

## Auckland Rowing Coaches Conference 2024

*Welcoming all coaches, managers and administrators, both new and established, to join us as we listen to subject matter experts, share perspectives and network with our fellow leaders!*

### Key Details

- Saturday 19th October 2024, 1pm - 5pm
- The Finish Line Room, AUT Millennium Centre, 17 Antares Place, Rosedale - [Parking](#)
- A free event with light refreshments provided. There will also be a bar tab running at the end of the afternoon for attendees to enjoy!

### Timing

### Detail

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Welcome & Intro to the day by Michael Smyth (ARA Chair) Brief Introductions of Attendees
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm <i>Discussion &amp; Q&amp;A</i>	Simon Wickham, new RNZ CEO <b>“High Performance Cultures &amp; What’s Next for RNZ?”</b>
2:20 pm - 3:00 pm <i>Breakout Session 1</i>	Judith Quinlan, Youth Sport Advisor, Harbour Sport <b>“Sport NZ’s Sport Pathways Framework &amp; Balance is Better Principles”</b>
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<i>Quick Break</i>
3:15 pm - 4:00 pm <i>Breakout Session 2</i>	Judith Quinlan, Youth Sport Advisor, Harbour Sport <b>“Sport NZ’s Sport Pathways Framework &amp; Balance is Better Principles”</b>
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	<i>Quick Break</i>
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm <i>Panel</i>	<b>“NZ Olympic Panel - Highs, Lows &amp; the Coach Impact on the Journey”</b> James Coote ( <i>NZ Women’s Double Coach - Silver, Tokyo &amp; Gold, Paris</i> ), Finn Butcher ( <i>Canoe Slalom, Gold, Paris</i> ), Dylan Schmidt ( <i>Trampoline - Bronze, Tokyo</i> ), Angela Winstanley-Smith ( <i>GB co-captain, Water Polo - London &amp; current NZ Women’s Water Polo Head Coach</i> )
5:00 pm	Wrap up and head to Bar for Drinks (ARA to put on a bar tab)

## Guest Speaker Bios & Session Outline



**Simon Wickham**  
CEO  
Rowing New Zealand

Simon Wickham is a seasoned leader with over 20 years of experience as a Chief Executive across a wide range of sectors, including sport, event management, retail, hospitality, and law. Known for his ability to lead through change, Simon's first CEO role began at just 28 when he became CEO of Yachting New Zealand, where he developed high-performance pathways and supported 128 clubs nationwide.

Simon went on to serve as the inaugural CEO of Trusts Stadium, building it into one of New Zealand's most-utilised facilities, hosting over a million visitors annually. He later led the cultural transformation of a \$100M business with 450 employees, receiving national and international recognition, including the Dale Carnegie International Leadership Award.

His passion for sport extended beyond his executive roles. Simon served as Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Olympic Committee and Chair of the NZ Olympic Team selection panel, overseeing the selection of more than 2,000 athletes for the Olympics and Commonwealth Games. His contributions earned him the prestigious New Zealand Olympic Order in 2022, only one of 20 New Zealanders to hold such status.

Now CEO of Rowing New Zealand, Simon continues to drive high-performance outcomes in sport while offering mentoring through his business, LeadWell. Outside of work, Simon is a dedicated family man and enjoys skiing, yacht racing, and outdoor adventures with his wife and son.

Simon will share the 9 Factors of High Performance Culture model that he built through his time in leadership as well as share some interesting insights from 20 years of serving the NZOC (NZ Olympic Committee) as a selector for the Summer, Winter and Commonwealth Games.

Simon will look to provide a brief update on RNZ's future strategy and is happy to answer questions - please write your questions on the RSVP form or email Sachin ([aucklandrowing.manager@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandrowing.manager@gmail.com)) ahead of time.



**Judith Quinlan**  
**Youth Sport Advisor**  
**Harbour Sport**

Judith (Jude) Quinlan, is a born and bred Harbour girl, mother of two and loves everything about sport. She is a player, coach, manager and supporter of hockey as well as giving rowing another crack this year. As the Youth Sport Advisor, she looks after all the things coach development and parent education as well as providing support to organisations in the youth space.

Judith will be running a coaching workshop on creating balanced and inclusive rowing programs, where we will explore Balance is Better principles, Sport NZ Pathways Framework, creating positive environments for women and girls, and engaging parents in a positive way.

This workshop will prove incredibly valuable for junior coaches and coaches involved in school programmes, particularly Head Coaches and Director of Rowing Leads, and attendees will walk away with new skills, perspectives and tools they can employ in their own coaching environment.

