

NZMA AGM – 13 March 2026 – Centre Reports

Northland:

Northland Masters Report 2026

Judith Stewart

As we near the end of another track season time to look back and reflect on what has worked for our Northland Masters, currently we have 30 members, not sure when we ever had that many before.

Oringa and Caroline decided we needed to change something for the Masters in Northland so they decided to have a Thursday night evening from 5.30pm, we certainly weren't getting anyone along to our Sunday Morning meets, it has certainly worked so congratulations to them and hopefully it will continue next season.

The next issue will be to get these members to compete in our North Island and National events.

With Harrier season starting in April we hope our Masters will turn up to our runs on a Saturday afternoon otherwise always the many events that are organised by sport Northland in the different areas of Northland.

Our AGM will be in July at Athletic Whangarei.

Auckland:

NZ Masters Nationals 2025 – Auckland Report

Phillipa Green

The 2025 NZ Masters Athletics Championships were held in fine conditions, with good weather experienced across all competition days. Entry numbers were strong, with over 170 athletes competing nationally, reflecting continued engagement and interest in Masters athletics.

Auckland athletes were well represented, with 104 competitors participating at the NZ Masters Nationals. In addition, Auckland was represented by 18 athletes at the Oceania Masters Championships, Brisbane in September 2025.

Performance standards at the 2025 National Championships were notably high. From the Championships through to 1 March 2026, a total of 55 AMA National Records were set. This included 43 outdoor records (36 men and 7 women) and a further 12 indoor records. Outstanding individual achievement was recorded by David Antiss (M80), who set the highest number of national records, with 8 outdoor and 6 indoor records.

In Auckland Track and Field competition, there continues to be limited participation from middle- and longer-distance Masters athletes. However, this contrasts strongly with cross-country participation, where Auckland Athletics Cross Country Grand Prix

events regularly attract up to 100 athletes per meeting. At the Auckland McKinnon Shield meeting, Masters athletes are seeded by entered times and placed into heats with similar performance levels, which has supported fair and competitive racing.

Club participation across Auckland remains uneven. North Harbour Bays (NHB) currently has the highest number of registered Masters members in Auckland, with approximately 60 athletes, while other clubs maintain relatively low membership numbers. Owairaka, TT Runners, Night Ninjas, and Whippets Racing continue to provide the strongest representation from Auckland in cross-country and national-level events.

Hawkes Bay Gisborne:

Hawkes Bay and Gisborne Masters' Athletics - Centre report 2025

Dennis O'Leary President

August 2025 HBG Masters' again hosted the NZMA National Indoor Athletics Championships. The venue being the Mitre 10 Sports Park indoor facilities in Hastings, adjacent to the outdoor athletics track. The event was well supported and ran smoothly thanks to the work of our small group of committee members, their families and the officials that volunteered help.

Feedback from competitors was great and HBG will be available to host the event in 2026 if needed. Events included 50m, 60m sprints and hurdles. Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Pole Vault and Shot Put. The event ran over a Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning making it convenient for athletes to travel and compete with the bonus of onsite accommodation.

HBG Masters has a positive relationship with Athletics Hawkes Bay. Master's athletes are included at weekly club events, inter Club, Centre league meets and the Annual Potts Classic event. Use of centre equipment is encouraged, and Athletics HBG were a great help with officials and helpers at the Indoor Championships.

It was with great sadness that in July 2025 we said farewell to our patron, life member and good friend Harry Marett. Harry passed away on the 10th of July 2025 aged 91 having been a founding member of HBG Masters Athletics. He was active as a competitor and committee member for many years. His knowledge, support and friendship will be sadly missed.

The 2025 athletics season brought success to our few active members. Many HBG records were set during the season, especially at the National Indoors meet.

The National outdoor Championships in Auckland late March were attended by a small group of HBG athletes who enjoyed success in many events. As was the case at the Oceania Masters Championships in Brisbane in early September.

With only a small membership of eleven athletes, our biggest challenge is trying boost that number. We seem to gain athletes only to lose another as they retire or move centres.

Our committee remains positive and excel themselves with organising events at North Island and National level and I thank them for their efforts over this last year.

