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2017 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Athletics Auckland again showed excellent competition throughout the year with solid representation at national and global championships.

At the World Junior Championships in Poland in July 2016, Auckland athletes selected were Hamish Gill, Jordan Bolland, Symone Tafuna'i and Maddison-Lee Wesche.

At the Rio Olympic Games Valerie Adams won the silver medal in the shot put and Eliza McCartney the bronze medal in the pole vault, other Auckland athletes at the Rio Games were Lucy Oliver, Jacko Gill and Alana Barber.

Track and Field

Auckland had a large representation at the national championships in Hamilton in March winning 46 Gold, 35 Silver and 33 Bronze medals. Thanks to Sue Potter, Dave and Lee Norris, Peter and Beverley Booker and Paul and Dianne Craddock for their management of the team and assistance over the weekend in Hamilton We were also represented at the 3000m championships winning a silver and bronze in the senior women and a bronze in the men and at the combined events where Alexandra Hyland won gold in the under 20 heptathlon and Auckland athletes also collected three silvers and a bronze in the other grades.

New Zealand records were set by Eliza McCartney 4.82m in the pole vault, Alana Barber 12:37.82 in the 3000m race walk, Mellata Tatola 57.75m in the under 17 hammer throw and Olivia McTaggart 4.30m in the under 17 pole vault.

At College Sport's annual awards, Alex Hyland was awarded athletics girls sportsperson on the year and Oliver Miller the boys. In distance running Katherine Badham won the girls and Dan Hoy the boys, they also both won the triathlon title as well and Dan Hoy was the boys' supreme winner.

Cross Country and Road

Auckland hosted the New Zealand cross country championships on the Auckland Domain and Jono Jackson won the senior title. A number of medals were won by Auckland athletes in the masters' grades, a total of ten in the men and three in the women. Grace Wood won silver in the W20 and Trent Dodd a bronze in the M18. In the teams Auckland won the senior men, senior women, master men and men under 18 and were second in the under 20 men and under 18 women.

At the New Zealand road championships in Masterton Mike Parker won the senior men 10km road walk title. In the masters Katrin Gottschalk won the 35-39, Carolyn Smith the 55-59 and David Lear the men 55-59. James Uhlenberg was second in the under 18, Lydia O'Donnell second in the senior women and Jono Jackson third in the senior men. In the teams Auckland were second in the master men, senior women, master women and under 20 women and third in the senior men and under 20 men. Thanks to Dianne Craddock who managed this team to Masterton.

Success for Auckland clubs at the New Zealand road relay championship in Rotorua were North Harbour Bays gold in the senior women and Auckland City Athletics gold in the junior women. ACA were second in the master men and bronze medals went to ACA in the senior men, ACA in the junior men and Auckland University in the master men over 60.

Olivia Burne won the national half marathon title with Lydia O'Donnell third.

Sacred Heart College team of James Uhlenberg, Jacob Holmes, Jonathan Ansley, Sean Paget, Liam Miller and James Matthews were second winning the silver medal in the teams race at the World Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships in Budapest in May last year.



Herb Towers Track, Mount Smart Stadium
51 O'Rorke Road, Penrose, Auckland, New Zealand

Junior

The Auckland junior section provided some top competition resulting in another fine team travelling to Australia for the annual Trans-Tasman competition in Sydney where 31 individual medals were won and Auckland finished second. At the grade 12 and grade 13 Interprovincial contest in Masterton, Auckland won with Counties Manukau fourth. Age group winners were Jayden Williamson (Auckland) in the B13, Bailey Liu (Counties Manukau) in the B12 and Natalia Rankin (Counties Manukau) in the G12. The success of the junior section was noted at their annual prize giving where a number of record certificates were presented. Auckland junior sportspersons of the year were Dominic Overend (Waitakere) and Kaia Tupu-South (Takapuna).

Honours and Awards

Valerie Adams was made a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to athletics in the 2017 New Year honours.

Eliza McCartney won New Zealand's favourite sporting moment (winning the bronze medal at the Rio Olympic Games) at the Halberg Awards.

We remember those from Auckland who made a contribution to our sport and passed on during the past year.

John Boland, Bruce Connon, Frank Smedley, Max Carr, Sir Graeme Douglas, Dr Lloyd Drake, Rod Jeffries, Jack Callinan and Howard Healey.

Acknowledgements

To the Board of Athletics Auckland for their work. Chairman Peter Wyatt, Peter Booker track and field, Dianne Craddock cross country and road, Fiona Maisey juniors, Jim Hogg treasurer, Rodger Brickland, David Sim, Bryce Hall, Sasha Daniels, Simon Yarrow and Niko Toluono. I would like to acknowledge Peter's eight years on the Board and for his leadership and commitment as chairman for the past five years. Peter is not seeking re-election. I also acknowledge Rodger Brickland who is standing down after 15 years' service to the Board. We are indebted to Raewyn Rodger for her commitment and input into the organisation and the administration of the sport, which ensures that the Association runs smoothly throughout the year. Neil Bartlett has been in the role of coach co-ordinator since the beginning of the year and he organised and ran a successful Aspire Development Academy which ran over three days in January with 75 athletes attending. Neil has since organised coaching courses and carries out athlete ID.

I would like to acknowledge Karen Hinkley who in conjunction with Peter Booker and Paul Craddock organised the athletic section of the World Masters Games. A total of 1233 track and field athletes competed in 3700 events and 542 competed in the cross country on the Auckland Domain. Prior to the World Masters Karen also assisted in the office. At the recent officials luncheon Peter Booker and Karen Hinkley were jointly presented with the official of the year trophy.

Thank you to the officials and volunteers in our sport, your contribution, enthusiasm and hard work at your clubs and at the centre level make it all possible. A thank you to David Sim in ensuring the officials were kept informed throughout the summer season and that we had the required officials for each competition. Also a big thank you to all the coaches throughout the region. Without your efforts we wouldn't have the champions of today and in the future.

Murray McKinnon QSM JP
President