



# ATHLETICS AUCKLAND INC ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



# Coaching + Athletes + Officials = Competitions

2017/18 was one of the best years ever for Athletics Auckland.

Particular congratulations go to the six Auckland athletes that represented New Zealand at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018, Dame Valerie Adams in the shot put, Alana Barber in the 20km race walk, Eliza McCartney, Nicholas Southgate and Olivia McTaggart in pole vault, and Siositina Hakeai in the discus throw. We recognise the extra special achievement of our three silver medallists, Dame Valerie Adams, Eliza McCartney and Alana Barber.

Further mention should be made of the new pole vault national record set by Eliza McCartney at the Diamond League meeting in Eugene Oregon as she continues to go from strength to strength, which she improved on at a recent meeting in Germany.

We commend you and all our other Auckland athletes for the hard work and dedication that goes into preparation for and competition at the highest levels. We recognise the pride and inspiration that you bring to the sport, your families, clubs, centre and country.

It's great to bring you all our annual report and update you on the progress we are making. The focus of our strategy and changes is starting to deliver on growth - enabling us to deliver a better outcome to our athletes, coaches and officials within the Auckland region and our community.

Everyone across Athletics Auckland should be proud of what we are achieving and recognise your contribution to the change - big or small. Each of you plays a part in turning Athletics Auckland into a high performing regional sporting organisation which provides opportunities for everyone in our community to participate in quality organised, individual and team-based athletics.

I am really proud of all the hard work that has gone in the last year and seeing the changes and some early results of those changes shows the benefit of that hard work is a great experience. The Board really appreciate your commitment and focus on making a difference and bringing Athletics Auckland on the journey of transformation.

Great job everyone!!

David Sim  
Chairman

## Track and Field

Auckland was well represented at the national championships at Porritt Stadium Hamilton. Senior titles won by Auckland athletes were: Zoe Hobbs 100m, Brooke Cull 400m, Olivia Burne 5000m, Portia Bing 400m hurdles, Imogen Ayris pole vault, Dame Valerie Adams shot put, Siositina Hakeai discus throw, Alana Barber 20km road walk, Joshua Hawkins 110m hurdles, Nicholas Southgate pole vault, Ebuka Okpala triple jump, Matthew Bloxham hammer throw, Mike Parker 3000m track walk, Lyndon Hohaia 20km road walk. Auckland also won the senior women's 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m relays.

Olivia Burne won the national 3000m title held in conjunction with the Porritt Classic and Peter Wheeler won the men's title at the same meeting. Brent Newdick won the decathlon title at the championships held in Wanganui.

Keegan Pitcher represented New Zealand at the 2017 World Para-Athletics Championships in London winning bronze in both the T36 400m and 800m. Eliza McCartney in the pole vault and Jacko Gill in the shot put represented New Zealand at the 2017 World Championships in London.



Joshua Hawkins, Zoe Hobbs, Nicholas Southgate and Aaron Booth who won the bronze medal in the decathlon competed at the 2017 World University Games in Taiwan.

Connor Bell won gold in the discus throw at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas, also competing from Auckland were Mellata Tatola in the shot put and discus and James Guthrie-Croft in the 100m and 200m.



Eliza McCartney finished fourth in the pole vault at the World Indoor Championships in Birmingham in a New Zealand and Oceania indoor record of 4.75m. At the recent Diamond League event in Oregon, Eliza McCartney set a personal best and National record clearing 4.85m in finishing 2nd on count back.

And Eliza McCartney has bested herself yet again, setting a national record at a competition in Germany on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. She broke her own national and Oceania record with a monster jump of 4.92m. Eliza's effort in Mannheim ranks as the second best of the year worldwide behind American Jennifer Suhr's 4.93m. It's also good enough to sit in fourth in the list of all time leaps by women after Jennifer Suhr (4.93m), Sandi Morris (5m) and Yelena Isinbayeva (5.06m).



## Cross Country and Road

Auckland won the senior women's teams title, the under 20 men and the under 20 women at the national cross-country championships held on the Auckland Domain. Olivia Burne won the senior women's title at the national road championships in Christchurch. Auckland won the under 20 men and the under 18 women team titles. North Harbour Bays won the senior women's title at the national road relay championships in Rotorua.

Annika Pfitzinger won the national half marathon title in Kerikeri and Auckland City Athletics in the men and North Harbour Bays in the women won the teams title.

## Mountain Running

Matthew Battley represented New Zealand at the World Mountain Running Championships in Italy.

## Junior Track and Field

Auckland hosted a successful 40th anniversary of the North Island Colgate Games at Mt Smart Stadium, despite adverse weather conditions. Auckland won the Trans-Tasman competition and won the U/18 and U/16 grades at the interprovincial competition at Massey Park Papakura, with Auckland Counties Manukau second in both grades. At the interprovincial competition for 12 and 13, Auckland was second and Counties Manukau third with individual top of their grade going to Jole Naufahu B13, who also set an Auckland B13 400m record. Liam McKellar B12 and Mackenzie Millen G12.

Junior sportsperson of the year went to Jayden Williamson in the boys and Nadia Evans in the girls, both from North Harbour Bays.



