



Skateboard New Zealand Inc

President's Report for (presented November 2022)

April 2021 to March 2022

April 2021 - March 2022 was right in the thick of COVID event cancellations, travel restrictions and vaccine mandates, making it a challenging year for Skateboarding New Zealand Inc and our members. Despite this, our team managed to get several positive wins for the organisation.

In terms of governance, we had a shifting of positions throughout the year which should always be expected in a volunteer organisation. A massive thank you to Paul Gunn (committee member) and Sonia Griffin (Secretary), who stood down from these roles during the year. David Read took the position of Secretary for the remainder of the term. Sonia Griffin remained committed to SBNZ in a non-governance role as Special Projects Lead. In particular, the delivery of a successful Olympic Development Camp in Gisborne.

As all roles are volunteer, the work put in by committee members takes time away from their families and other commitments, so I thank all committee members for their contribution.

In the lead-up to the Olympics, NZOC wanted to acknowledge the introduction of skateboarding as an Olympic sport and contacted SBNZ to assist in the Giant Skateboard tour. Bowman Hansen and Matthew Markland travelled with the giant skateboard around New Zealand for 42 days. They went above and beyond to make sure it was a successful tour. Thank you, Bowman and Matt, for your hard work. I was lucky enough to link up with the team in Wanaka and saw first-hand how they were inspired by the rangatahi at various schools around New Zealand.

David Read produced a magazine as a part of the build-up, showcasing our aspiring talent. Simon Thorpe delivered some skateboarding lessons once the giant skateboard returned to Auckland. Many of you supported the team throughout New Zealand, and we really appreciate the support. The whole event certainly worked to increase skateboarding's profile and encourage participation.

The Olympics. As a community, we were able to watch skateboarding on one of the largest stages of the mainstream sporting calendar. Tokyo 2020(1) presented a new era for female skateboarding with stiff competition and young talent emerging, with the average age of medalists being 13 years old. The male category also saw a younger generation taking the top stops, making skateboarding medalists some of the youngest in the Olympics.

NZ's Tokyo campaign was significantly hindered by COVID travel restrictions, with athletes unable to return back into the country if they chose to travel to qualification events. This impacted our ability to support travel and any Olympic campaign during this period. We acknowledge that these restrictions and our response to them affected all of our athletes, in particular Bowman Hansen, who was ready to travel to the USA in hopes of Olympic qualification. The final Olympic qualification event saw a mini protest of sorts from Brazil, where they did not complete their runs allowing the USA skateboarders to make the finals and fight for qualification. With this all behind us now, we hope to assist NZ's talented athletes to as many events as possible and help them achieve their goals.



In December 2021, we were given the opportunity to present 'The sport of Skateboarding' to High Performance Sport New Zealand which allowed us to secure an investment partnership through to 2024. The partnership is with Skateboarding New Zealand and HPSNZ and does not require any other roller sports bodies as a part of this relationship.

This investment was grouped into small pots of labelled funding which made it difficult to put to use. We have now been able to restructure this funding into two lump sum payments, thereby removing the restrictions on spending and giving us autonomy, allowing us to deliver towards our HP strategy.

This relationship with HPSNZ is developing. Our strategy is focused on capability, coaching Framework, talent ID, athlete voice and building capability for delivery. We now have some carded coaches who are attending coaching courses, and more people will be on these courses next year.

A new membership platform has been set up and we will start rolling this out in the new year. This will allow us to communicate with the community in a more efficient way, along with providing value to the community. There is a fee for users that are registered, initially SBNZ intends to make the membership free to the community as we develop features. There are options like a skatepark map and park information that can be implemented in future.

World Skate Judging course had over 50 people register to complete the course. This is still open for those who are interested and we would like to encourage anyone who is interested to take part. SBNZ is developing our judging pathway and intends to have a local coaching course in the future with World Skate. They have developed a tiered judging system which in future may allow our coaches to become certified nationally and internationally.

SBNZ also put forward applications for athlete scholarships for skateboarders to support their Olympic campaign. Unfortunately none of these were successful.

We finished our contract with Sky Sport & Waddell Associates. This relationship was the largest funding source for SBNZ, and allowed us to keep things running in the background. We have been able to fund insurance and used a portion of this money for the trip to Rome for the Olympic qualification. We are currently seeking future media partnerships, as we do not have any agreements in place currently.

The team was involved with the X-Air event, this was the first time the competition was run for many years. We thank all the SBNZ team, judges and volunteers who put in many hours to make it a successful event. A special thanks to Shane Kingsbeer for going above and beyond.

