

BLUES ²⁰₂₄
AWARDS

**2024 BLUES
AWARD WINNERS**
SPORTS

Adithya Ashok

Faculty of Science

Adithya's rapid rise in cricket saw him debut for the Black Caps in T20 Internationals in August 2023 and in One-Day Internationals against Bangladesh in December 2023. After starting in T20 for Auckland in 2021, Adithya's rapid career progression to international cricket shows his impressive development.

Alice Zeimann

Faculty of Law

Kiwi Beach Fern Alice Zeimann won the Oceania Championships in late 2023, launching her bid to qualify for the Paris Olympics. Throughout 2024, she has been competing on the world tour circuit, representing New Zealand in beach volleyball.

Benjamin F. Kavin Stein

Faculty of Science

Benjamin made his international debut for New Zealand at the 2024 Pacific Rim Championships in Colombia, where he won a silver medal in the Floor apparatus final. He also finished in the Top 13 in the All Around final and 8th in the Parallel Bars. Benjamin's success reflects his 14 years of dedication to gymnastics.

Breana Catley

Business School

Breana fulfilled her lifelong dream by making her senior debut for the New Zealand Women's Blacksticks hockey team this year. Debuting in Auckland, surrounded by family and friends, she is committed to continuing her hard work and training as she represents her country at the highest level.

Brianna Orams

Faculty of Engineering

Brianna placed 4th in the 200m Sprint open at this year's ICF Stand Up Paddleboarding World Championships. A versatile athlete excelling in both stand up paddle boarding and wind foiling, Brianna continues to set her sights high, with aspirations to achieve even greater success in both disciplines.

Brianna Reynolds-Smith

Business School

Brianna competed alongside her twin sister in the 2023 Sailing World Championships at The Hague, finishing 48th. Despite challenges in competition, Brianna's perseverance and dedication to the sport continue to drive her success at the international level.

Catherine Hall

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

A promising young netball defender, Catherine earned her first full contract this year, playing with the Mystics and contributing to their victory in the ANZ Premiership. After impressing as a training partner and member of the Northern Marvels last season, she looks forward to further developing her defensive skills with the Mystics.

Chris Benzie

Faculty of Engineering

Chris made an impressive Senior debut at the 2024 Oceania Championships, reaching the semi-finals in men's doubles and the quarter-finals in men's singles. As one of the youngest competitors in the Top 8, Chris represented New Zealand against the best players from the Oceania region.

Christy Tate

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries

Christy represented New Zealand at the 2024 U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships in Bulgaria, placing 16th overall in the K1 200m and K2 500m events. A skilled canoe racer and surf life-saving athlete, Christy continues to excel on the world stage.

Daniel Habakkuk

Teariki Tolosa

Faculty of Engineering

A three-time national champion, Daniel represented the Cook Islands at the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships. Over the past year, he has competed at several international events, including the World Indoor Championships in Glasgow and the Pacific Games, where he reached the semi-finals in both the 100m and 200m.

Daniel Stoddart

Faculty of Engineering

Daniel is a member of the New Zealand Men's Artistic Gymnastics team and the current New Zealand floor champion. He has represented New Zealand at 10 international competitions, including four Senior World Cups and competed on floor, rings and high bar at the FIG World Cup in Cairo in February 2024.

Dima Koptev

Faculty of Engineering

Dima is a returning member of the New Zealand Men's U18 team, which finished 5th in this year's World Championships. Dima also captained his Auckland team to a championship victory at the NZ Under 18 National League Finals, where he was named MVP.

Dylan Muggleston

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Dylan was selected for the Junior Blacksticks last season and represented New Zealand at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. Facing top teams like Germany, Australia, and India, Dylan and his team secured victories against Malaysia and South Africa, finishing 6th in this prestigious international tournament.

Elizabeth Gault

Faculty of Law

As part of the New Zealand Women's Water Polo team, Elizabeth contributed to our historic 9th-place finish at the 2024 World Aquatics Championships. The team achieved their best result in modern World Championship history, competing against top teams like Hungary, Australia and Canada.

Elizabeth Jane

Walter Buchanan

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science

At just 17 years old, Elizabeth has earned a contract to represent the Auckland Hearts in the Super Smash and Hallyburton Johnstone cricket competitions as a wicket-keeper and batter. Her outstanding wicket-keeping skills have also secured her a place in the NZ U19 Women's Winter Training Squad.

