

2026 BLUES AWARD WINNERS



Sports

Ella Carol Arnold

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Ella earned line honours and helped Team Clockwork set a new monohull record in the 500-nautical-mile Three Kings Offshore Yacht Race. She improved from third to second at the John Messenger International Women's Match Racing Regatta and represented New Zealand at the 2026 New York Yacht Club Annual Regatta.

Finn William Balchin

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Finn balances full-time Mechanical Engineering study with high-performance sailing across Youth and Open divisions. Representing the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron internationally, his team reached seventh in the World Sailing Youth Match Racing Rankings and secured third-place finishes at the 2025 Harken and 2026 Helly Hansen international regattas in Sydney.

Hannah Bella Louise Baxter

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Hannah represented New Zealand at the 2026 Asia Pacific Sprint Cup at Lake Tikitapu, helping her K2 crew win the U21 500m event. Competing against leading athletes from Singapore, Japan and Australia, Hannah's first-place result demonstrated a high level of performance in international canoe sprint competition.

Charles Arthur

Newland Bioletti

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Education

Charles placed 17th among 111 fencers at the 2026 Eurofence League Competition in Luxembourg, finishing the pool stage unbeaten and defeating a former world number one and Olympian. Now New Zealand's top-ranked senior men's épée fencer, Charles also won four national and regional titles, demonstrating significant progression since his 2023 Sport Blue.

Conor Mark Bradding

Faculty of Arts and Education

Conor placed first in the Open Male 100m Manikin Tow at the 2025 Australian Pool Rescue National Championships. He also placed first and set a New Zealand record in the Open Male Line Throw at the 2025 Northern Region Pool Rescue Championships, recording the first sub-10-second performance in New Zealand history.

Jordana Elizabeth Bremner

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Jordana represented New Zealand with the Futsal Ferns at the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup in the Philippines in 2025. She also competed at the 2026 CFA International Women's Futsal Tournament in China, contributing to a win against the host nation and demonstrating progression since her 2024 and 2025 Sport Blues.

Grant Allan Clancy

Faculty of Business and Economics

Grant represented New Zealand at the 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships in Milan, Italy. Competing in the men's K4 500m, he placed seventh in the semifinal, advanced to Final B and finished 15th overall, demonstrating his ability to compete at the highest level of international canoe sprint.

Lucy Maree Cooper

Faculty of Science

Lucy represented New Zealand at the 2025 Australian Gymnastics Championships, placing sixth in the Level 10 final. At the New Zealand Nationals, she placed second in Level 10 Open and won Level 10 Closed, recording the highest combined artistry and execution score. In 2026, Lucy gained New Zealand Senior International individual and Level 9/10 pair selection.

Lucas Frank Day

Faculty of Business and Economics

Lucas achieved national and international sailing success, helping his teams win the Open Teams Racing Nationals, New Zealand Keelboat National Championships, Young 88 Nationals and Hardy Cup Match Racing Regatta. He also placed second at the Toyota Youth International Match Racing Regatta and Harken International Youth Match Racing Championship, and fifth at the Youth Match Racing World Championship.

Joseph Kahurangi Dunn

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business and Economics

Joseph represented New Zealand in the senior men's 110m hurdles at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships, placing ninth. He also placed second at the New Zealand Athletics Championships, won the Porritt Classic, placed second at the International Track Meet and finished third in the 60m hurdles at the New Zealand Short Track Championships.

Nuala Jane Stevens Edmundson

Faculty of Science

Nuala represented New Zealand in the Open Women's Recurve division at the 2026 World Archery Oceania Championships, winning two gold medals and one bronze to become the Oceania Women's Target Champion. Moving up from the U21 division, she demonstrated significant progression following her Blues in 2023 and 2025.

Tegan Sophie Feringa

Faculty of Science

Tegan competed internationally in the 11-day Tour of America's Dairyland criterium series before placing second in U23 and fifth in elite at the National Criterium Championships. She also earned silver in the elite team pursuit and bronze in the elite points race at the National Track Championships.

