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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns played havoc with the scheduling of events and the opportunity of competition.

The cross-country season was finally able to get underway at Long Bay in late June, followed by Pukekohe and the ACA Southland Centennial Relays at the later date than usual of 18 July. Due to Auckland being at a higher lock-down level than the rest of the country Auckland athletes were unable to attend the New Zealand cross country challenge in Dunedin. Penelope Salmon of ACA was able to attend as she lived outside Auckland, and she was second in the under 18 5km. Auckland runners were excluded from the 2020 Rotorua marathon which was held later in September.

Relief at last for Auckland runners as they were allowed to attend the New Zealand Road Relay Championships in Feilding on 3 October.

Success for Auckland Clubs were: North Harbour Bays won the senior women, Auckland City Athletics second in the junior women, Pakuranga first in the junior men and second in the senior men, Owairaka second in the master men 35-49 and second in the master men 50-59, Auckland University third in the master men 60 plus.

The track and field season started on 10 October with the first McKinnon Shield meeting on 10 October.

Auckland hosted the New Zealand Road championships at Bruce Pulman Park on 8 November, where Alana Barber won the 20km road walk and Sarah-Amy Rhind was third. Kelly Parlane was third in the senior women's 10km.

The 2021 New Zealand Track and Field championships in Hastings were postponed from the first weekend in March to the last weekend.

Auckland athletes won 39 gold medals, 39 silver medals and 11 bronze medals, including relays. The figure reflects the smaller fields and the lack of U18 athletes (apart from those competing as U20s).

For comparison, in 2020 the Auckland Team won 55 golds 38 silvers 34 bronzes - but this included U18 grade athletes.

New Zealand senior champions from Auckland were:

Hamish Gill 400m,
Joshua Hawkins 110m hurdles,



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

Connor Bell discus throw,
Anthony Nobilo hammer throw,
Scott Thompson triple jump,
Ettiene Du Preez pole vault,
Men 4 x 100m relay (George Kozlov, Hamish Gill, Tommy Te Puni, Matthew Wyatt).
Zoe Hobbs 100m,
Camryn Smart 400m,
Amy Robertson 100m hurdles,
Portia Bing 400m hurdles,
Dame Valerie Adams shot put,
Kaia Tupu-South discus throw,
Women 4 x 100m relay (Amy Robertson, Symone Tafunai, Livvy Wilson, Briana Stephenson),
Women 4 x 400m relay (Portia Bing, Isabel Neal, Zoe Hobbs, Camryn Smart).

Just outside the reporting period Jono Jackson won the New Zealand Mountain running title in Queenstown in mid-April.

New Zealand Records set

New Zealand records set by Auckland athletes:

Zoe Hobbs NHB 100m resident record 11.35 on 16 January 2021, and 11.32 on 26 March 2021 which also equaled the national record.

Portia Bing NHB 400m hurdles resident record 55.99 on 13 February 2021.

Connor Bell NHB discus throw resident record 64.29m on 23 January 2021.

[Welrè Olivier](#) Pakuranga under 19 and under 20 long jump 7.73m on 17 November 2020, and under 19 and under 20 triple jump 15.94m on 8 December 2020.

Ethan Olivier Pakuranga under 17 triple jump 15.27m on 8 December 2020 and 15.54m on 16 April 2021.

We have completed a satisfactory year despite the restrictions. Our membership has held up well at 5,330, down just 324 from last year.

With vaccination underway and tighter control on our boarders we look forward to an uninterrupted 12 months of competition.

Murray McKinnon

President

Obituaries

Garth Gilmour 25 June 2020, of Auckland, noted athletic journalist and author.

Phillip Cooper 5 August 2020, founding and life member YMCA Marathon Club.

Ivan Keats 27 August 2020, Western Suburbs Club marathon runner and 1964 Olympian.

Bish McWatt 2 September 2020, prominent high jump coach and 1990 Commonwealth Games official.

Don Wiberg 16 February 2021, Onehunga Club, 1963 New Zealand Road champion.

Dick Chase 21 March 2021, Lynndale Club, New Zealand marathon record holder 1959.

Honours

Arch Jelley CNZM OBE, of the Owairaka Club, was made a companion of the New Zealand order of merit in the New Year Honours for services to athletics and the game of bridge. The 96-year old's vast list of achievements include coaching Sir John Walker to his gold medal triumph at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. Forty years later Arch yet again made his presence felt at Olympic level as 1500m runner Hamish Carson qualified for the Rio Olympic Games under his tutelage.

Murray McKinnon
President