore classes move to a warehouse at Wood St, Papakura.  
The Manurewa Introductory girl's classes move to Papakura also. Rhythmic classes are still offered at Manurewa.
- 1997 Club name changes to Counties Manukau Gymnastics (Inc)  
Rhythmic judge, Tracey Redhead is qualified at FIG brevet standard.  
Two Rhythmic girls, Hayley McAleer and Erica Third, compete in the Elite grade.  
Rhythmic classes now operate out of two venues, Manurewa and Papakura.  
Three CIT graduates, Rohani Evans, Myfi Treanor, and Stacey Gibbs attend a National Camp, and help at the Pacific Gymfest in Hamilton.  
Bruce Pulman is awarded the Queen's Service medal for Service to Sport.  
The Club is saddened to hear that Bev Brash, Life Member has passed away.
- 1998 School gymnastic programmes are introduced.  
Rhythmic gymnast, Hayley McAleer competes Internationally.
- 1999 Building starts on a huge purpose built gymnasium, at Bruce Pulman Park, in Papakura.
- 2000 Term 4 the whole club moves into a magnificent new gymnasium, called The Gymsport & Recreation Centre. The Club does not own the building, but we are the largest user group, and have a 33 year lease. The facility is owned by a Trust, and has two full time staff members and three part time staff members. Some coaches are volunteers.  
Development and elite squad training is now offered.
- 2001 Club membership is now 540, plus children who attend school programmes.  
All sections of the Club, Artistic, Rhythmic, and Trampoline are catered for in one great venue.  
New programmes offered are Sports Aerobics, an Adult class, and a Baby Gym class, for 1-2 year olds. Holiday programmes are offered.  
Trampoline judge, Janine Glover, gains a FIG brevet, she is the only one in NZ to have this qualification.  
Gymnasts compete at National Champs for a new Region, called, Gymsport Manukau. More gymnasts than ever before were selected to compete at Senior and Junior Nationals.



- 2002 Belinda Castles and her coach Lee McDermott selected to be part of the NZ team at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.  
Bruce Pulman retires from President and becomes our Patron.
- 2003 Trampolinists, Antony Jackson, Te Au Jones and Kierran Tuhi, compete at Worlds. Janine Glover goes as judge and coach.  
Belinda Castles competes at the Artistic World Champs, Her coach Lee McDermot and judge, Marie Stechman are selected to attend.  
Tas Evans is an assessor and head of NZ Delegation to the World Gymnaestrada Games.
- 2004 Two new programmes are started – Tumbling and Team Active (combining cheer leading and display).  
Sports Aerobics gymnasts start competing.  
We have International representation by Artistic WAG, Olivia Jobsis, MAG, Campbell Main, Rhythmic, Melissa Logan, and Trampoline, Antony Jackson.  
NZ Gymnastics grants High Performance Centre status to the club.
- 2005 Lance Henry competes at the World Trampoline Champs, and Sarah Miller competes at the Artistic World Champs.  
Our Club hosts the Artistic, Rhythmic and Trampoline Champs as well as the National Secondary Schools Champs.
- 2006 Three Artistic gymnasts, Belinda Castles, Sarah Miller, Olivia Jobsis, are selected to compete at the Commonwealth Games, as is Rhythmic gymnast Melissa Logan. Coaches Tracey Redhead, Lee McDermott and judges Karen Bevins and Marie Stechman are also selected to attend.  
Our Club wins the Top Club Award at the Counties Manukau Sports Awards.  
Trampoline New Zealand becomes part of Gymsports New Zealand.
- 2007 The Club and Centre hosts the National Artistic, Rhythmic, Trampoline and Tumbling Champs.
- 2008 Gymsports New Zealand reduces 15 regions to 6. Our region, Gymsport Manukau is dissolved and now we are part of Auckland Manukau. The Club now communicates directly with GSNZ.  
The Gymsport and Recreation Centre restructures coaching positions. There are now 39 coaches employed in full time, part time, or casual coach positions.  
A full time office manager is appointed.  
The Club is saddened to lose two great Club supporters. Irene Horo, long time administrator and volunteer and Kerrin Bishop, coach, judge, administrator and life member, both lose their battle with cancer.  
The Queen's Birthday weekend Junior Artistic competition is renamed the Kerrin Bishop Memorial Competition.
- 2009 Teen Gym classes are opened up to Adults.
- 2010 Jordan Rae represented NZ at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, and the World Champs in The Netherlands.  
Zoltan Mirko was selected as coach at Worlds.  
Karen Bevins and Campbell Main judged at the World Champs.  
Campbell Main judged at the Commonwealth Games.  
A cheerleading group share our venue.  
A new programme called 'never2old' for over 60s is started.