Elizabeth Joy Gault

Faculty of Law

Elizabeth continued to represent New Zealand's senior women's water polo team, the White Caps, helping the team place fifth at the 2026 China Cup against leading international opposition. Building on ninth- and 10th-place finishes at two World Championships, she demonstrated sustained international performance following her 2025 Sport Blue.

Catherine Olivia Hall

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Catherine established herself as a regular contributor to the Silver Ferns and reached the semifinals at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, a pinnacle event for netball. Returning strongly from injury, she increased her international court time and impact across goal keeper and goal defence, demonstrating significant progression since receiving her 2025 Blue.

Elizabeth Sarah Jane Hardiman

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Elizabeth represented New Zealand internationally as a goalkeeper in lacrosse and lacrosse sixes. At the 2026 World Lacrosse Women's Championship Division II in Poland, NZBLAX placed third and Elizabeth recorded the tournament's second-highest save rate. She also helped New Zealand place fifth at the 2025 Hong Kong International Lacrosse Sixes.

Cole Thomas Hawkins

Faculty of Business and Economics

Cole won the 74kg division at the New Zealand National Wrestling Championships in Dunedin in September 2025. He then represented New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Wrestling Championships in Apia, Samoa, placing second and earning a silver medal while competing against wrestlers from across the Oceania region.

Blaise Alexander John

Van Heerden

Faculty of Arts and Education

Blaise represented New Zealand at the 2026 U18 Water Polo World Championship in Rio Maior, Portugal, placing ninth. The result was the best achieved by a New Zealand men's water polo team at the championship, marking a significant international achievement.

Samuel Ruruarau Hiha

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Samuel reached 50 international caps for the Black Sticks Men during the nomination period, reflecting his sustained contribution at the highest level of international hockey. He also helped New Zealand win the 2026 Men's Summer of Hockey series, demonstrating continued excellence and progression following his 2025 Sport Blue.

Havana Rosalie Hopman

Faculty of Science

Havana represented New Zealand at the 2025 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, achieving a career-best 37th in ribbon. She won five titles at the New Zealand Nationals, earned silver and bronze medals at the 2026 Oceania Continental Championships, and won ribbon at an international tournament in France, demonstrating continued progression since her 2025 Blue.

Isaac Lancelot Houlbrooke

Faculty of Science

Isaac represented New Zealand at the 2026 FIH Men's Nations Cup in Cape Town, helping the Black Sticks Men win bronze. During the tournament, Isaac reached the significant milestone of 50 international caps, reflecting his sustained contribution and impact at the highest level of international hockey.

Rowan James Kensington

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Rowan made his international debut in the Olympic 49er class as part of the New Zealand sailing squad. Competing with his crew against Olympic medallists and world champions, he placed 33rd among 90 boats at the 2026 Open European Championships and seventh among 50 boats at the U23 World Championships.

Sean William Kensington

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Sean made his international debut in the Olympic 49er class as part of the New Zealand sailing squad. Competing with his crew against Olympic medallists and world champions, he placed 33rd at the 2026 Open European Championships and seventh among 50 boats at the U23 World Championships.

Harrison Peter Klouwens

Faculty of Science

Harrison won the 50m freestyle at the 2026 New Zealand Open Swimming Championships for the second consecutive year, recording 22.32 seconds. He also qualified to represent New Zealand at the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships and recorded 13 of the 15 fastest 50m freestyle times in New Zealand during the season.

Ka Yi Nicole Leung

Faculty of Science

Ka Yi Nicole won gold for New Zealand in senior women's team kata at the 2026 Oceania Senior Team Championships, securing selection for the WKF Karate World Cup. She also won the U21 national title, placed third in senior women's kata at the National Championships and earned further national podium results, demonstrating progression since her 2025 Blue.

