

UP-FRONT

Editorial

By: Bryan Mayall

Welcome to the first edition of our Up Front for the 2014-15 season. Well done to those Masters who have survived the rather soggy weather conditions that we have had for the Winter season. Better days ahead as we transition into another exciting track and field season with an exciting programme planned.

For the couch potatoes we have been treated to some magnificent coverage of firstly the World Soccer Cup in Brazil and just recently the awesome coverage the Commonwealth Games. So many highlights from the performances of our athletes especially in the cycling.

Also great to see a couple of members from the Hamilton Hawks Zane Robertson winning bronze in the 5000m, Julia Ratcliffe silver in the Hammer and David Nyika ex member taking out the gold medal in his boxing class. I enjoyed the drama of Mike Shelley

from Australia chasing down S.Chanleng from Kenya in the marathon.

For those Masters into the anti doping scandal of Lance Armstrong and want an enthralling read try Emma O'Reilly's book The Race to Truth. She goes behind the scenes and relates her amazing experience as a soigneur (masseur) to the US Postal team including Lance Armstrong in the 1991 Tour de France. She was instrumental in exposing Lance Armstrong 's cover up in the well documented doping saga.

Finally all the best to our Masters for the 2014-15 track and field season. Lots of events coming up to challenge yourself.

COMING EVENTS - 2014 - 2015

- September 21 Whakatane Challenge Weight Pentathlon 10am Edgecumbe College
- October 4 N Z Road Relay Champs Christchurch
- October 12 Oceania Throws (weight) Pentathlon Tauranga 12 noon
- October 19 WBOP Warm Up Meeting 12 noon Porritt Stadium
- November 9 WBOP Warm Up Meeting 12 noon Tauranga
- November 28-30 NZMA North Island Track & Field Champs Hastings
- December 5-7 South Island Track & Field Champs Dunedin
- December 14 WBOP Christmas Meeting 12 noon Tauranga
- 2015**
- January 17,18 WBOP Masters Champs Tauranga
- February 22 WBOP Trophy Day 12 noon Porritt Stadium
- February 27, 28,1 March NZMA National Track & Field Champs Tauranga
- March 8 WBOP v Auckland Masters Challenge Auckland

OFFICE BEARERS

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 Vice President: Bruce Solomon 075422064
 Membership Secretary: Judy Chandler 07 8567674
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Subscription Reminder

Subscriptions are now due for the 2014-15 season. Please fill in the enclosed form and send to our Membership Secretary Judy Chandler.

Annual General Meeting Report**Bryan Mayall**

This years AGM was held on Sunday 24 August 2014 at the Cambridge Athletic and Harrier Clubrooms.

Murray Clarkson our president welcomed the 20 members present and presented his annual report. Some of the highlights in his report were.

- 1) Although we had no major event at either Hamilton or Tauranga this year our membership was steady at 93 members slightly down on last year. It is anticipated that holding the 2015 Nationals in Tauranga next year will boost numbers. It was also mentioned that WBOP have one of the largest memberships .
- 2) The president also highlighted that the winter events have proved popular being spread over the region.
- 3) Also we were able to finish the year with a small increase in funds and anticipate no increase in fees for the ensuing 12 months.
- 4) Mention was made of our athletes who have performed exceptionally well during the year at North Islands, National and International events.
- 5) Murray also thanked his committee for their support and direction and also to all those who assisted with officiating and setting up events.

Murray Clarkson was elected President for a further term with Bruce Solomon as Vice President/ Secretary We welcome Bev Savage and Graeme Adams to the committee.

The Annual Subscription will remain at \$60 of which \$45 goes to NZMA

At the end of the meeting the winner of the Wynn Abel Trophy for the WBOP Masters Athlete of the year was announced. The nominations this year were, Sally Gibbs W50, Bruce Solomon M50, Bev Savage W65, Stew Foster M75, Kimberley Wells W30.

This years winner was once again Sally Gibbs for her consistently high standard and world class performances. The judges made comment on the very high standard of all the nominations.

The winner of the Committee Award Trophy this year went to Brendan Magill.

Presidents Report**Murray Clarkson**

Welcome to a new financial year. I would like to welcome new members and thank those who have already paid. With prudent spending and cost savings we have been able to continue our Subscriptions at the same level.

This year, we need to make a concerted effort to have former members who did not re-register last year come back again into the fold. No doubt some have valid reasons, but there are also those who have drifted away due to their being no major local event to target. If we can do something else to create more interest please let me or a committee member know.