This workshop aims to upskill our people with regard to coaching and engaging with athletes with a holistic lens - ensuring we acknowledge and work with the 'person before the performance' - this approach underpins successful athletes, coaches and sporting entities and enables us to create an environment that promotes all to continue in the sport for life.

*Not sure what the Balance is Better principles or Sport NZ Pathways Framework are - Use the below links to familiarise yourself*

[\*\*Balance is Better Principles\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sport NZ Pathways Framework\*\*](#)

## *Olympic Panel - Highs, Lows & the Coach Impact on the Journey*

### **James Coote**

**Gold - Women's Double (Coach), Paris 2024 & Silver - Women's Double (Coach), Tokyo 2020**

One of NZ's top rowing coaches and well known in the Auckland region, James brings the rowing specific lens to this Olympic Panel following back-to-back successful Olympiads seeing him coach the NZ Women's Double to Silver in Tokyo and Gold in Paris.

As a high-performance rowing coach with an impressive track record, coaching crews to World Championship and Olympic success, his coaching journey began at Takapuna Grammar, where his love for the sport and coaching was sparked. After coaching stints in the US and UK, he returned to New Zealand to pursue coaching full-time, leading teams from U18 to international levels and leading the Auckland RPC for a number of years. Coote's coaching philosophy is grounded in setting ambitious goals and a deep commitment to his athletes, whom he sees as partners in the pursuit of excellence.

A graduate of the High Performance Sport NZ Coach Accelerator Programme, Coote has developed a balanced, athlete-centric approach to coaching, informed by both his professional mentors and personal experiences, including being a parent. His ability to adapt, learn, and create supportive environments continues to shape his success in the sport.



### **Finn Butcher**

**GOLD - Canoe Slalom, Kayak Cross, Paris 2024**

Alexandra's Finn Butcher turned in a supremely powerful and skilled performance to win the gold medal in the inaugural Olympic kayak cross event at the Paris Olympics 2024.

British world number 1 Joe Clarke was favoured for the final, but Butcher was away like a rocket and before Clarke had really found himself, the New Zealander was belting off down the course. He negotiated the gates superbly, showing deft technique to go with his raw power.

The New Zealander won by a considerable margin ahead of Clarke and Noah Hegge of Germany.

Butcher grew up in Alexandra, Central Otago, hailing from a family of adventure racers. He began paddling aged nine at a 'have a go' day on a local river and immediately fell in love with the sport, developing into an elite athlete over the years.

## Angela Winstanley-Smith

**GB Water Polo Captain, London 2012, current Head Coach NZ Women's Water Polo & Director of Sport, Auckland Diocesan School for Girls**

Angela (Angie) captained Great Britain at the World University Games in China and made her first Great Britain appearance in 2003.

She competed for Team GB at London 2012 - the first time Great Britain had ever had a women's Olympic water polo team.

Angie played at all levels - Olympics, World, European, World League and 10 consecutive Champions leagues. She played professionally and amassed over 300 caps spanning 12 years for Great Britain.

Head Coach of the National Women since 2017, Angie has helped grow overseas opportunities for the kiwi athletes and slowly moving up the World Rankings the NZ Women are respected by the top polo nations.

Angie has secured many National and Regional titles - ranging from the AIMs Games to NZSS titles and National Club competitions. Recently Angie was selected for the HPSNZ Te Hapaitanga women in sport program where she sits alongside fellow female HP coaches.

Over the last few years Angie has occupied the Director of Sport Role at Diocesan.

Angie brings a wealth of experience with developing school athletes to gain higher sporting honours whilst also supporting them to navigate the balance between sporting aspirations and being a youth in New Zealand.



## Dylan Schmidt

**Bronze - Trampoline, Tokyo 2020 & World Champion**

Dylan Schmidt won the bronze medal in the men's trampoline at the Tokyo Olympic Games. It was New Zealand's first ever Olympic gymnastics medal.

Schmidt made his Olympic debut at Rio 2016, becoming the first ever Kiwi to compete in trampoline at the Olympic Games, finishing in 7th place.

In 2022 he claimed New Zealand's first ever trampoline world title, winning the World Championships in Bulgaria. At the Paris 2024

Olympic Games he placed eighth.

Schmidt began trampoline aged five, when his family lived in Te Anau in the South Island. He now lives and trains in Auckland and outside of gymnastics he enjoys the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and plays golf. He is also an animal person and enjoys training his dog Taco.

Schmidt is an Olympic Ambassador and visits schools around New Zealand to talk about his sporting journey and inspire children to lead healthier, more active lives.