

NZMA AGM Centre Reports 2024

(as at 13 February)

Northland Masters:

As we all enjoy a dry warm summer its time to reflect on the happenings in the North

We have continued to have monthly track meetings on a Sunday from October through to April, these only have small support from the regulars that are keen and at our Northland Track Champs held on the 6th February 5 members competed ...is it time to abandon special Master's events? Although up here we combine with the juniors as the same people doing the organizing.

Our congratulations go to Ian Calder who has achieved gold in the cross country and Road season and has been nominated for m65 distance runner of the year.

Northland has 7 members competing at the Nationals this weekend and we wish them all the best.

As Northland will be hosting the North Island Champs the weekend of 29th November we hope as many as possible will enter and maybe stay and enjoy some of Northland.

We hope to entice some of the Auckland officials to come north as we are rather short of graded officials.

Good luck to everyone for a successful weekend

Judith Stewart - Northland Masters president

Waikato-Bay of Plenty Masters Athletics Inc

With the AGM being held before the summer season has ended we have yet to complete our full schedule of events but a report on progress to date.

Our Warm-up Meetings were well supported but both had to be held in Tauranga due to the up-grading and re-laying of the foundations of the Porritt Track. This has now been completed with the Porritt Classic being one of the first to use it. Warm-up 1 (Oct) had 32 Competitors & warm-up 2 (Nov) 23.

Our Christmas meeting in Tauranga attracted 47 Including Officials.

Trophy day at Porritt attracted 49 to the new surface.

Our Multi Champs day is on 3 March. Followed by our Cross-Country in June.

I thank those who supported our events both assisting & competing or both. It makes for a fun-filled day together with banter & helpful advice.

There are always clashes of events which we have to cater for. It is disappointing that we cannot hold our Masters Champs on our traditional day of first week in March. I note that there is no other event involving Masters on the current calendar for this date. If it is booked early then Centres can work around this. February is a time when Secondary Schools have their athletics days & ANZ Centres hold their Championships. Athletics NZ still hold their Champs in March.

We are thankful to the Waikato Centre and regional clubs and welcome our many visitors to the Waikato/Bay of Plenty.

Membership: Our current paid-up membership is 79, 25 up on last year. The 19 NZMA based members were able to take part in the North Island Champs in Palmerston North in December. This "Stand-alone" meeting

was a credit to the Manawatu Centre. Long may we continue to be independent. I am sure WBOP Masters will support Whangarei for this to happen & subject to Board approval we will host the 2025 North Is event. While my tenure as President finishes this year, I will support at a committee level where I can.

Finances: Finances are remaining relatively healthy with prudent management by our Secretary/ Treasurer. Advertising sponsors allow us to produce our Newsletter but costs are eating into this income. We have attracted two new sponsors to cover the newsletter print costs. We thank them for their support. We are still able to put on most of our events free of entry to members who join up. We invested in a new set of throwing implements based in Tauranga and upgraded the Hamilton implements to meet standards This has met with mixed reaction as the shiny ones don't have the grip . Time will solve this dilemma. This transaction transferred cash to assets therefore not affecting our overall balance. The current year is on target to maintain our profitability.

Going Forward: - With two tracks fully operational at this stage, we are able to have all our members training on good surfaces.

The Athletic community in Tauranga is still strongly resisting the Events Centre which involves a great deal of unproductive time. Submissions are being heard and a decision on whether it goes onto the Long Term Plan will be made in April.

I would like to thank our Committee members for supporting & trusting both Fay & I in organising & running Waikato Bay of Plenty Masters for another year. As previously stated I am committed to stepping down as President at the next AGM. I have enjoyed being involved and have weathered the many changes & controversies in the process. I trust that NZ Masters will continue and grow as an independent entity in association with Athletics NZ.

Murray Clarkson - President.

Tasman Masters

Main activity over the past year has been the organisation and hosting of the 2024 South Island Masters Track & Field Championships in Nelson 19-21 January 2024. Although the number of entries at 56 were down a little on recent years, this was not unexpected as we are a small centre and it is a long way to travel from Southland and Otago. It was pleasing to have nine entries from North Island masters. It was also pleasing to have half of the 22 Tasman athletes under the age of 50, with many taking part in their first season on the track. Feedback has indicated that participants enjoyed the relaxed, low key and social nature of the champs. Many thanks to the athletes who supported the champs and the officials who made it possible, especially those from Christchurch and Dunedin.