## Records

Katrina Robinson based in Australia and registered with Auckland City Athletics set twelve New Zealand records: a new Women U20 3000m, Women U19 1500m (twice), Women U19 3000m, Women U19 5000m, Women U18 1500m (three times,) Women U18 3000m (twice), Women U17 1500m and Women U18 3000m. Olivia Burdon ACA set a New Zealand U/20 1500m and 5000m record. Connor Bell North Harbour Bays set New Zealand U/19, U/18 and U/17 discus throw records. Alana Barber Race Walking Auckland set a New Zealand 20km road walking record (twice). Nelson McCutcheon Race Walking Auckland set a New Zealand U/19, U/18 and U/17 5000m race walking record.

As well as the above also being Auckland records, Nicole Bradley NHB set a senior women's hammer throw record.

A total of 19 Auckland junior records were set.

B14; Zane Powell (PAK) 3000m, Jayden Williamson (NHB) high jump.

G14; Kimberley May (GLE) 1500m. Joanna Poland (Oratia) 3000m, Adriana White, Sonya Ha, Samadiana Fariz and Natasha Smith (PAK) 4 x 100m relay.

B13; Jole Naufahu (ROS) 400m.

G13; Nadia Evans (NHB) 100m. Pia Talamdon, Charlotte Manley, Rosa Taylor and Nadia Evans (NHB) 4 x 100m relay.

B12; Percy Maka (PPK) shot put and discus throw.

G12; Mackenzie Millen (PPK) 400m.

B11; Quinn Gardiner-Hall (Waiuku) 1200m race walk. Casey Good, Kalani Mullins, Kainoa Keereweera-Taia and Max Munro (WTK) 4 x 100m relay.

G11; Suzannah Kennelly (PPT) shot put and discus throw.

G10; Eryn Westlake (Oratia) 2000m, Savannah Millen (PPK) 1200m race walk.

G9; Karmen-Elizabeth Maritz (NHB) discus throw.

G7; Sienna Todd (ADL) discus throw.



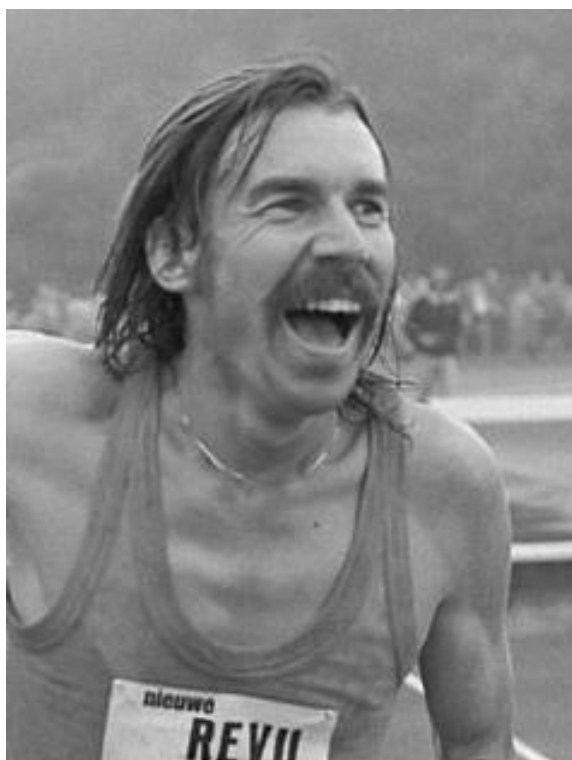


## Obituaries



Jim Cunningham a life member of Athletics Auckland and Athletics New Zealand died on 15 April 2018 aged 87.

He was chairman of the Auckland track and field committee for many years and an official at track and field, cross country and Auckland school's championships at Mt Smart Stadium. Jim was Athletics Technical Director at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games. He was chairman of the organising committee and manager of the 1994 Oceania Championships in Auckland. He managed the New Zealand team to the 1971 International Cross-Country Championships in San Sebastian Spain.



Former world 5000m record holder and Olympic Games silver medallist Dick Quax died on 28 May 2018 aged 70.

At the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games he won the silver medal in the 5000m and in Stockholm a year later set a world record of 13:12.86 over 5000m. He combined with Kevin Ross, Tony Polhill and Richard Tayler for another world record, the four by one mile in 1972. He made his international debut at the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh where he won the silver medal in the 1500m.

He was admitted to the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 and again in 2005 as a member of the New Zealand cross country team that won the world title in 1975. Dick was a life member of the Auckland University Track Club and Patron of the Pakuranga Athletic Club.

He has been an Auckland City councillor since 2011 and was recently made Patron of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association.



Past president and life member of Athletics New Zealand and Athletics Auckland and former national sprint champion Graham Davy OBE of Auckland died on Monday 18 June 2018, aged 81.

Davy was a member of the Onehunga Athletic Club and he won the New Zealand 100 yards title in 1960 in Invercargill. He attended Auckland Grammar School 1950/54 and was a member of the 1954 senior athletic and hockey teams. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and was the secretary of the Auckland Athletic Centre for ten years from 1960. He was president of Athletics Auckland 1970/75 and was made a life member in 1975. Davy was president of Athletics New Zealand 1976/77 and was made a life member in 1984. For 15 years up to 1983 he was on the Council of NZAAA, representing Auckland. He was the athletic section manager of the team to the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, where a good friend Rod Dixon won the bronze medal in the 1500m.

Davy helped establish the New Zealand Sports Foundation in 1978, the forerunner to SPARC and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 1986 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to sport. He was Athletics Sports Director at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games and was a recipient of the 1990 Commemoration Medal.