Successes in the community:

- Bailey Te Maipi recognised for teaching wāhine and takatāpui how to skate
- Tu Manawa funding from Sport NZ, seeing Skate Schools doing amazing things in the community
- The growth of EastSK8. Seeing them takeover Sonsk8 and revitalise it into a great spot for Auckland Skateboarders



- Sport NZ assisting with seeing diversity and inclusivity. Directing Sport NZ to the vast female lead skateboarding initiatives, Sport NZ started projects with Wellness riders and Surley Skate
- The Wellington City Council's skate programme being acknowledged as a finalist for a national sporting excellence award
- Skateboarding being represented in the media by Girls Skate NZ, Sams Skate School, EastSK8, Rad Skate School, Young Guns Skate School, etc
- Vert events run in Mt Maunganui, Wellington, Kerikeri
- Bowl Events impacted by COVID in Christchurch, Wanaka, Mangawhai and Wellington
- Many new skateparks all around NZ. Gisborne, Wanaka, Lawrence, Kerikeri, Cambridge, Upper Hutt, etc

Other things we delivered:

- Supporting Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust to deliver their Olympic quality park in Gisborne.
- Supporting Wellington on their successful feasibility study for a \$5.6 Million Skateboard Park in Kilbirnie
- Supporting Wellington on their \$1.5 Million skatepark upgrade project
- Stakeholder engagement with DNA on behalf of Sport NZ and Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust
- Skatepark Facility work with Sport NZ
- Working with Auckland University on intelligence work around competitions and building a schema to analyze competitions
- A design review of Cambridge's new skate park
- Refinement of our strategy, particularly our high performance strategy
- We have supported an application from Diving NZ for an indoor space in west auckland for the community which could have a foam pit and a launch ramp.
- We supported athletes in applying for NZOC athlete scholarships which were ultimately unsuccessful, however feedback provided a valuable learning opportunity in reviewing how we present applications in the future.
- Improved our selection and talent ID tools and capabilities for the New Zealand Squad and team towards olympic qualification
- Partnering with Snow Sports NZ to leverage their knowledge
- Funded Matthew Markland and Bowman Hansen on coaching courses with Skills Active
- Our first 'Carded' HPSNZ coaches attending Core Knowledge courses
- Working with MBIE (Major Events) on Continental Olympic Qualification events
- Discussions with regional major events groups for potential events
- Meeting with Sport NZ around adaptive skateboarding and universality at skateparks. Seeing where disabled skateboarding can be supported
- NZOC Athletes commission - Bowman & Krysta. This was the first step in our athlete voice work which will be a focus in future

22/23 Year to Date (April 2022 – October 2022)



SBNZ has been recognised as the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for skateboarding which is great to have the recognition of our hard work from Sport NZ. This is something we do not take lightly. We are looking forward to becoming a full investment partner in 2024, this can open up future funding opportunities, along with more support from the Sport NZ team. SBNZ has received integrity funding \$10,000 for 2022 and \$10,000 for 2023 from Sport NZ, which will be used creating policies for skate schools, groups and supporting the communities where we can.

SBNZ secured Olympic Solidarity funding from NZOC in 2021 for a camp which was canceled due to COVID. A similar application was made again and approved for similar funding for 2022. SBNZ has done an excellent job organising and running the camp this week. This will see a selected group of skateboarders develop their skills on and off the skateboard, Simon Thorpe and Bowman Hansen will be leading the skateboarders as coaches for the week.

I was lucky enough to present at the HPSNZ / Sport NZ board meeting when they were in Wanaka working with another aspirational sport, Snow Sports. This was a great opportunity to showcase skateboarding and the sport's potential to their board. Only a couple of aspirational sports had the chance to present, this started a lot of healthy conversations around the future of skateboarding within HPSNZ and Sport NZ. Some useful relationships were developed and the work completed by SBNZ really showed our intentions for the future.

We are excited about the future. We expect to see a big shift from our incoming managing committee, as we have been responding to the requirements of the development of the high performance framework, which has been our main focus of late. The plan for the future will be investing more time into a community and NSO focus, as we intend to start the delivery of the HP plan, funding operational roles and coach support.

A massive thank you to Ian Neally who has led the development of our high performance strategy. Ian comes from a long history of delivery at the World Championship and Olympic level as an Olympic Director or Coach.

Other things we delivered:

- Providing COVID & Travel insurance to the Downhill, Luge & Slalom team for the World Roller Games in Argentina
- Building a strategic relationship with Skateboarding GB
- In June 2022 we took a team to the Rome World Skate Street Pro Tour. Matthew Markland is currently 49th in the World for Street (32nd on aggregate using qualification system), Cato Dobbs 53rd, Lenard Tejada 66th, James Huntley 88th

We are looking forward to the rest of 2023 with an expanding board and capability to deliver more for the community.

If you are interested in working with the team, please do not hesitate to reach out.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Curran'. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large, stylized 'C' and ending with a series of wavy lines.

Chris Curran
President
Skateboarding New Zealand Incorporated