



2019 Presidents Report

### **Track and Field**

Auckland athletes won 46 gold, 28 silver and 30 bronze medals.

#### **Auckland Senior National Title Winners:**

Edward Osei-Nketia 100m, Jordan Bollard 200m, Oliver Miller 400m and 400m hurdles, Joshua Hawkins 110m hurdles, Ebuka Okpala triple jump, Anthony Nobilo hammer throw, James Steyn pole vault, 4 x 100m relay (Edwin Leung, Jordan Bollard, Lewis Arthur, Dare Oye).

Zoe Hobbs 100m and 200m, Lydia O'Donnell 5000m, Alana Barber 10,000m race walk, Rochelle Coster 100m hurdles, Portia Bing 400m hurdles, Maddison-Lee Wesche shot put, Nicole Bradley hammer throw, Stephanie Wrathall javelin throw, Olivia McTaggart pole vault, 4 x 100m relay (Briana Stephenson, Natasha Eady, Rochelle Coster, Tamsin Harvey). Lydia O'Donnell won the New Zealand women's 10,000m title.

### **Cross Country and Road**

Lisa Cross of Auckland won the senior women's cross-country title with Penny Peskett second. Peter Wheeler was second and Cameron Graves third in the senior men championship. Auckland won both senior men and senior women team titles.

At the national road championships in Cambridge, Penny Peskett won the senior women's title from Lydia O'Donnell and Lisa Cross. Auckland won the senior women's teams title. Tony Sargisson won the senior 10km road walking title.

Wayne Botha won the New Zealand 100km title in Christchurch.

### **New Zealand Representation**

Maddison-Lee Wesche continued New Zealand's stunning run of World shot put champions, winning the Women's Under 20 World Title in Tampere, Finland in July. Olivia McTaggart and Imogen Ayriss also competed at the world junior championships, in the pole vault.

IAAF Race Walking Teams Championship, China in May: Alana Barber.

Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires Argentina in October: Connor Bell gold in the discus throw. Also competing Dominic Overend and Murdoch McIntyre.

IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Aarhus Denmark in March: Peter Wheeler, Murdoch McIntyre, Stuart Hofmeyr, Isabella Richardson.

### **New Zealand Records set:**

Aaron Booth men indoor heptathlon 5819 points.

Zoe Hobbs resident 100m 11.42, 11.37.

Portia Bing national 400m hurdles 56.04, 55.86.

Eliza McCartney all-comers, resident and national pole vault 4.85m, national pole vault 4.92m, 4.94m.

Edward Osei-Nketia under 18, under 19, under 20 100m 10.30, 10.19. 200m 20.76.

Murdoch McIntyre under 17 2000m steeplechase 5:55.07.

Nelson McCutcheon under 17 10km race walk 46:55.

Connor Bell under 19, under 20 1.75kg discus throw 59.72m, 60.05m, under 18 1.5kg discus throw 66.84m, 69.23m.

### **Honours**

**Kirsten Hellier** of Auckland was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, ONZM, for services to sport particularly athletics and **Alison Brearley** of Auckland received the Queen's Service Medal QSM for services to sport and education in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours.

**Derek Williams**, a coach and committee member with the Waitakere City Athletics Club received the Queen's Service Medal for services to the Welsh community and athletics in the 2019 New Year Honours.

**Maddison-Lee Wesche**, won the Emerging Talent Award at the Halberg Awards and **Beatrice Faumuina** winner of 21 New Zealand titles, and the first New Zealander to win a world athletic title was admitted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

### **Obituaries**

**Graham Davy OBE** died on 18 June 2018 aged 81. He was secretary of Athletics Auckland 1960-70, president 1970-75 and made a life member in 1975. He was president of Athletics New Zealand 1976-77 and made a life member in 1984.

Well known master runner of Auckland and latterly Thames **Len Wilson** died on 11 June 2018 aged 84. He was a stalwart of the Technical Athletic and Harrier Club and one of the longest serving registered athletes in Auckland.

Stalwart of the Lynndale Club and Athletics Auckland **Mic Baker** of Hastings, formerly Auckland, died on 12 July 2018 aged 81. He was on the Board of Athletics Auckland for a number of years, received an Athletics Auckland merit award and was a life member of the Lynndale Amateur Athletic and Harrier Club.

Long standing Auckland official and Club administrator **Allan Dark** died on 5 August 2018 aged 94. He was a life member of the Howick Club.

**Doug Monds**, of Auckland, a national junior hammer throw champion in the 1940's, died in Vancouver on 27 September 2018 aged 89.

Former Auckland president **Ron Milicich** died on 16 October 2018 aged 89. Ron was president of Athletics Auckland 1981-83 and was a chief umpire at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games. He was a past member of the Takapuna Athletic and Harrier Club.

Long standing Auckland official and administrator **Beverley Booker** died on 12 October 2018 aged 72.

Accomplished masters athlete **Wally Opperman** of North Shore Auckland died on 8 December aged 92. He was a foundation member of the North Shore Track and Field club established in 1972, as one of the five-person committee.

The Ironman of New Zealand running **Bill Baillie MNZM** of Auckland died on 25 December 2018 at Cooks Beach aged 84. He set world records over 20,000m and one hour at the Lovelock Track in Auckland on 24 August 1963 and was sixth in the 5000m at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Former top junior hurdler **Peter Callagher** died in a light plane crash on the Kaimanawa Ranges on 23 March 2019 aged 27.

The first New Zealand woman to win a gold medal at an Olympic Games **Yvette Corlett (nee Williams) CNZM MBE** died on 13 April 2019, aged 89.

Leading Auckland runner in the 1950-60's and later prominent official and administrator **John Fenton QSM** died on 17 April 2019 aged 85.

**John Mildenhall** who was a motivational coach to a large number of junior runners in Auckland over many years died on 23 April 2019.