- 2011 Gymnast Jordan Rae represents NZ at the second Olympic Games Qualifier, in London, at the World Champs in Tokyo and at the World Cup Challenger Event in the Czech Republic.  
Zoltan Mirko was NZ coach to the World Champs and the World Cup.  
Karen Bevins judged at the World Champs.  
Bruce Pulman, Club Patron and Life Member is honoured as a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit.  
A new online results programme is introduced at our Artistic competitions.  
Gymsports NZ changes the WAG programme from levels to steps.  
An IDP (International Development Programme) is reintroduced.
- 2012 The new GymSports NZ XTND Youth Leadership Programme for teenage coaches takes the place of the CIT programme.  
Our coaches deliver “moveMprove” to schools in our area. This is a movement based programme. Other schools like to come into the gym for gymnastic lessons.
- 2013 Olivia Gillott represents NZ in the Tumbling World Age Games in Sofia, Bulgaria.  
The Gymsport & Rec Centre is refurbished, with new carpet, vinyl, drapes and paintwork. The gymnasiums get a full internal clean.  
Instead of running a competition for Recreation gymnasts we run a Gymfest where every gymnast receives a participation medal.
- 2014 The Club is 40 years old. We celebrate with a jubilee. Past members and their families enjoy an hour of free play in our gymnasiums. Displays and a parade of previous uniforms are followed by a mix and mingle time.
- 2015 Cameron Johnson, Frikkie Delport and Ashley Croudis-Boniface selected to represent NZ at the Liuken Cup in Texas  
Lauren Smith represents NZ at the Aloha Festival in Hawaii  
Sophie Hoogenboom and Susanna Denby represent NZ at the MTK Cup in Budapest with Tracey Redhead as coach
- 2016 Grace Schroder represents NZ at Pacific Rim Championships in USA, Sofia Cup in Bulgaria, Emerald Cup in Greece with Tracey Redhead as coach and represents NZ at Junior Commonwealth Gymnastics Championships in Namibia  
Amber Goodger represents NZ at Australian Nationals  
Ashleigh Solomann represents NZ at Indo Pacific Championships in Napier
- 2017 Amos Chas represents NZ at the World cups in Hungary and France  
Grace Schroder represents NZ at Rhythmic World Championships, Corbeil Essones in France and the Sofia Cup in Bulgaria with Tracey Redhead as Coach  
Harvey Humber represents NZ at Junior International Team Cup in Berlin with Adrian Coman as coach
- 2018 Grace Schroder represents NZ at Australia Cup and World Challenge Cup in Portimao with Tracey Redhead as Judge and World Cup in Baku with Tracey Redhead as Coach  
Harvey Humber selected to represent NZ at Cottbus World Cup  
Adrian Coman coach at World Championship in Doha
- 2019 Grace Schroder represents NZ at Cluj-Napoca World Challenge Cup and Kazan World Challenge Cup with Tracey Redhead as Judge  
Harvey Humber represents NZ at World University Games in Italy with Adrian Coman as coach and the World Cup in Baku and World Cup in Doha



The club moves onto Friendly Manager, a membership management programme connected with Gymnastics New Zealand

