



Presidents Report – 2017/18

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 23rd 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 Keereweer-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.

Dick Quax -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.

Graham Davy - 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.