Shaunna Li

Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Science

Shaunna became the 2026 Oceania women's singles champion and represented New Zealand in mixed doubles at the 2025 BWF World Championships in Paris. She also helped New Zealand win silver at the Oceania Women's Team Championships and reached number one nationally in women's singles and mixed doubles, demonstrating continued progression since her 2025 Blue.

Elsie Kate Lins

Faculty of Arts and Education

Elsie represented New Zealand in women's épée at the 2026 Senior World Fencing Championships in Hong Kong, progressing from U23 to open-age world competition. She also placed 11th among 113 fencers at the British Senior Open Championships and won her first senior national title, demonstrating progression since her 2025 Blue.

Wen Min Low

Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Arts and Education

Wen Min represented Malaysia in ice hockey at the 2025 SEA Games, helping the team place fourth. Wen Min then helped the Johor Tigers finish second at the 2026 Johor Roar tournament and received the best goaltender award, marking a strong return to competition following injury.

Benjamin Edward Lowe

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Education

Benjamin was the starting centre back for the New Zealand U20 water polo team while still under 18. He played a central role in defence, assisting and scoring as New Zealand placed seventh at the 2025 Australia Cup and fourth at the Nations Cup in Canberra.

Ava Hope Maddison

Faculty of Science

Ava became New Zealand's 2026 U23 road race champion and placed eighth overall in the elite field. She also won bronze in the U23 national time trial and progressed from club racing to the UCI continental-level Meridian Bikebug team, competing in higher-level international events following her 2025 Sport Blue.

Yamato Maemura

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business and Economics

Yamato demonstrated significant progression in powerlifting, improving his competition total by 32.5kg to 672.5kg. He won the U74kg national title, set three Auckland records and confirmed his number-one New Zealand ranking after earning Oceania silver. His national title also secured selection to represent New Zealand at the IPF World Junior Championships.

Arie Geoffry

Rasmussen Magasiva

Faculty of Business and Economics

Arie represented New Zealand at 2026 Rowing World Cups one and 2, finishing 13th in Spain and fifth in Bulgaria. After more than a decade in rowing, he was named as a reserve for the World Championships and selected for New Zealand's 2026–27 summer squad.

Lucy Mary Rose Matehaere

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Lucy and New Zealand's women's K4 500m crew placed fourth at the 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships in Milan, her career-best international result. The crew also achieved two top five World Cup finishes earlier that season, demonstrating continued progression following Lucy's Sport Blues from 2022 to 2025.

Isabella Grace Matthews

Faculty of Arts and Education

Isabella represented New Zealand for the sixth time at the 2026 Oceania Target Championships, winning bronze in the ranking round and silver in individual match play. She also retained the Champion of Champions, field and clout titles at the 82nd Archery New Zealand Outdoor National Championships, demonstrating continued excellence following her 2025 Blue.

Chantelle Dominique

Nikita May

Faculty of Arts and Education

Chantelle won the 2025 North Island Open and 2026 South Island Open women's foil titles, placed third individually and first in teams at the Oceanic Open Nationals and reached second in New Zealand's Open rankings. She also represented New Zealand at the 2026 Senior World Championships, demonstrating progression since her 2025 Blue.

Courtney Louise McGregor

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Courtney represented New Zealand at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, marking an outstanding return to international artistic gymnastics. She placed 15th in the women's all-around final and fifth in the vault final against a world-class field while balancing elite training, international travel, medical study and research.

Mollie Grace McHale

Faculty of Science

Mollie represented New Zealand at the 2026 CMAS Age Group Underwater Hockey World Championships in Gebze, Turkey, helping the U24 women's team win the world title with an 8-0 victory in the final. Mollie also finished as the division's third-highest goalscorer, demonstrating consistent individual performance throughout the tournament.

Benjamin Daniel McLean

Faculty of Science

Benjamin represented New Zealand for the ninth time at the 2026 Oceania Target Championships, winning silver in the ranking round and gold in individual match play to become Oceania Champion. He also won the Champion of Champions title and gold medals in the field and clout events at the national championships.