Ella James

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Ella represented the Futsal Ferns at the PFF Women's Futsal Invitational in the Philippines, where the team secured a 3rd place finish. She also captained the New Zealand University Women's team at the World University Futsal Championships in Shanghai, achieving 4th place, matching their best-ever result. Ella was also selected for the OFC World Cup Qualifiers team.

Ella Wyllie

Faculty of Engineering

Ella has taken the title of New Zealand Elite Women's Road Race Champion. She has also excelled on the international stage with her professional team and claimed a stage win at the Vuelta Ciclista Andalucia and the Youth Classification at the Itzulia Women's Tour in Spain.

Elsie Lins

Faculty of Arts

Elsie represented New Zealand at this year's Commonwealth Junior Fencing Championships in Christchurch, placing 15th in the individual Women's Épée and earning 2nd place in the team event. Competing at both national and international levels, Elsie regularly secures top finishes and dedicates her time to coaching beginners at her club.

Frazer Tam

Business School, Faculty of Law

Frazer represented New Zealand at the North American Roller Hockey Championships, competing in both the U21 and U24 divisions. He achieved a 3rd-place finish in the U21 Gold division, proving his skills in one of the most competitive inline hockey tournaments in the world.

Frazer Tavener

Faculty of Engineering

Frazer represented New Zealand at the 2024 World Aquatics Championships in Doha, placing 18th in the Men's 3m Synchronised event and 32nd in the Men's 3m Springboard. Frazer came close to securing Olympic qualification in springboard diving thanks to his standout performance at the Qualifiers.

Grace Nweke

Business School

After overcoming a patella tear in the Netball World Cup, Grace returned to the Silver Ferns last year for the Taini Jamison Trophy. She has continued her impressive performance this year, and with a 92% shooting accuracy and impressive physical prowess, Grace is certainly one to watch.

Grant Clancy

Business School

Grant made his Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Olympics, competing in the Men's K2 and K4 500m events. After relocating to Cambridge to join the centralised canoe men's sprint programme, Grant's rapid rise in the sport—having only started sprint kayaking two and a half years ago—also saw him compete at the 2024 ICF World Cup in Szeged.

Hamish McLaren

Faculty of Engineering

Hamish secured 2nd place at the 49er Junior World Championship in Galicia, Spain, competing against the best under-23 49er sailors from around the world. Hamish's impressive performance placed him and the New Zealand team on the podium against a fleet of 60 boats.

Hannah McCall

Faculty of Science

Hannah represented New Zealand at the U20 World Championships in Birmingham, where New Zealand took a 5th-place finish. Known for her leadership and supportive attitude, Hannah also contributed to New Zealand's victory in the U20 Trans-Tasman Ultimate Frisbee Competition and helped her team secure 2nd at Nationals.

Havana Hopman

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Havana made history for New Zealand rhythmic gymnastics with her 39th place finish at the 2023 FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, the highest ever placing for a Kiwi gymnast. She achieved personal bests in the 2024 World Cup series, securing a top 18 spot in Baku and 3rd overall at the Budapest Olympic Qualification.

Holly Sheaff

Faculty of Science

Holly represented New Zealand at the Canoe Slalom Oceania Championships this year. She has made her mark in international canoe slalom, with impressive international performances at the Junior World Championships. Holly embraces the unpredictability of extreme slalom and continues to excel in the sport.

Isaac Chan

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science

Isaac represented New Zealand at the 2024 Victor Oceania Badminton Championships, finishing in the top 16 in men's singles. Ranked 8th in New Zealand and 559th in the world, he also captains the Waitakere Division 1 Wisden Team and coaches the U19 Waitakere Squad. This year, Isaac took gold in both the Men's Singles and Doubles events at the Rainbow Games.

Isaac Houlbrooke

Faculty of Engineering

Isaac represented New Zealand at the 2024 Paris Olympics as part of the Men's Blacksticks. After debuting in 2023 and also representing NZ in Indoor Hockey, Isaac's exceptional speed and ball control have earned him much respect, with the potential to become a world-class player.

Isabella Gill

Faculty of Law

Isabella made her international debut this year in a test series against Japan, contributing to a series win for the Blacksticks Women. After helping Auckland secure the National Hockey Championship title in 2023, she was awarded joint Auckland Women's Player of the Year and became a member of the team's leadership group.

Isabella Grace Matthews

Faculty of Arts

Isabella set a New Zealand record and won two gold medals at this year's Archery NZ Field National Championships. She followed this by winning four gold medals at the National Target Championships, earning the titles of Women's Field Champion, Target Champion and Champion of Champions for 2024.