## 2017 - 2018 Senior Track and Field Report

### Highlights of the season

The Athletics New Zealand International meeting commencing with the Vertical Pursuit held at Sky City Auckland, followed with an invitation meeting at Trust stadium Waitakere. The meeting was built around top class international shot-put throwers and pole-vaulters.

The Vertical Pursuit won the Sport and Recreation Awards Innovation Excellence Award.



A special mention of the work carried out by Paul Craddock and his team that prepared the area and assembled the runway and landing areas to allow the events to take place.

This season we continued the concept to combined meetings with the inclusion of 12 to 13year olds into the afternoon competitions, with refinements this will continue, showing juniors the pathway to higher level competition. (refer below showing pathways)

### Auckland Championships - Mt Smart

Auckland Championships were again combined with Juniors over 3 days with grades juniors 12-13 through to seniors competing. Athletes in the lower grades were able to be inspired by the senior athletes.

Next season 2018 will see the programme revised to two weekends.



### New Zealand Track and Field Championships 9-11 March 2017 Porritt Stadium

New Zealand nationals saw a team of 109 travel to Hamilton with a medal tally of:

35 Gold

30 Silver

39 Bronze

Congratulation to all medal winners and those that had personal bests.

Some special thanks to Sue Potter and her management team of Peter Booker, Raewyn Rodger and Beverley Booker for your work during the weekend.

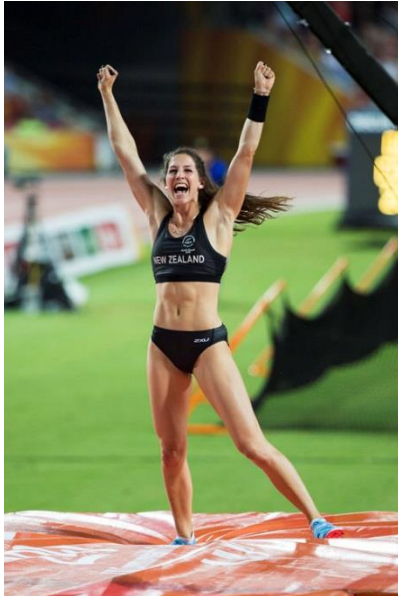
We look forward to next year's nationals being held in Christchurch.



## Commonwealth Games

Congratulations to the following Auckland athletes, selected to represent New Zealand:

Eliza McCartney pole vault silver medal



Dame Valerie Adams shot put silver medal



Alana Barber silver medal



Siositina Hakeai 4<sup>th</sup>



Olivia McTaggart 9<sup>th</sup>



Nick Southgate pole vault



## Pathway

The above athletes have come through the pathway system: Club, Auckland championships, National championships to International level competitions. So, keep up the training and aim high, who knows you could be up there.

## Equipment

Our aim is to continue to upgrade our equipment to international standard. The photo shows the new discus hammer cage completed. With the old cage transferred to Massey Park Papakura. We have also purchased a new set of pole vault uprights.

Opportunity has also allowed the purchase of further equipment during the winter season.

We are currently looking to purchase the following:

- 1) New set of pole vault mats. Due to the large demand created by Jeremy McColl's pole vault group. (Well done Jeremy)
- 2) Long distance measuring device (EDM).
- 3) Four additional speakers for the current starting system.
- 4) Continue to replace cross bars to Pole vault and High jump and minor equipment.



Repairs are due to be carried out on the Mt Smart track over a two-week period prior to the coming season.

Thank you to all coaches, athletes and officials for your ongoing contribution to our sport, 2017/18 was another great year.

Special thanks to Raewyn Rodger for her continued support.

Peter Booker

Senior Track and Field Chairman



## 2017-18 Cross Country and Road Report

The Cross Country and Road season has once again been a busy and successful one with our numbers slowly growing.

We had the privilege for a second year, of hosting the National Cross-Country Championships in the Auckland Domain, with a good number of participants attending from all Centres throughout NZ. Competitions such as these are very important for athlete development, with opportunities to represent their Centres and compete with other athletes at the peak of their season.

As is always the case, there is a great deal of organisation that goes into an event such as this, and I would like to express on behalf of the athletes and myself a very big thank you, to all those who put in many hours of preparation and setting out of the course, working with the Council to obtain the necessary permits, as well as all the other administrative details required for such an event. The weather prior to the event was extremely wet, causing concern for the day. But in true Auckland fashion a swift change occurred and the day of competition was near perfect conditions and the course sufficiently dry to provide good running underfoot.

Thanks too to the Officials and helpers from both Auckland and throughout NZ who generously gave of their time to enable us to provide a very professionally run event.

We cannot manage to provide competition throughout the season without our strong volunteer base, so this year we asked our clubs to encourage their supporters to attend officials training courses so that they also would have more parents and supporters who understand the Sport and feel confident to volunteer both at club level and at interclub competitions. This has resulted in the number of qualified Officials increasing at our events.



As in previous years we have tried to take full strength teams in all grades to our National competitions. Although we were disappointed to not be able to achieve this for the National Road Championships, we were still able to do so in most of the younger age grades. Those athletes benefited both on a personal and competitive level from the experience of the tour and we hope to be able to continue to encourage our athletes through providing opportunities like these. As provision of road races is both expensive and time consuming, we have been establishing links with several race providers to co-operatively provide such competition events, especially for our Marathon and Half Marathon events.