Cheidan Perenara

Darcy Moetara

Faculty of Science

Cheidan became the U19 national long-distance ruddered champion and individual national record holder, earning selection for the New Zealand U19 team for the third time. In 2026, Cheidan moved into the premier women's division, helping her team win a national title and set a national record.

Jared Hanmer George Monk

Faculty of Medical and
Health Sciences

Jared earned his first selection to the New Zealand athletics team during his first season in the men's 3000m steeplechase. He won bronze at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships in Darwin after earning silver at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships, demonstrating an outstanding transition into a new event.

Greer Lily Morley

Faculty of Business and
Economics, Faculty of Arts
and Education

Greer returned to elite canoe sprint after two seasons away, earning selection for New Zealand's open women's K4 500m crew. She helped the crew win the national title, reach a World Cup A Final and place ninth in Germany before securing selection for the 2026 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships.

Finn Michael Murphy

Faculty of Science

Finn represented New Zealand in the men's KL3 200m at the 2026 Sprint and Paracanoe World Cup in Brandenburg, Germany, placing second. This marked significant progression from his 10th-place World Cup finish in 2025. Finn also secured selection for the 2026 Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships in Poland.

Julia Lena Padrutt

Faculty of Science

Julia represented New Zealand at the International Surf Rescue Challenge, winning the ski race. She also won the World Ocean Series ski race and five Open titles at the New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships. In canoe sprint, Julia won the Open K1 200m and U23 K1 200m and 500m national titles.

Tom Joshua Te Puni

Faculty of Business and Economics

Tom represented New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships, winning bronze in the 200m and gold in the mixed 4×400m relay. He set New Zealand records in the 200m, mixed 4×400m and mixed 4×100m relay and also won the 2026 New Zealand 200m title.

Eesha Vaani Ranchhod

Faculty of Business and Economics

Eesha represented New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Karate Championships, winning gold in senior women's team kata after earning bronze in 2025. The result qualified Eesha and the New Zealand team to compete at the 2026 Karate World Cup in Hangzhou, China, demonstrating clear progression at continental level.

Angus Alan Revell

Faculty of Business and Economics

Angus represented New Zealand at the 2026 U20 Rugby Championship in South Africa, competing against leading international age-grade teams. The New Zealand U20 team defeated Australia, drew with South Africa and lost to Argentina, with Angus demonstrating the performance and professionalism required for selection at the highest level of international U20 rugby.

Alexander Liki Revell-Lewis

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Alexander represented New Zealand at 3 international athletics events in 2026. He set a New Zealand indoor 400m record of 47.17 seconds at the World Indoor Championships and an outdoor national record of 45.82 seconds while placing fourth at the Oceania Championships, improving from his 46.47-second performance in 2025.

Holly Marie Rule

Faculty of Business and Economics

Holly represented New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships, winning the women's 800m in a personal best 2:04.43. She also helped New Zealand win the mixed 4×400m relay in a national and meet record of 3:19.39 and placed sixth in the women's 400m in a personal best 54.04.

George Lee Rush

Faculty of Science

George enjoyed a landmark 2026 season as part of the winning crew at the 49er World Championship in France, becoming the youngest 49er world champion in history. His crew also won the overall regatta at the 49er Open European Championship, marking significant progression since his 2025 Blue.

Samuel Grant Scott

**Faculty of Engineering and Design,
Faculty of Arts and Education**

Samuel skippered a leading New Zealand youth match-racing team to third-place finishes at major international regattas in Australia. He also won the New Zealand Elliott 5.9 Ranking Trophy, represented New Zealand at the Governor's Cup and reached seventh in the World Sailing Youth Match Racing Rankings.

Theresa Matauaina Setefano

**Faculty of Medical and
Health Sciences**

Theresa continued to represent New Zealand at the highest level of international rugby as a member of the Black Ferns Sevens during the 2025–26 HSBC SVNS Series. She also helped the Black Ferns win bronze at the 2025 Rugby World Cup in England, demonstrating continued excellence following her 2025 Blue.