Ivana Rowland

Faculty of Education and Social Work

Ivana returned to the Magic for this year's ANZ Premiership netball season after securing her first full-time contract last season. Starting as a training partner for the Magic and later becoming a permanent replacement for the Pulse in 2021, Ivana has reestablished herself with the Magic, excelling with her shooting accuracy and composure on the netball court.

Jackson Fontaine

Faculty of Science

Jackson was the top goal scorer of his division at the Ice Hockey World Championships, scoring 8 goals in 5 games, including a hat trick in the Finals. At just 19, Jackson became the youngest in his division to achieve this impressive score and secured a silver medal for the Ice Blacks.

James Sadlier

Business School

James returned from last year's squad to compete at the Volleyball World Beach Pro Asian Tour and the Beach Open. He was one of 15 players selected for the 2024 New Zealand A Beach Volleyball summer programme, and continues to represent New Zealand with strong performances.

Jordana Bremner

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Jordana represented the New Zealand Futsal Ferns, competing against the Philippines in 2023. Her skill and dedication also brought the New Zealand University Futsal team to China, where they achieved a commendable 4th place.

Ka Yi Nicole Leung

Faculty of Science

Nicole represented New Zealand at the 2024 Senior Oceania Karate Championships, winning 3rd place in the Senior Women's Kata division. She also competed at the Australian Open, where she placed 1st in the U21 division and 5th in the Senior division. Nicole has been selected to represent New Zealand at the upcoming WKF Cadet, Junior and U21 World Championships in Venice.

Katie Sadlier

Business School, Faculty of Science

Katie and her partner had an impressive run in the 2024 Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour. They took an impressive 5th place finish in the Philippines, showcasing their skill and dedication in the highly competitive international beach volleyball circuit.

Katrina Chan

Faculty of Engineering

Katrina led Black Ice to historic bronze medals at the 2024 Trophy D'Ecosse and Hevelius Cup, marking the first time a New Zealand synchronised skating team has podiumed internationally. A 10-time National Champion, she also secured first place at the 2023 NZ Ice Figure Skating National Championships.

King Maxwell

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

King represented New Zealand in our U20 Rugby Team, helping secure a 3rd-place finish at the U20 Rugby World Championships. His speed and skill on the wing contributed to the team's strong performance on the international stage.

Lex Revell-Lewis

Business School

In 2024, sprint star Lex Revell-Lewis came within 0.03 seconds of breaking New Zealand's 26-year-old 400m record with a personal best of 46.12 seconds. He dominated the domestic scene and placed 4th at the Oceania Area Championships with a time of 47.13 seconds.

Lucy Macready

Business School, Faculty of Law

Lucy represented New Zealand as part of the U19 team at the International Handball

Federation Trophy Oceania Continental Division in New Caledonia this year. Her team's exceptional performance earned them a 3rd-place finish.

Lucy Matehaere

Faculty of Science

In her first year as a Senior athlete, Lucy was selected for the New Zealand Olympic team in the K2 500m. Competing in two World Cups as part of her Olympic preparation, she achieved 2nd in the B final and 8th in the A final, an excellent record for a debut year.

Luke Cashmore

Faculty of Engineering

Luke competed in this year's ILCA 7 Men's World Championship in Adelaide, finishing 106th. As part of Team Danger Zone, Luke has also contributed to his team's triumph at every major Young 88 regatta this season, proving skill and consistency in both individual and team sailing events.

Luke Simon

Faculty of Science

A standout defender for the Botany Swarm in the NZ Ice Hockey League, Luke represented New Zealand at the 2024 U20 Ice Hockey World Championships. Their skill and dedication on the ice have contributed significantly to both their club's and national team's success.

Mackenzie Marlo

Faculty of Engineering

As captain of the New Zealand Young Riders, Mackenzie led her team to victory at the 2023 Oceania Competition and finished 8th individually. She also won the National Three-Day Young Rider at Puhinui and was part of the Equestrian Sports New Zealand Team of the Year.

Marielle Denise

Castro Venida

Business School

Marielle claimed the national U20 100m title at the 2024 NZ Track & Field Championships. She also set New Zealand U20 and U19 records in the 4x400m at the Australian Championship, and took double gold in the 100m and 200m sprint events at the Philippine Athletics Championship. Marielle has just returned from representing New Zealand at the U20 World Athletics Championships in Peru.

Mason Mulcahy

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Mason won the prestigious Hardy Cup International Youth Matchracing Regatta in Sydney in 2024. He also secured 4th place at the Warren Jones Regatta in Perth and is campaigning to represent New Zealand at the World Matchracing Youth Championships.