Manawatu – Whanganui:

Manawatu-Wanganui Masters Athletics Club Annual Report 2026 Compiled by Jen Fee, Secretary

We are a very small club, covering the Rangitikei, Ruapehu, Whanganui, Manawatu, Tararua and Horowhenua regions. We are still operating with a healthy bank balance despite dwindling numbers. We manage this by holding between 4 and 6 events during the season which is open to all. We usually cater a lunch for a fee and most athletes are happy to pay the nominal entry.

We have found that when large events are held either in our region or close by our membership increases, but only for that season. As is typically seen in Masters sports world wide, injuries and/or health mean erratic continuation of membership roles.

From our club funds we donated \$5000 toward the new Photo-timing equipment at the Massey Athletics track and purchased a few pieces of equipment, whilst planning to obtain more equipment this year.

Whilst we have smaller membership numbers paying our \$5 club fee (14 in total across the 3 payment methods), these members have had a busy year, with 8 athletes competing internationally with some excellent results. There are also a number of athletics NZ members that are not curenly paid up to our Centre that have previously been. Some of these athletes have been again prolific in their results and we are very proud of them.

We had 5 athletes travel to Brisbane in September to the Oceania Masters Track and Field Champs. Sisters Dale McMillan and Vanessa Pendergrast with mum Beryl McMillan, as well as Brayden Grant and Hayden Robinson. Noni Callander and Jim Blair travelled to Tonga in October for the Oceania Athletics Masters Cup, and Vanessa Hodge travelled to Mexico in late September for the NCCMA Champs (North, Central American and Caribbean Masters Athletics).

Our club members also featured well overall in the annual Oceania Throws challenge, with Noni Callander 1st and Jill Evans 3rd in the W75 group, Richard Takurua 1st in M55, Laurie Malcolmson 1st in M75 and Jim Blair 1st in the M90 group! Beryl McMillan, Jen Fee and Dale McMillan all got 5th in their respective age groups.

This year's Colleena Blair Team Challenge unfortunately had minimal entries from outside the MWMA club so we again took the Shield. With more and more Athletics NZ events crowding the summer calendar, it is a challenge to get the recipe right for events to maximise entries, but this event, competed between the Wellington, HB/Gisborne,

Taranaki and MWMA masters clubs is set to stay on the Sunday of Wellington Anniversary weekend unless voted differently between these centres.

Early in the year we lost one of our long-term members in Michael Shepherd, and his presence has been missed at all our club nights and events. Mike and his wife Jan were planning to travel to Brisbane for Oceania's and already had everything planned but Mike unfortunately died on April 3rd 2025. We learnt so much about the quiet man during his funeral service! Dr Mike was a geomorphologist of renown, and some great stories were told.

We eagerly wait for new throwing circle nets to arrive for the main circle and in the meantime throw out of our secondary cage outside the main fence.

We are fortunate to have a group of officials in our club that keep us in line at events and are qualified to sign off any records. Francie Bayler, Dawn Melrose and Brian Curry also travel to officiate at ANZ events nationwide. Brian also looks after all the marking at the Massey Community Athletics Track and caring for the shared equipment. Our dedicated equipment is weighed and measured for competition. Thank you very much to you all.

We wish all our members and the wider Masters athletes of our regions all the very best for the upcoming competitions in 2026.

Wellington:

Wellington Masters Report for AGM

John Palmer

Performances:

Wellington Masters athletes performed well over the past year both locally and in other parts of the country. At the Cooks Garden, Whanganui on 25 January 2025 Kathrine Switzer set a W70 National and Wellington record for the 1 mile in a time of 8:39.96 and Nick Horspool (M40-44) running in the NZ Masters championship 1 mile ran a PB for 1st place in 4:42.22.

In the local interclub events Mel Brandon, Katie Jenkins and Betty Harp were consistent throughout the season winning regularly in their respective age grades. In the men there were a number of members consistent in making the podium but Graeme Morrison was the most consistent in his age grade.

A small number of Wellington Masters attended the Oceania Masters Championships in September and Jackie Wilson and Daphne Jones performed admirably in the race walks. Peter Hanson and Mark Macfarlane on the track and Adrian Stockill in the field events were others who performed well.