As mentioned earlier, our numbers have been slowly growing in many of the age grades and we as a committee have been working on how to continue this growth. One of the initiatives trialled this past year was allowing participation for persons 18 years and older to compete as a non-registered athlete in the first four Grand Prix events on our calendar. There was limited success with this but we have decided to extend the option for all grades this current season and early results have been quietly encouraging. We would suggest that Clubs use this as a means of introducing people to the sport and also encouraging those who come, to consider joining a Club.



Our Grand Prix series has also attracted athletes from clubs from the Northland and Waikato areas. We will continue to develop ways to more successfully market our sport to prospective participants and would encourage our clubs to look for ways to provide for the needs of people within their respective regions.

I hope you enjoyed your season both as participants and spectators, thanks for your support. As we celebrate our past year, we now look forward to a new season and wish all our competitors the very best.

Dianne Craddock  
Cross Country and Road convenor



## 2017-18 Junior Track and Field Report

As the 2017/18 convenor for Auckland Junior Athletics it is my pleasure to bring this seasons report.

Once again, we have had a significant number of Championship and Resident records broken throughout the season. The Trans-Tasman Challenge Cup was taken back from the Aussies, Auckland and Auckland Counties Manukau placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively at Interprovincials with 7 athletes picking up individual honours. Congratulations to the athletes, coaches and management who put in extraordinary hours of preparation for this event.



Of course, our big event of the season was the North Island Colgate Games. This was an Auckland Athletics event with help and support coming from all sections of the sport. A small group of dedicated individuals spent many hours making sure all the little things worked well but without the significant contribution made by most clubs we could never have pulled it off as well as we did. The weather made it memorable and we have had many good reports of how well the potential disaster was averted and the Games went on despite the rain.

Financially we have also had a good year with a healthy balance sheet to see us through the winter and into the start of the new season. This was helped in part by the obtaining of a number of grants for our IP teams to Inglewood but our biggest income would be from the Colgate Games. This is there to provide financial security for the delivery of athletics to Junior athletes over the next seven years. We need to think carefully how best we can invest this income for good return. The new structures implemented by Athletics NZ to pay their costs has had an interesting introduction over

the past few years. Some clubs have chosen to stand against the change and continue to record inaccurate data in regards to the number of athletes registering with their club – in particular the number of under 7's you have. Please try and work with the centre and register all your athletes for the new season regardless of age or whether they are champion athletes. The financial cost to the Centre will rise if we don't accurately record all our athletes and pay the corresponding levies. Thank you to club administrators who have taken the time to become familiar with ClubNet and the athlete registration portal. Your efforts to input all your athletes and register them with Athletics NZ are recognised and appreciated.



Our Championship events have been well attended and the continuation of combined events for all our athletes aged 12 and over meant there was plenty of athletics available over most weekends. Our main Championships were held over five days, which made for a long run of working weekends for officials. While a large number of parents have participated in officials courses we did have difficulty getting them into the arena on event days.

There is a general lack of graded officials around and there are some who work many thankless hours in order for a quality event to be held for athletes. If we want to keep our sport financially possible for all sectors of the community we must appreciate that this is a volunteer appointment and be quick to offer when asked to help out. The alternative would be a paid official's pool with the cost being passed onto clubs.

Thank you to those parents who stepped forward to help and carried that into an official grading.





After two seasons as the section convenor it has become apparent that it is time for a significant change in how we deliver, promote and sustain the sport of athletics for our more junior participants. The Athletics Auckland Board has been working through a number of new strategies to grow the sport, including a member journey project undertaken by external specialists. It is important to look with fresh eyes at the holistic experience offered to athletes in our region and work through the barriers and hindrances that cause our athletes, particularly in their early teens, to move into a different sporting arena. The results of this project, in collaboration with results garnered from a similar Athletics NZ study, has played a large part in guiding the Board in decisions needed to move forward. Much of what we continue to do is borne through tradition. While tradition ties us to our past we cannot allow it to hinder progress in the present or undermine the potential in our future.

In order to grow we need to be responsive to all our stakeholders. We won't always get it right and sometimes it will take more than one attempt but if we listen and respectfully learn from each other, whether athlete of any age, parent or official, we will produce a product that people will be proud to be a part of.

Fiona Maisey  
Junior Track and Field Convenor

## Board and Strategic Items

Our role at Athletics Auckland is to deliver athletics, including track and field and cross country and road events throughout the summer and winter months. We consider it critical to build on our successes of 2017/18 and previous years in a way that recognises the emerging demands on the sport, athletes and stakeholders.

The 2014-2019 AAI Strategic Plan was focusing on seven areas or strategic pillars, including;

- Coaching,
- Communication, Marketing and Branding
- Structure
- Financial Health
- Services to our Members
- Officials
- Systems and Processes

During the year, the Board decided to focus on and successfully deliver a smaller number of key initiatives before moving onto other matters within the Plan. The Board determined that Services to our Members was our first priority.

### Services to Members (SP1)

Like many sports in New Zealand, athletics needs to remain relevant for its members and be attractive for new participants to try. The membership of Athletics Auckland has been relatively static around 6,500 members for quite some time although Auckland's population continues to grow. Unfortunately, research suggests that the "churn" rate in athletics for those in the Under 14 age groups is among the highest of any sport in the country with 6 out of 10 members in this age group unlikely to still be participating in athletics in 2 to 3 years.