Tasman masters have continued to take part in the regular Saturday morning and twilight T&F meets organised by Athletics Tasman for senior, youth and secondary aged athletes. They have also continued to take part in Athletics NZ championship events and achieved age group titles. These included:

- Tim Cross (M60) gold at the NZ Mountain Running Champs;
- Paula Canning (W50) and Graeme Lear (M70) won golds at the NZ Half Marathon Champs;
- Catherine Delaporte (W45) gold at the NZ Cross Country Champs;
- The Tasman team of Graeme Lear, Murray Hart and Derek Shaw won the 3-person M65+ team gold at the NZ Road Champs;
- The Athletics Nelson team (Dave Riddell, Ian Morrison, Derek Shaw, Maria Hillier, Graeme Lear and Barry Dewar) won the M70 grade at the NZ Road Relay champs on the new Loburn course in Canterbury; and

- Anni Pfitzinger (W30) has been selected in the NZ senior women's team for the World Cross Country Champs.

Derek Shaw

Canterbury Masters Athletics:

Over the past year, we continue to see a decline in the number of members registering as CMA (non-club) members (14). A majority of those members are our mature throwers, plus three or four sprinters. There still is about 220 masters registered within clubs, so you would think that masters athletes is doing well, given the potential number who could take part track & field. So why is it that only about 10 compete regularly over the summer in track & field. Even with the NZMA Championships being held here at Nga Puna Wai, we could only attract 43 entrants. Personally, given the efforts I put to keep the sport alive in Canterbury, that's pretty disappointing.

In my role as the Athletics Canterbury Board Chair, I am fully involved in all areas of the sport. When talking with the cross country and road committee members, they express concern at fewer athletes of all ages taken part in not-stadia events. We believe the free Parkrun on a Saturday morning has greatly affected participation at our events. They regularly attract 800 to the Hagley Park event each Saturday, with at least three other Parkruns around the region attracting between 200 & 400 at their events.

Every year we survey our members to find out how we can improve what we offer and what we need to do differently. When we get suggestions, make the change, it often does not result in greater participation numbers. What I have come to realise is that all we can do is offer meaningful events, for those who want to take part. If that means fewer people attending, so be it.

As mentioned before, Canterbury Masters and Athletic Canterbury have a great working relationship. The success of this weekend relies heavily of their support, plus we have called upon our younger members to out too. Like most Centres, we struggle to attract members to join committees, plus there are fewer coaches and coaches. I would like to acknowledge all who have been involved in athletics for a long time.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend

Andrew Stark - President

Southland Masters Athletics (SMA) Report to NZMA

After several meetings and discussions SMA have *combined* with Athletics Southland as the parent body. Both NZMA Constitution and the MOU between NZMA and Athletics NZ were read and taken into consideration. A Special AGM of SMA to action this, was held in conjunction with our AGM on 2nd September 2023.

Points for discussion centered around.

- The future structure of SMA.
- SMA representation on AS Board and the Track and Field Committee
We can nominate a SMA person who may then be voted onto AS Board. (Linda is currently on the board, and represents Southland Harriers, and has offered to look after our interests in the meantime)
- SMA still do need to have an Annual General Meeting. Planned to be in Sept/Oct at the Forrest Hill Reserve outing.
- SMA may need to have some input into the AS, Annual Summer Program.

- AS will take over SMA bank account
 - Payments only to be made with email permission of TWO of SMA committee
 - Info exchange was discussed, and Facebook pages for SMA and AS were recommended.
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- Evan is keen to have Southland “Records” continued. Best Performances is the preferred way these days. Barry is doing this.
 - Purchase of hurdles that adjust low enough for Masters events was decided.
 - This was actioned, but on arrival it was found the hurdles did not go down to 686mm as stated. Hurdles returned.
 - NOTE. Delayed/ non-response from World Games Trust request for assistance.
 - A 2 kg hammer and 2kg shot put, and further javelins were also raised, but not actioned.
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The Annual Manapouri CLASSIC, Throws Pentathlon was held on 5th & 6th January 2024 with a good attendance of happy throwers. Next year’s event will be Wed 8th & Thurs 9th Jan 2025

Lester Laughton. President.