Michele Allison and Betty Harp attended the South Island Masters championships and both set Wellington and New Zealand Records. Betty Harp in the Mile in 6:45.75 (Wellington W65 record) and Michele Allison in the 3000m in 13:48.81 (Wellington W70 record), Mile in 7:27.51 (Wellington and NZ W70 Record), and 5000m 23:19.99 (Wellington and NZ W70 Record).

The Wellington Masters Athlete of the Year for 2025 hasn't be chosen yet and the committee has a list of athletes to look at their performances and choose the recipients at the April committee meeting.

In the New Years Honours list Wellington athletic stalwarts Peter and Sylvia Maunder who both received the King's Service Medal for decades of service to athletics. This is richly deserved for their many years of service, especially in Wellington where they both had top official qualifications for track and field events and prominent at Newtown Park, latterly in the Wairarapa and now at Paeroa.

Committee:

At the AGM held in September a new committee was elected along with a new President. The remaining committee were committee members from the previous year who stood again.

Membership:

At present our membership stands at 10 members who pay directly to Wellington Masters. This is made up of five competitive members, two social members and three life members. All other members belong to harrier clubs and are part of Masters as per the MoU formulated some years back. The list we were given recently had just over 300 names on it.

Constitution:

A new constitution for Wellington Masters was formulated and sent off to the Companies Office where it has been accepted by the Companies Office. Thanks to Keith Chapman who did a mammoth amount of work on formulating our new constitution.

Events:

As mentioned in the last report for the NZMA AGM the Classic Relay was cancelled owing to bad weather in Wellington. In July we held the Johnsonville 8km road race and 6.4 race walk. This event was held in overcast conditions with a light to moderate northerly wind. The numbers for this event were slightly down on the previous year. 16 runners and 11 walkers took part. The Jim Lockhart and Mariette Hewitson Baton for being closest to an age grade record was won by Darren Gordon.

A number of Wellington Masters regularly attend the Saturday meetings at Newtown Park and the mid-week evening meetings put on by Athletics Wellington.

Records:

There were a number of records set by Wellington Masters over the past year and these were ratified at the last committee meeting and are now up on the Wellington Masters website. There were local records as well as NZ records set in both on the track and non-stadia events.

Bereavements:

Sadly, we note the passing of John Heap and Karen Stockill.

Tasman:

Tasman Masters Report 2025-26

Derek Shaw

Participation & Performances

Tasman Masters athletes have continued to take part in a wide variety of Championship events and enjoyed considerable successes.

In January 2025, a team of six were at the SI Masters T&F Champs in Christchurch with three of them breaking SI Championship records. Ace sprinter Remy Le Brun improved his own M35 200m record from 24.16s to 23.91s. Tim Cross broke the 17-year-old M65 2000m steeplechase record by 17s with his time of 8:45.06. Pentathlete John Rawcliffe set a record distance in the M65 discus with a throw of 37.23m – an increase of 0.42m.

A team of 7 won 28 medals – 11 gold, 12 silver & 5 bronze – at the 2025 NZMA Champs at Mt Smart. M35 Remy La Brun claimed 3 golds with a clean sweep in the 60, 100 & 200m sprints and improved his own 60m championship record by 0.32s. W45 Jo Van Rensburg claimed golds in her 800 and 1500m. W70 Carey Dickason won golds in her hammer throw and track pentathlon. M70 David Riddell also won two golds – in his 400 and 800m. M65 Tim Cross won gold in the 2000m steeplechase and M70 Derek Shaw also won his 3000m.

M75 Barry Dewar had a successful couple of months during the winter with three NZ titles in non-stadia championships – the NZ Half Marathon in Wellington on 28 June, the NZ Cross Country in Christchurch on 2 August and the NZ 10k Roads in Cambridge on 30 August 2025. M70 Mike Morrissey claimed gold in the NZ Mountain Running Champs.

W45 Jo Van Rensburg, and 3 others from Tasman, travelled to Brisbane for the Oceania Masters Champs 6-10 September, to win golds in her 1500m and 2000m steeplechase. Joeline Jones took part in the North, Central & Caribbean Masters Champs in Mexico.