As a sport we can choose to accept this as the way things are, or we can seek ways to make athletics more attractive to ensure that participants keep coming back. One thing is sure, if we keep doing what we have always done and expect a different outcome, we will be disappointed.

It is with this in mind that AAI have developed Strategic Pillar 1 (SP1).

Strategic Pillar 1 states:

*"For AAI to facilitate & support events and services that optimise value to our stakeholders"*

At Board level, work related to SP1 includes:

- the development of a trial junior inter-club competition for the 2018/2019 summer season;
- changes to Championship events for consistency across age groups and age bands; and
- exploration of some form of Senior inter-club event.

Outside of Board level, it includes such initiatives as the Central North West (CNW) cluster competitions and coaching activities.

In trialling new things for our membership, some will work better than others. It is the ability to adapt to changing situations and be innovative in how we approach things that will allow AAI to optimise value to our members, reduce the "churn" rate, and appeal to potential new members to try athletics for the first time that will strengthen the sport in the Auckland Region.





## Communication, Marketing and Branding

Athletics Auckland continues to work hard at promoting the sport to those involved and to the public.

Through Facebook and Instagram our social media continues to grow and attract new members. The website is always evolving and new content added regularly. We are looking to build an Athletics Auckland app in the coming year which will assist with communication to members.

As technology evolves the challenge for Athletics Auckland will be to keep up.

A big thanks to Alisha Lovrich and Michael Dawson for allowing us the use of their photos they take at our events.

## Member Retention Project - The Central Hub.

This project was stimulated by the 2017 Sport New Zealand commissioned Voice of Participant (VOP) survey on Athletics and the follow-up 2017 Member Retention qualitative research project commissioned by the Athletics Auckland Board. Both studies identified a number of opportunities to improve the retention of junior members into senior ranks including coaching, athlete pathways and the nature of our offer to members.

In response to these two studies, the Athletics Auckland Board decided to trial a cluster concept where a Senior focused club would work together with 3 or more potential 'feeder' Junior clubs in a similar geographical area. A number of options were canvassed with a final decision made to initially trial this concept as the Central Hub which includes Auckland City Athletics (Senior focused club), Roskill South Junior Club, Eastern Athletic Junior Club, Hillsborough Athletics Junior Club, Ellerslie Athletics Junior Club and Pt Chevalier Athletics Junior Club.

This year a number of meetings have been held between the Central Hub members to share ideas and trial some new initiatives over the winter season. Athletics NZ are supporting this project through their Club Development Program which includes an external facilitator helping to set the strategy for the Hub. Further funding is also being sought together with Athletics NZ for new coaching programs for the Central Hub.

The project is on track to deliver some major initiatives in the upcoming summer season to try and increase the retention of junior members into the senior ranks. If successful then the learning from this project could then be transferred to other geographical locations in Auckland where similar concepts could be trailed.

## Other areas

We are committed to assisting the John Walker Find your Field of Dreams programme as the provider of athletics-based fitness, speed and agility sessions in schools. We have a good relationship and partnership with JWFOD which provides a ready source of both school contacts and funding for us, enabling the development of our coaching pool and introducing AAI and athletics to schools directly. The Auckland Athletics Plan is finalised though actions have stalled through our inability to fill the SDO role, meaning our target dates have to be revised.

The Auckland Stadium Strategy continues and while The Warriors, Auckland Football Federation, Concerts and AAI continue to use Mt Smart as a multi-function event centre, we see Mt Smart as the central home of athletics within the Auckland region.

We understand there will be some remedial work carried out during the 2018/19 season on the Mt Smart track. We believe the home straight is to be replaced and repairs carried out around lane 1 and areas within the two ends.



## Constitutional Amendments

With a number of significant changes expected to the Incorporated Societies Act by 2019 the board considered that the 2018 AGM presented a good opportunity to review and present amendments to the constitution of AAI. The board identified the opportunity to make changes that reflect and provide for:

1. best practice in governance,
2. consistency between the constitution of AAI and Athletics New Zealand (following the significant changes made to the constitution of Athletics New Zealand in 2012 and 2015), and
3. the contemporary realities under which we live and operate today.

The proposed amendments to the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 are likely to impact most organisations involved in the administration and delivery of our sport (including clubs and centres). As such, we consider this to be an opportune time to engage in a constructive debate on the nature of good practice governance and the framework relevant to all of us over the next decade. It is no secret that our sport will continue to have its challenges and opportunities going forward and we think that having the right framework in place will help us respond to those challenges and maximise opportunities as far as possible.

We welcome the considered feedback already provided by clubs and individuals and thank all of you for taking the time and adding your voices to the debate. It is in fact the strength of our collective ideas, experience and expertise that enables us to deliver the sport in Auckland in a way that meets the needs of our athletes. We also encourage you to voice your views at the AGM and to engage in an open and constructive discussion on the issues and proposals.

Any changes to the Constitution require the support of two thirds of those present and entitled to vote (in person or by proxy). The board therefore encourages you to attend the SGM later in the year and support the proposed resolutions to amend the constitution as we consider them to be in the long-term best interests of our members, stakeholders and ultimately our athletes. We encourage you to look at and consider the proposals with an open mind.

It has been more than 15 years since our last minor amendments to the Constitution and we hope this starts the process of building a solid foundation for our sport for the next 15 years and beyond.