Sydney Jane Sparks

Faculty of Science

Sydney represented New Zealand in senior futsal, making her Futsal Ferns debut against Brazil in October 2025. She then helped the team complete an unbeaten three-match series in China, with one win and two draws. Domestically, Sydney won the 2025 National Futsal SuperLeague and retained the University Nationals title.

Kate Rio Sung

Faculty of Science

Kate represented New Zealand in karate at the 2026 FISU World University Championship Combat Sports, placing fifth in women's kata. She also won the Senior Women's and U21 kata titles at the 2026 Karate New Zealand Open and secured selection for the 2026 World Cadet, Junior and U21 Championships in Poland.

Xavi Asemaga Taele

Faculty of Science

Xavi represented the Māori All Blacks against Japan XV in 2026, scoring the match-winning try. He also competed for the Blues in the Super Rugby Pacific semifinals, demonstrating his progression into professional franchise rugby and continued emergence as one of New Zealand's promising young players.

Vincent Jin-Hao Tao

**Faculty of Engineering and Design,
Faculty of Business and Economics**

Vincent earned his first selection by Badminton New Zealand for the national team competing at the 2026 Oceania Team Championships, helping New Zealand win silver. He also won bronze at the Oceania Individual Championships and gold at the Wisden Cup, demonstrating continued progression following Blues in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Kadin Dean Taylor

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Kadin represented New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships, placing fifth in the men's 200m. At the International Track Meet, he recorded 20.87 seconds, the second-fastest 200m time by a 19-year-old in New Zealand history and the third-fastest time among New Zealand men during the season.

Joshua Lucas Teitelbaum

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Joshua represented New Zealand at the 2026 FIG Apparatus World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, placing 18th on still rings with a score of 12.066. This marked significant international progression from his 53rd-place finish at the 2025 World University Games. Joshua was also selected for the Gymnastics New Zealand national team.

Amanda Jiea Sing Ting

**Faculty of Engineering and Design,
Faculty of Business and Economics**

Amanda won silver in the women's doubles while representing New Zealand at the 2026 Oceania Badminton Championships. Selected for the 2026 Badminton New Zealand National Squad, she also achieved a top five national ranking and finished runner-up at the Wisden Cup, reflecting her sustained success at national and continental levels.

Daniel Habakkuk

Teariki Tolosa

Faculty of Engineering and Design

Daniel represented the Cook Islands in track and field, setting a Cook Islands short-track 60m record at the 2026 Sir Graeme Douglas International. He also represented the Cook Islands at the 2026 Polynesian Track and Field Championships and Oceania Athletics Championships, demonstrating continued progress since his 2024 Sport Blue.

Caleb Paul Wagener

Faculty of Science

Caleb placed third among junior competitors in the elite men's race at the 2026 Asia Triathlon Cup in Osaka, Japan. He also won bronze at the 2026 Oceania Junior Triathlon Championships in Australia and helped New Zealand win silver in the junior Mixed Team Relay.

Sophia Jade Webb

Faculty of Engineering and Design, Faculty of Business and Economics

Sophia co-captained New Zealand's senior women's lacrosse team, NZBLAX, to bronze at the 2026 World Lacrosse Women's Division II World Championship in Poland. The team was undefeated in pool play and Sophia received Player of the Match recognition, demonstrating strong leadership and performance throughout New Zealand's international campaign.

Michael John Whittaker

Faculty of Arts and Education

Michael represented New Zealand in the men's T13 5000m at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi. Racing the world's best athletes with visual impairments in his World Championships debut, he finished eighth in the final in 15:38.13, marking a strong performance on the international para-athletics stage.

Blake Philip Wood

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Education

Blake represented New Zealand at the Oceania Cup in Tonga, placing third in the 400m. He also helped New Zealand finish second in the 4×400m relay, recording the second-fastest 400m split among all athletes, and placed fifth in the 400m at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships.