

Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty Cross Country & Road Report 2014 2015

Over the past 12 months we have seen a continued decline in our sport which needs to be reversed. A new membership system has been initiated to try and build our numbers as well as a participation incentive to encourage athletes to take part in interclub. There is no doubt that we have lost our base on all aspects. Our competitive numbers dropped as many athletes look to alternative events which do lead to greater participation in our sanctioned events.

There is a need to foster coaching in our sport and encourage coaches to support the pathways for athletes to “Championship Events” and bring quality to our sanctioned events. The Centre is dominated in our sport by three clubs being Hamilton City Hawks, Lake City Athletics and Athletics Tauranga Inc. There is a need for clubs in other towns to step up and encourage their athletes travel to events.

I refer to the referees reports summaries prepared by the Kennys for information on how as a Centre we performed.

Nationally Dawn Tuffery & Russell Lake were the winners of the 2014 100km Championship while Sally Gibbs second Open Womens Mountain Race and followed up with the New Zealand Womens Marathon Championships title ahead of Jess Ruthe at Rotorua.

New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country at Palmerston North saw Jacob Priidey 4th Senior Boy, Anneke Grogan and Arianna Lord 5th & 9th Senior Girls respectively, with Isiah Priddey 2nd Junior Boys and Samuel Tanner 1st Year 9 Boys.

Camille Buscomb won the Senior Womens New Zealand Cross Country in Christchurch where age group medallists included John Crane MM50, Sally Gibbs MW50 first, Murray Clarkson MM65 second and Jacob Priddey Junior Men third.

Camille Buscomb made it a winter double with the New Zealand Road Running Championship title at Tauranga, John Crane MM50 and Trevor Ogilvie MM65, with seconds to Jacob Priddey Junior Men, Anneke Grogan Junior Women, Emerson Deverell Youth Women, Tony Broadhead MM45, Gavin Smith MM60, Sid Pavett MM80. Thirds to Talia Horgan Junior Women, Debra Paine Youth Women , Murray Clarkson MM65 and Bridget Deverell MW45. Team medals Gold Junior Women, Silver Youth women & Masters Men 50+, Bronze Masters Men 35-49.

Sally Gibbs added the recent 2015 Womens Open Mountain Race Championships title with Steve Rees-Jones winning the Masters Men 40 comfortably.

I would like to thank all the clubs for hosting events to continue supporting the sport in the future. A special thanks to Pam Kenny, Dennis Kenny, the referees and Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty personnel particularly Steve Rees-Jones our Centre administrator.

Malcolm Taylor