## Coaching

### AAI Coaching courses

The main coaching seminar for 2017 was a “Sprint Coaches Forum” held at AUT Millennium on the 28 May 2017. Kerry Hill was the main presenter, detailing his experiences whilst attending the Altis training centre in the United States. There was a good attendance of coaches present. There were also various theory sessions held at Mt Smart over the course of the season. The courses were as follows:

#### Endurance event group

20 April 2017 (Intermediate to Advanced level)  
15 June 2017 (Intermediate to Advanced level)  
17 August 2017 (intermediate to Advanced level)  
16, 23 & 30 September 2017 (Basic level for Trans-Tasman and IP athletes)  
21 September 2017 (Basic level)  
15 February 2018 (Intermediate to Advanced level)  
1 March 2018 (Basic to Intermediate level)

#### Sprint event group

3 September 2017 (Intermediate to Advanced level)  
16, 23 & 30 September 2017 (Basic level for Trans-Tasman and IP athletes)  
21 September 2017 (Basic level)  
22 February 2018 (intermediate to Advanced level)

#### Throws event group

16, 23 & 30 September 2017 (Basic level for Trans-Tasman and IP athletes)  
28 September 2017 (Basic level)

#### Jumps event group

16, 23 & 30 September 2017 (Basic level for Trans-Tasman and IP athletes)  
28 September 2017 (Basic level)  
1 February 2018 (Intermediate to Advanced level)

We hope to continue these courses in the future and hold more clinics with coaches in the region. These informal courses will be part of the new coach accreditation process.

### ANZ Coach accreditation

The new ANZ Coach Accreditation membership process was released in June 2018 and heralds a new “professionalism” for coaches. It is hoped that as many of our regions coaches will take this opportunity as they will be acknowledged for their existing coaching experience. The process will also promote coaches to demonstrate continual learning and recognition of competency. Modules are now in place for new coaches to the sport to learn the basic’s online.



### AAI Coach manager upskilling Course

Active – Sport and Recreation Auckland: Coach Developer course.

Neil Bartlett attended a two-day seminar held by Aktive at the AUT Millennium on 30 and 31 May. There were four Aktive trainers and 17 participants from a range of sports throughout the Auckland region. The course was very challenging, putting everyone outside their comfort zone. On day one, a lot of group brainstorming sessions were done in groups of four, which had to be presented to everyone. On day two, in groups of eight, we each had to present for 12 minutes on a specific subject with the emphasis on the “Coaches” at the centre of the “learning”. Then each person had to review another Coach Developer’s presentation.

The most interesting aspect was that each Coach Developer had many issues with their role, as they struggled to separate their coaching role from that of a coach developer. This course provided some clarity on how to deliver information to coaches, with the coaches leading the instruction and the coach developer being the “facilitator”.

It is planned to introduce these learnings to our coaching force over the coming season.

### John Walker Find your Field of Dreams

This is a continuation of the scheme from 2016 where Athletics Auckland coaches deliver a skill and agility conditioning programme to school students, especially within the Papakura region. This is promoted by the Foundation lead by CEO Rick Pickard with funding from the Papakura District Council. The goal is to promote movement skills to give confidence to athletes and to show that athletics is a sport of choice in their region.

The schools that have committed to the programme in 2018 are as follows:

Rosehill Intermediate, Drury Primary, Papakura Intermediate and Edmund Hillary school.

Other schools and colleges have expressed an interest in this programme, so the future is bright for continuation of this scheme for years to come.



## Aspire Development academy

The main three-day academy was moved to the 9-11 October 2017, as a lead into the track and field season. We had 52 participants, which was a pleasing number, with 8 leading Auckland coaches presenting coaching sessions over the four event groups: Distance, Sprints, Jumps and Throws. The Academy is open to club and school athletes. Most of the Athletic events were covered over the three days including pole vault.

Over the course of 2018 we introduced “mini” Academies which were also successful.

January 15/16 2018: Two-day event for Sprinters, Throwers and Jumpers.

April 23/24 2018: Two-day event for Distance athletes, led by James Kuegler of the Papakura club.

The pleasing factor with the Aspire Academy is that the majority of participants remain in the sport.

## Auckland Regional Athletics Coaching programme: (ARACP)

This programme was delivered by the AAI Coach Manager to Junior clubs in the Auckland region. It provides coaching to parents, new coaches and athletes in the basics of the traditional events. Most were delivered on club nights with some selecting a training day. The clubs that took opportunity of the free sessions were as follows:

Beachlands/Maraetai, Hillsborough, Lynndale, Manurewa, Pakuranga, Papatoetoe, Pt, Chevalier, Pukekohe and Waiuku.

I hope that the Auckland regions coaches embrace the new environment for developing themselves for be better. My goal is to support all coaches in the Auckland region to achieve this.

Neil Bartlett  
AAI Coach Manager





## Officials

Congratulations to Anthony Curry who was one of five New Zealand officials selected for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Anthony was the Assistant Track and Video Referee.

Congratulations also to Murray McKinnon and Alisha Lovrich, both of who were accredited media personnel for the Games.

Other congratulations go to Tony Sargisson has been confirmed as an International Area Technical Official - Walks for 2018-2021, and to Anthony Curry and John Phillips who have been confirmed as International Area Technical Officials for 2018-2021.



Jenny Bristow and Thelma Teesdale were jointly awarded the Auckland Official of the Year Award and Abby Baptist the Junior Official of the Year Award for 2017-18.