The 2025 Spectacle in Nelson on 6 December 2025 included the NZ Road Mile Champs. Tasman masters won the following grades: W70 Maria Hillier; M35 Tegan Goodman; M40 Barney Hoskins; M45 Nige Burgess; M65 Tim Cross and M75 Barry Dewar.

Tasman Masters hosted the SI Masters T&F Champs at Saxton Field 23-25 January 2026 which attracted 74 entries from both islands, plus a Tasmanian, up from 56 two years earlier. Tasman masters who achieved SI Championship records were: W50 Liezel De Wet TJ; M35 Remy Le Brun 100m & 200m; M65 John Rawcliffe 60m; M35 Tegan Goodman 3000m; M65 Peter Hague 1500m & 5000m RWs plus NZ National Records in 1500m & 5000m RWs.

Tasman Masters have been joining in the Athletics Tasman Saxton Meets (10 years +).

Coming up in Nelson at The Spectacle event on 5 December 2026, are the NZ 5km Road Champs and NZ Long Trail Champs.

Canterbury:

Andrew Stark

Canterbury Masters are integrated with Athletics Canterbury, enabling participation in interclub meetings and the opportunity to compete alongside younger athletes. In previous years, Anne and Rick Davison have coordinated throwing events specifically for mature masters athletes; these events typically take place during the week or on Sunday mornings. Due to health concerns, Rick has reduced his involvement this season, and Justine Whitaker has assumed responsibility for organizing some of these activities.

Currently, we have a limited number of runners participating in interclub competitions or traveling internationally. Notable recent performances include Joden Pratten in the M40 discus (NZMA record 43.69m), Craig Oliver in the M40 800m (NZMA record 1:57.78), and Louise Martin in the W60 60m (NZMA record 9.03).

There are currently 18 members who belong solely to the Canterbury Masters Association (CMA), while all other masters athletes—over 200 individuals—are affiliated with clubs. The committee is presently inactive; however, we do maintain representation on the Athletics Canterbury Track & Field Committee.

Canterbury is among the select Centres that holds Incorporated status. Accordingly, efforts were made to update, approve, and upload our new constitution.

In January 2027, Canterbury will host the combined OMA/NZMA Championships. We look forward to welcoming many participants to this event.

Otago:

OTAGO MASTERS report for NZMA AGM

Noeline Burden

Some highlights of the past year:

Once again, we had a positive response to our Have a Go sessions in October and November. It has been gratifying to see the progress some of these new athletes have made during the season, with both their confidence and performance. Sunday afternoons proved to be good timing for these 2-hour sessions. A fortnight before the Masters Games in Dunedin, another Have a Go (with more specific focus on requested events) was offered.

Nine Otago athletes competed in Nelson at the South Island Champs. Alison Newall, Fiona Harvey and Simon Maole all broke South Island records.

Our numbers doubled for our recent 5km self-handicapped walk or run. With more promotion it was good to see new faces enjoying this fun event on a Wednesday evening.

The beginning of the season saw the construction of the weight throws cage. Otago Masters, with financial support from the 4th World Veteran Games Trust, and Malcolm Giles handyman skills, were pleased to be able to offer our throwers a regulation cage, within the competition field.

In November Tony Tan competed in the Asian Championships. With 7 or 8 heats in all 3 of his events, he achieved highly commendable results: 3rd in the 100m and 400m, 4th in the 200m.

Our committee of nine works well together. In addition to those with responsibility for finances, trophies, records, uniforms and secretarial duties, we are out there providing opportunities and promoting masters athletics to anyone showing interest and to many who just might, with some encouragement.

In total there are 59 regular track and field Masters. 48 of these belong to clubs and 11 to NZMA.

We have a mutually beneficial relationship with Athletics Otago. Masters are included in the weekly track and field meets and when not competing many of the masters help with officiating. When events like the Secondary School champs and national events are run by Otago Athletics, Masters are there to help where needed. The AO events manager and the development manager have both attended our monthly meetings and we are included in their yearly planning and in their awards night. We are grateful for their support.

Looking ahead Otago is hosting the NZMA Nationals in March 2028.