Mattias Coutts

Business School

Mattias showcased remarkable resilience in sailing at the 2024 Junior World Championships, where he and his partner climbed from last to 13th place in the gold fleet. He also impressed at the Trofeo Princesa Sofia Mallorca, securing a Bullet First Place finish and narrowly missing the top 20 in the 49er class.

Mike Antamanov

Faculty of Arts

Mike was instrumental in the New Zealand National Futsal Team's historic qualification for the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup. As the Golden Glove winner for best goalkeeper at the OFC Futsal Cup for the second consecutive year, Mike also scored a crucial goal in the semi-final against the Solomon Islands, securing the World Cup place.

Nathan Lobo

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Nathan competed for Auckland FC in the 2023 FIFA Club World Cup, facing world champions and Ballon d'Or holders. He also brought the NZ U-23 team to the Olympics and secured the 2024 Oceania Champions League title with his team, earning them a place in the inaugural FIFA Intercontinental Cup.

Nuala Edmundson

Faculty of Arts

Nuala achieved remarkable success in 2023, being the only female recurver selected to represent New Zealand at the Pacific Games, where she won New Zealand's first archery medal. She also secured an individual Olympic quota place for Paris 2024 at the Continental Qualifying Tournament in Auckland, earning her first world ranking of 160th.

Prue Catton

Faculty of Engineering

Prue represented New Zealand in a historic ODI series win against England, scoring 70 runs in a standout performance at Saxton Oval. As captain of the Auckland HEARTS, Prue has been selected for both the North Island and New Zealand A teams thanks to her impressive Supersmash and HBJ performances.

Rafe Couillault

Faculty of Education and Social Work

Rafe placed 4th in high jump at the 2024 Oceania Championships, capping off a season of strong performances in both New Zealand and Australia. Rafe is dedicated to both his sport and his studies, and trains with the High Performance New Zealand Development Squad.

Rebecca Deen

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Rebecca captained the New Zealand U24 Women's team to victory at the CMAS Underwater Hockey Age Group World Championships in Kuala Lumpur, where they won a gold medal. Her leadership was instrumental in securing the championship title for New Zealand.

Rebecca Hume

Faculty of Engineering

Rebecca has achieved strong international results with her partner, finishing 44th at the Trofeo Princesa Sofia Mallorca and 53rd in Sailing World Championship. Domestically, they retained their national title as 470 champions, winning two races and consistently placing in the top four to secure their crown in the New Zealand Sailing Championships.

Ryan Parr

Business School

Ryan represented New Zealand as part of the Junior Black Sticks Hockey team at the 2023 FIH Junior World Cup. His selection for the World Cup capped a successful year on the international stage.

Salama Alkhateri

Faculty of Science

Salama made history as the first Emirati female para-cyclist, competing as the only female athlete in the C5 category at the 2024 Asian Road Cycling Championship in Kazakhstan. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Athletes Council for the Asian Paralympic Committee and has earned a Women Lead Sport certification.

Sam Marshall

Faculty of Education and Social Work

Sam captained the New Zealand U24 Men's Underwater Hockey team to gold this year at the World Championships in Malaysia. As the second-highest goal scorer in his grade and third overall at the competition, Sam's leadership and skill were instrumental in securing the world title for New Zealand.

Samuel Oliver Tasman Dick

Business School

Sam placed 5th at the Oceania Championships, an Olympic qualifier where he was one of only two eligible Kiwis. His standout performance included the highest Rings score in the competition, an impressive achievement on the international gymnastics stage.

Shaunna Li

Business School, Faculty of Science

Shaunna is the current New Zealand National Champion in badminton for Women's Singles, Mixed Doubles, and Women's Doubles. She reached the semi-finals in Women's Singles at the Oceania Championships and was the Runner-Up in Mixed Doubles. Shaunna also claimed Runner-Up in Women's Singles at the 2023 Sydney International.

Sophia Morgan

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Faculty of Science

Sophia represented Fiji in the ILCA 6 sailing event at the 2024 Paris Olympics, marking her second Olympic appearance after Tokyo 2020. She qualified through the Sail Sydney Olympic Qualifying regatta and the 2023 Pacific Games, where she claimed two silver medals in individual and team events.

Theresa Setefano

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

After taking a break from rugby in 2023, Theresa returned to the Black Fern Sevens squad in 2024. Making her third Olympic appearance at the Paris Games, she helped lead the team to a historic victory, becoming part of the first women's rugby team to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals.

Vincent Jin-Hao Tao

Business School, Faculty of Engineering

Vincent secured a bronze medal in Mixed Doubles at the 2024 Oceania Championships in Geelong, Australia, a major milestone in his badminton career. He has also won the National Championships in Men's Doubles, the Wisden Cup National Team Championships and the National Tertiary Championships.