This followed on from Karen Hinkley and Peter Booker who were jointly awarded the Auckland Official of the Year Award for the 2016/17 year and Anne Bartley who was awarded the Junior Official of the Year Award for 2016/17.

Our thanks to Paul Craddock our (Regional Officials Educator – ROE) who ran a number of courses throughout the year. These courses are to assist athletes, club administrators, parents and officials to understand the Competition Rules and gain qualifications and gradings.

We will have two Officials Educators in the 2018/19 year, Paul Craddock and Lauren Kidd. This provides us with twice the opportunity to hold officials courses this coming year and ensures continuity in the coming seasons when Lauren steps up to take over from Paul.

Some clubs have already taken the opportunity of two ROE's to request and hold courses at local clubrooms. Clubs and individuals interested in attending official's courses should send an email to our Educators at [athleticsaucklandofficials@gmail.com](mailto:athleticsaucklandofficials@gmail.com).

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Kirsten Hellier who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to sport, particularly athletics in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Kirsten has represented New Zealand with distinction in the sport of athletics. She is nine times New Zealand women's javelin throwing champion, 1987, 1989-95 and in 1999 and is the first New Zealand woman to throw the javelin 50m and 60m. In 1988 she was a finalist at the world junior championships in Sudbury Canada finishing 11th. She competed at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games finishing eighth, and at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. She is New Zealand Olympian number 673 having represented New Zealand at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games where she finished a creditable 15th.

In 1994 she won the silver medal in the javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria Canada. With this considerable experience in throwing her service to the sport is now in coaching. She set Dame Valerie Adams on her path of success coaching her from 1998 to 2010. She has coached numerous athletes to New Zealand titles and representation. Kirsten was coach of the year at the Halberg Awards in 2007 and 2008. Kirsten is currently an Athletics New Zealand High Performance programme coach for throws.

And congratulations to Alison Brearley who received the Queen's Service Medal for services to sport and education.

Alison has held a number of administration and coaching roles with the Manurewa Netball Association and the Manurewa Athletic and Harrier Club. She was one of the first women to gain an official coaching certificate from the New Zealand Amateur Athletics Association and was a track umpire at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games. Alison is currently a committee member of the Papakura Athletic and Harrier Club.

## The Future

Both the Board and Sections expect to bring a number of changes to athletics over the coming 2018-19 year. These include Constitution changes and changes to the delivery of our sport.

Constitution changes are required, with details on these mentioned later in the report.

With the ongoing cooperation between the junior and senior sections we expect to continue the move to combining the track and field calendar and programme of events. This will include combining the Centre Championships over two weekends.

One of the aspects of athletics that I do not like is losing members. As part of the survey and retention project we started a year ago, we have identified that we lose 50% of new members in their first year of joining clubs throughout the Auckland athletics region. The highest drop off is apparently with athletes aged 9 years of age.

We have athletes, parents and club administrators saying they want coaches, yet few clubs have taken up the offer of coaching that AAI provides free to all clubs. I know there are many athletes and many families in both children's athletics, seniors and masters who want competition. And yet, we have few athletes turning up prior to North Island secondary school championships in December and prior to Christmas.

These are conflicting examples where we are asked to help our athletes, yet many athletes and clubs do not appear to take up those opportunities.



Do we want more athletes competing and enjoying the sport, or do we want more elite athletes – quantity over quality? I would like both. So how do we go about achieving this?

The first thing we have to understand is that athletics is about fitness. We need to look to involving the younger athletes in 'Get Set Go' and 'Walk Run Jump Throw' programmes at club level, build upon this with coaching in the athletic events and teach them the rules of the events. Help build good character, good manners, good values, routine and commitments. This is usually something that is a family responsibility, yet I argue it is an Athletics Auckland and club responsibility if we wish to grow the numbers within our sport. At the junior level of athletics, building strong family connections in our sport is more vital than building the athlete. Once athletes learn fitness and learn the rules of events at club level they are ready for competition. Without parent help at the club and without coaching this is not going to happen and will result in athletes not returning for a second or subsequent years.

The demographics of every club is completely unique. It would be foolish to expect that what works for one club will work at all clubs, though what will work at every club is good coaching and teaching the protocols of the events.

One particular club has noted that not all parents turn up to a club night. Some of these parents are either very new to the country, struggle financially, struggle socially or lack the basic communication skills to enable them to feel confident enough to be a part of a club night. Some of these athletes are often funded by their local school or community group to provide them with an activity to participate in after school. How do we cater to such a broad range of athletes across a region of immense social diversity?

Like others, I struggle to understand the pathway for athletes from age 9 or 10 (the group we lose more than any other), especially when we see some marvellous athletic performances yet limited



coaching within many of the smaller clubs. Providing coaching to these athletes is why the Central North West and Counties-Manukau clusters were set up, recognising that coaching is not available at all clubs and that by providing it at a combined level between clubs offering and providing the coaching that is needed.

From 'club to hub' and by providing coaching as athletes grow, we provide a very clear pathway from club to secondary school for athletes. Providing the pathway and enabling younger athletes to see the pathway as they move to college could possibly keep athletes in the sport. We work very closely with the John Walker Find your Field of Dreams Foundation and have found that for many college students, this is their first involvement in athletics. Unfortunately, this confirms that there is minimal relationship between schools and clubs.

