

Andrew Rook – Chair

Andrew is a highly experienced Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of expertise spanning both the public and private sectors. He brings to the Board a diverse skill set, particularly in financial and strategic supplier management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership.

His experience in sports administration is underscored by his tenure in management roles with New Zealand Rugby and World Rugby (formerly the International Rugby Board/IRB). Andrew held management positions in delivering two Rugby World Cups and oversaw the financials for several international regional and age-grade tournaments and World Rugby’s strategic investment program, delivering player development and participation programmes across the globe, but particularly in the Pacific Islands and in Tier 2 and 3 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Andrew’s ability to navigate complex commercial environments, combined with his hands-on experience from the grass-roots level through to high-profile global sporting events makes him an asset to the Board.

He was appointed to the Board at the 2023 AGM, and elected chair in December 2023. He looks forward to leveraging his skills to advance the organization’s goals.

**Josh Dorman**

Joshua is a health and safety leader who has vast experience in industries such as Media, Print Manufacturing, Mass-Gathering Events, Local Government, Tertiary Education and Central Government.

Joshua is Australian by birth and educated at Curtin University in Perth. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, going on road trips and a regular at the beach during summer.

Josh was first appointed to the board in February 2022

**Claire George**

Claire is People and Culture leader experienced in creating environments for people to thrive and do great mahi. In her work with Sport NZ, she supports a range of organisations across the sport sector to improve the experience of their people. Claire also supports the development of leaders across the sport sector improving their ability to collaborate and navigate complexity.

Normally found at the pool, Claire is a two-time underwater hockey world champion and loves training, competing, and traveling for sport.

Clare was appointed to the board in October 2024



Nick Hegan

Nick is an experienced commercial lawyer and a keen runner, and he was previously a member of Olympic Harriers before his knees stopped him running cross country and has two daughters who in their school years both competed on the track at a national level.

Nick currently practises as a barrister and is a board member of the Financial Markets Authority, having previously been Head of Legal at Forsyth Barr and a partner at Russell McVeagh.

Nick was appointed to the board in October 2024



Venkat Reddy

As a long-time advocate for sports in schools, Venkat has been actively involved in coaching and mentoring young athletes, helping them reach their potential both on and off the track.

His enthusiasm for athletics stems from a personal love of the sport (as a 3k and 1500m runner) and a belief in its power to positively shape lives. He aims to create inclusive, supportive environments that encourage participation at all levels, from grassroots to competitive athletics.

With years of experience as a high school Deputy Principal, Venkat is committed to fostering both academic and athletic excellence among young people. His leadership role in education has allowed him to advocate for the integration of sports into student life, recognising the valuable life skills that athletics can provide, such as discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

In his new role on the Athletics Wellington board, Venkat is excited to contribute fresh perspectives and work collaboratively to enhance athletic programs in the region. His dedication to youth development and passion for athletics makes him a valuable addition to the board, driving the future growth of the sport in the community.

Venkat was appointed to the board in October 2024



Abi Skelton

Abi has spent over 25 years in the marketing and communications industry including six years sitting on the Advertising Standards Complaints Board.

Two of Abi's three children are competitive athletes in track and field disciplines respectively.

She has been a regular marshal for events supporting her club WHAC and more recently a most valuable regular technical official for Athletics Wellington track & Field and at events around the country.

Abi was first appointed to the board in September 2022



Jacinda Swain

Jacinda has worked in the public sector and economic development for over 15 years with a strong focus on supporting NZ business to innovate and grow. Her roles have included strategic planning, development and leadership of national business support programmes.

Jacinda has been involved in athletics as a competitive athlete with Lower Hutt Athletics and Hutt Valley Harriers, representing the Wellington region at national events in track, cross country and road running. Her highlights include winning the Sylvia Potts Memorial 800m twice and a national senior woman's 800m title.

More recently Jacinda has been involved as a parent and coaching the under 6 grades at local club nights for 2 years.

Jacinda was appointed to the board in October 2024



Ex-Officio Members

Richard Willis – President - *Elected in 2024*

Richard has a very long history with Wellington Athletics commencing when playing serious rugby in the late 60s, after moving to Wellington from Taranaki to attend University. As a sprinter he competed against the likes of Bevan Smith and Phil Kear while being heavily involved in representative rugby for Wellington. His involvement continued when he started taking his young family and oldest son Steve to Lower Hutt Club in the early 1980's where he served on the committee for many years.

Richard later helped Lance Jackson set up Hutt Valley Track & Field, then Annette Purvis with Valleys United for National League competitions. A team man he competed regularly in walk events of which his passion was ignited with the Norman Read era when a young kid in Taranaki. He has been an integral part of the walk's fraternity at Trentham United Harriers in recent years.

Richard is most known now for his regular announcing of track & field at the stadium which also began with children's meets in the 1980s including Colgate's, and National Championships and major events like the Team Ledger Harcourts Capital Classic.

Richard also enjoys following his New Zealand representative children in their endeavours having attended many Olympics and Commonwealth Games, and World Championships for Athletics and Rowing. He has two sons Stephen and Nick who are sub-4-minute milers, with Nick being a multiple Olympic Medallist over 1500 metres.



Todd Stevens - Honorary Board Treasurer

Todd has been the Athletics Wellington treasurer since 2009. Todd is a former Board Chairman and life member of Athletics Wellington with many years of experience in the sport especially in Cross Country & Road. He is the valued Lead of the Out of Stadia committee for Athletics Wellington.

He has many years' of experience in the finance industry being a former partner for 30 years with PWC. He now works in a business advisory capacity. He has board experience as Trust Board member with Samuel Marsden Collegiate since 2011.

Todd is an active member of the Wellington Scottish Club, being heavily involved with the club following in the family history of his father Alan and Grandfather Alf. Alan Stevens is also a life member of Athletics Wellington.