Notwithstanding this, any new member should be encouraged and made welcome.

We welcome Graeme Adams and Bev Savage to our committee and look forward to their input. Thanks go to Ray Laurie who is standing down. We have appreciated his work providing reports for Vetline and assistance at events. No doubt we will continue to consult with him in the future.

The Track season is approaching fast and all our meetings are in place and booked with the Councils concerned. The 2015 National event L O C is working away behind the scenes and making sure nothing is left to the last minute.

The winter cross country and road championships run by Athletics New Zealand on our behalf. It is disturbing to me that non-NZMA members can compete and take medals. I have expressed my concerns to our Board and will keep onto them about this.

To all members, get that preparation in now for the summer and be ready to set good bench-mark performances on 19th October to start your new season well. This will create a positive attitude toward the 2015 Nationals in Tauranga.

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Winter Season Runs

Judy Chandler

Our Winter Waikato – Bay of Plenty Masters Walk/Run Sundays. I only managed to make it to two of these days, both very enjoyable.

First to Whakatane 18 May, this was a real treat as we don't often get over that Bay of Plenty way. Perfect day and we were lucky to be able to use the Whakatane Athletics and Harrier Club rooms as our base. Not too many of us there, never mind. The walk was great fun across the park and up the steep hill –very steep! behind Whakatane township, great views across the town to the North and West. I think this track we walked up is part of the Toi's Challenge course. Great fun and thank you Linda for being our guide. After a delicious afternoon tea we drove home via Rotorua to complete the circuit.

Then next – our walk/run around the Hamilton Lake 18 May, our Lake Rotorua, on a beautiful Sunday after the worst Saturday weather - so lucky. About 15 of us walked and ran. Is a very popular walk so is always busy with folk walking with their children, their dogs, running and feeding the ducks etc. Everyone brought along something for our enjoyable afternoon tea by the Yacht Club.

There is just a new book published - \$20.00, of the history of our Lake with lots of old photographs. It is available at the Veranda Café. I used to live just 200m from the Lake and used to swing on the old swings in early 1940s! So is always special spot for me to go.

Porritt Stadium Upgrade**Bryan Mayall**

Unfortunately we will be without the use of Porritt Stadium from 22 October through to 31 January. This upgrade has been long overdue, apart from minor upgrades. The last full upgrade was in 1995. The council plan to have a fully laned grass track on the outside field.

Snippets

Congratulations to Kevin Bradley who cleaned up in the recent British Masters Track and Field Champs at Birmingham on August 9-10 August.

Kevin won gold medals in the M70 Weight Throw PB of 17.23 and 40.34 in the Hammer event in his new age group of M70.

We wish you all the best Kevin who incidentally has recently retired from Wintec and look forward to more record breaking performances.

Also we welcome new Masters Athletics members from Te Kuiti Johan Van Zyl who is a thrower and competes in the M55 grade. Also Sue Su our new member with Lodge Frankton Club competing in sprints up to 400m in the W65 grade.

Marcia Petley, after over 63 years living in Ellicott Road has moved to 80 Tuhikaramea Road

Tribute to Thelma Copeman**Bryan Mayall and Judy Chandler**

It was with some sadness that we said farewell on Monday 18 August to Thelma Copeman who passed away on 13 August aged 86 years. Thelma was well known as an athletics official for many years and wife to another well known identity in our Masters Athletics Association, our Life Member Fred Copeman.

Thelma will be remembered as a time keeper, usually chief timekeeper, all those years before we had electronic timing. Thelma along with Fred officiated at the 1974 and 1990 Commonwealth Games. Fred says that she was the only woman official at the Christchurch Games.

Early on she became involved with athletics with their children and went along with Fred as he toured around explaining and giving lectures to and teaching folk about the Athletics Rule Book. Fred says that if he made a mistake she soon let him know - So Thelma learnt from Fred - the Master Trainer.

As well as time keeping, Thelma was expert official for field events, any field events. At the Christchurch Commonwealth Games she was in charge of taking the athletes to their various competitions.

She was also very involved with supporting Fred as he announced at various Boxing events.

Fred used to host Tonic Time Radio on Friday nights at Waikato Hospital and Thelma would be there with him helping, rushing into the music library room to find the music or songs for the patient's request session, passing them to Fred to play over the air.

In 1992 they received the Gold Disc Award for service to Tonic Time Radio.

In recent years Thelma could always be called on to help out at our various Masters Meetings at Porritt Stadium.