While some families pick their high schools based on the school's performance, athletics is not necessarily a reason for selecting a school to go to. Establishing a working relationship with schools will help to promote athletics and enhance the pathway for athletes.

The lack of relationships here is not the club volunteers fault, it is due to a fundamental divide in the way the transition from club to school has been handled by our regional and national administrators. I know the Central North West and Counties-Manukau clusters are working on uniting Auckland region secondary school's athletics and helping promote our sport from year 8, as they help set up pathways for intermediate school aged athletes moving onto secondary schools. This is a great start and one that I keenly support as the work being done here will grow our sport.

One recent change has been the introduction of the Competitions Committee (Dianne Craddock, Fiona Maisey and Anthony Curry). The committee was required so we could put together our calendar of events for the next two years. This is required so we can provide Auckland Stadiums (a division of the Auckland Council) with the dates and programme of events so they can accommodate our track events with other users of Mt Smart. It is Auckland Stadiums requirement for us to list our events two years ahead, and the only way to consider and to try to cover the possible events and dates was to work cooperatively together across the sections.

The committee consists of both track sections and the cross-country and road section and has enabled us to avoid much back and forwarding of emails, enabled us to set out our calendar two years ahead and allowed for compromise of timing and venues between the sections.



## Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 April 2018

Athletics Auckland Inc Statement of Profit or Loss for the year ended 30 April 2018				
2017			2018	2018
	<b><u>BOARD</u></b>			
	<i>Income</i>			
56,625	Registrations & Membership		49,983	
18,000	Administration Levies		18,000	
1,826	Club Affiliation Fees		1,826	
76,451	Total Subscriptions			69,809
26,151	Apparel, Equipment & Sundries		19,424	
64,726	Grants & Donations Received		46,287	
5,407	Coaching & Development		3,898	
2,931	Gym Memberships		2,057	
7,306	Interest & Dividends Received		6,192	
106,521	Total Activity & Investment Income			77,858
182,972	Total Board Income			147,667
	<i>less Expenses</i>			
38,932	Administration Expenses	13,812		
2,758	Athletics Development	32,106		
10,677	Coaching Expenses	8,733		
7,936	Depreciation	3,349		
1,043	Equipment Purchases & Maintenance	1,369		
20,000	Grants Expended	16,887		
4,191	Printing & Stationery	3,742		
1,987	Repairs & Maintenance	1,465		
1,069	Security	640		
67,721	Wages & Salaries	81,936		
685	A.C.C. Expenses	254		
2,861	Telephone & Tolls	2,406		
159,860	Total Board Expenses		166,699	
23,112	Board Operating Profit			(19,032)
	<i>Divisions Operations</i>			
-	JWFOD		-	
(2,885)	VMG 2017		(2,123)	
38,655	Track & Field		3,866	
20,546	Cross Country & Road		9,012	
8,206	Juniors		26,078	
64,522				36,833
87,633	Total Operating Profit			17,801
68,918	Donated Equipment		-	
156,551				17,801

## Our Clubs

AMMI School of Sports & Fitness  
 Auckland City Athletic Club  
 Auckland City Triathlon Club  
 Auckland University Track Club  
 Avondale Athletics Club  
 Beachlands Maraetai Athletics Club  
 Calliope A and H Club Inc  
 Eastern Athletic and Harrier Club  
 Ellerslie Amateur A and H Club Inc  
 Glen Eden A and H Club Inc  
 Hibiscus Coast Athletic Club  
 Hibiscus Coast Harrier and Triathlon Club  
 Hillsborough Junior Athletic Club  
 Lynndale Amateur A and H Club  
 Mangere Otahuhu Athletic Club  
 Manurewa Amateur Athletic and Harrier Club  
 Massey Athletic Club  
 North Harbour Bays Athletics Inc  
 Onehunga A and H Club Inc

Oratia Running Club  
 Owairaka Amateur Athletic Club  
 Pakuranga Athletic Club  
 Papakura Athletic and Harrier Club  
 Papatoetoe Amateur Athletic and Harrier Club  
 Point Chevalier Amateur Athletics  
 Pukekohe Amateur A and H Club  
 Racewalking Auckland Inc  
 Riverhead Athletic Club  
 Roskill South AAC  
 Takapuna Amateur A and H Club Inc  
 Te Atatu Athletic Club  
 Technical H and A Club  
 The Auckland YMCA Marathon Club  
 Waiuku Districts Amateur Athletic Club  
 Waitakere City Athletic Club Inc  
 Warkworth Athletic and Harrier Club  
 Wesley Harrier and Athletic Club Inc  
 Western Elite Throws Academy-Athletics Club Inc

## Our Funders and Partners





## Our People

Murray McKinnon QSM JP - President

David Sim - Chairman

Jim Hogg - Treasurer

Sasha Daniels - Solicitor

Anthony Curry - Director

Bryce Hall - Director

Fiona Maisey - Director and Junior Track & Field Convenor

Peter Booker - Track & Field Convenor

Dianne Craddock - Cross Country & Road Convenor

Simon Yarrow - Appointed Director

Fa'alogo Simaile Niko Toluono - Appointed Director (Resigned mid-term)

Raewyn Rodger - Office Manager

Neil Bartlett - Coaching Manager

Fiona Free - Competition Coordinator

*Photo credits to Alisha Lovrich and Michael Dawson from Temposhot Photography*