William Fu-Allen

Faculty of Science

William has showcased his talent for New Zealand on the world stage in artistic gymnastics, competing in three FIG World Cup events in 2024. His standout performances include two Top 50 finishes at the FIG Apparatus World Cup Cairo Qualifiers, marking his continued progress as an international athlete.

William James Sheard

Faculty of Science

William captained his team to an impressive 3rd Place at the 2024 New Zealand Mixed Curling Championships. Last year, he won the NZ Mixed Fours Championships, earning the opportunity to represent New Zealand at the World Mixed Curling Championships in Aberdeen, Scotland, where his team placed 26th.

Xavi Taele

Faculty of Science

Xavi served as Vice Captain and second five-eighth for the New Zealand U20 Rugby Team, leading them to a 3rd-place finish at the U20 Rugby World Championships. His leadership and skill were instrumental in the team's strong performance on the international stage.

Zachary Penn

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries

Zachary represented New Zealand at the 19th World Kendo Championship in Milan earlier this year; his standout performance included victory over a prominent Ecuadorian fighter. Despite limited local competition, Zachary's talent and determination have brought him success in New Zealand kendo.

Zaria Ireland

Faculty of Science

Zaria led New Zealand's mixed team, Mānuka, to their first-ever gold medal at the 2023 Asia Oceanic Ultimate and Guts Championships. She also placed 2nd at both the NZ Mixed and Women's Nationals and was named NZ Ultimate Female Player of the Year.

Eric Zhu

Business School, Faculty of Law

Eric and his team won 1st place at the UTS Trans-Tasman Case Competition 2024, representing the University of Auckland. Competing against 11 teams from top Australian and New Zealand universities, their innovative solutions for Community Support Services impressed a judging panel of executives and experts.

Hannah Jones

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries, Faculty of Science

Hannah's team placed 1st at the 2024 Chulalongkorn International Business Case Competition in Thailand, winning the short case, long case and finals. Their strategic solutions for Siam Piwat and WHA Group demonstrated exceptional innovation and business acumen.

Isabel Dekker

Business School, Faculty of Engineering

Isabel's team placed 1st at the 2024 Chulalongkorn International Business Case Competition in Thailand, winning the short case, long case and finals. Their strategic solutions for Siam Piwat and WHA Group demonstrated exceptional innovation and business acumen.

Jayden Tariq Hunter

Business School

Jayden and his team secured 1st place in the 2024 Beta Alpha Psi Best Practices "Innovation in Your Chapter Competition" against leading Australian and New Zealand teams. Their alumni mentoring project, using ChatGPT for mentor-mentee pairing, re-engages alumni and supports job placements.

Jean-Luc Ellis

Faculty of Law

Jean-Luc founded WasteXpert, which won the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Velocity Challenge. WasteXpert is now a leading company in the waste reduction space, collaborating with major organisations like Auckland Council, The Warehouse Group and PlaceMakers, with plans for international expansion by 2026.

Lucy Zhu

Business School, Faculty of Engineering

Lucy and her team won 1st place at the QUT Trans-Tasman Case Competition, competing against top teams from New Zealand and Australia. They developed a strategic plan for Unabiz, evaluating its expansion into the aviation sector or deeper penetration into the supply chain and logistics industry.

Matthew Benjamin Welcome

Faculty of Engineering

Matthew, founder of Smartbell, placed 3rd in the 2023 Velocity \$100k Challenge. His innovative wearable device enhances weight training by tracking performance metrics like velocity and power. He also placed 3rd in the Hilti International IT Competition, showcasing his leadership in both technology and fitness.

Oliver Jack Gunson

Business School, Faculty of Engineering

Oliver and his team won 1st place at the Academy Global Business Simulation Championship, competing against 54 teams from 17 universities across Southeast Asia and Oceania. Their success showcased exceptional business acumen, analytical skills and strategic understanding of competitive market dynamics.

Rebecca Clapp

Faculty of Arts, Business School

Rebecca won the University of Auckland's \$100K Challenge in 2023 with her social enterprise, CycleMate, which addresses sanitary care inaccessibility. She earned the 'Most Potential' award at the U21 Rise International Showcase and was a finalist for the YES Alumni 'One to Watch' award. Rebecca will also represent CycleMate in the 2024 Vanguard Entrepreneurial Leaders Expedition in Silicon Valley.

Roshan ter Wal

Business School, Faculty of Engineering

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