

# UP-FRONT

**Editorial**

By: Bryan Mayall

Welcome to the first summer Edition of our Up Front for the 2015-16 season. Another busy season is planned as our Winter season is drawing to a close. Well done to our Masters who have indulged in some of our off the track runs. Welcome back to our Masters athletes who competed with distinction at Lyon who would have been encouraged and challenged with their respective experiences. Congratulations to Marcia Petley and Sally Gibbs for winning medals in their respective events. Well done also to our throwers Kevin Bradley and Yohan Van Zyl who competed well in their respective events.

I am sure we all will have been impressed and excited by the great Sky coverage of the recent World IAAF championships at Beijing recently. Many individual highlights for me personally but was unexpected to

see our WMA Champ. Liz Wilson compete with distinction in a special W50 400m event was amazing. The Kenyan javelin thrower throwing over 92m was amazing considering he fell flat on his face on the runway as he delivered the javelin. Unfortunately no medals for our athletes, the nearest I think was Tom Walsh for a very commendable fourth.

Lot to look forward to on the box, the big one of course being the WRC in England/Wales at the end of the month. Go the All Blacks!! Good luck to those Masters who are competing at Rarotonga next month, I am sure for those who haven't been there it will be a fantastic experience. Finally all the best to those Masters preparing for another Track and field season.

**Coming events 2015 - 2016**

**September 27 Oceania Throws Pentathlon Edgecumbe College 12 noon Details Rene Otto**  
 October 5-9 OMA Champs Rarotonga  
 October 18 AMA Gideon Tait Mount Smart  
**October 25 WBOP Warm Up Meeting – Porritt Stadium 12 Noon**  
 November 8 AMA Meeting One at Mount Smart  
**November 22 WBOP Warm up Meeting - Porritt Stadium 12 Noon**  
 November 27-29 NZMA Track and Field Champs Auckland  
**December 13 Christmas Meeting Tauranga**

**2016**

**January 16 -17 WBOP Masters Champs Tauranga**  
 January 24 – AMA Meeting Two at Mount Smart  
 February 27-29 NZMA T & F Champs Dunedin  
**March 13 WBOP Trophy Day Porritt Stadium.**  
 March 20 AMA Meeting Three at Mount Smart

For further details on AMA events go to [www.ama.org.nz](http://www.ama.org.nz)

**OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Murray Clarkson 075769575  
 Vice President: Bruce Solomon 075422064  
 Membership Secretary: Judy Chandler 07 8567674  
 PO Box 24072, Abels Hamilton 3253  
 Treasurer: Fay Riley 07 5769575  
 Committee: B. Clarke, M. Clarke, S. Gower, J. Lile

**NEWSLETTER PERSONNEL**

Editor: Bryan Mayall 07 856 5484  
 Advertising: Bryan Mayall 07 856 5484  
 Distribution: Judy Chandler 07 856 7674  
 Production: Judy Chandler 07 856 7674  
 Bryan Mayall  
 Photos: Bryan Mayall bryanjoan@xnet.co.nz

**Subscription Reminder**

**Subscriptions are now due for the 2015-16 season. Please fill in the enclosed form and send to our membership secretary Judy Chandler.**

**Annual General Meeting Report**
**Bryan Mayall**

This year's AGM was held on Sunday 16 August 2015 at the Cambridge Athletic and Harrier Clubrooms.

Murray Clarkson our president welcomed the 16 members present and presented his annual report. Some of the highlights in his report were.

- 1) Murray commented on the successful running of the NZMA Champs at Tauranga and was grateful for all the positive comments he received.
- 2) Unfortunately our membership numbers were down on the previous year and he said that positive measures would be taken on the local scene as well at national level to ensure greater participation.
- 3) Our accumulated funds have had a boost because of a favourable profit from the National Champs. Because of our current financial position we are able to maintain our current membership fees.
- 4) Murray also congratulated those Masters Athletes who competed with distinction at the various National and International meetings.
- 5) Finally the President thanked his committee for their support, time and enthusiasm over the past year.

Murray Clarkson was elected President for a further term with Bruce Solomon as Vice President/ Secretary. Not standing this year are Marcia Petley, Judy Chandler. Bev Savage and Graeme Adams. We welcome Julia Lile to the committee.

The annual subscription will remain at \$60 of which \$45 goes to the 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 Bruce Solomon M50 and Sheryl Gower W65.

This year's winner was Bruce Solomon for his outstanding performances in the sprint events.

The winner of the Committee Award Trophy this year went to Anne Harris.


**Presidents Report Murray Clarkson**

This addition of Upfront is the last of the winter and we look forward to longer, warmer and eventful days ahead.

**Annual General Meeting** – Held at Cambridge as usual, the attendance numbers were disappointing and in the early stages we were struggling to get the numbers to meet the Quorum requirements to hold the meeting. If no-one attends the AGM then the committee or those who are trying to provide a platform for members do not know what is in the best interest of our athletes and cannot assist in administering a meaningful programme.

Having said this, I again thank those committee members who are standing down this time and those who have continued to commit themselves and our new committee member to another year of exciting competition and camaraderie.

The subject of the merger between ANZ & NZMA was discussed and it was agreed that an explanation of the background of NZMA be supplied along with the NZMA President's ideas with a view to getting an overall response from all members. I feel that we will need to hold a special general meeting on the subject before remits to our AGM close in order to have our say. The date of this will be advised to all members.

Our Centre is in good shape financially and the subscriptions which are now due remain the same as last year. This will no doubt change when the new format is established.

The committee is looking at establishing a uniform that can be used at events to identify our members and avoid the hotchpotch of clothing being worn at present. If you have any ideas please let a committee member know.

Oceania entries are now closed for Rarotonga. It appears that a large contingent will be travelling and I wish them all well and an enjoyable stay on a tropical island. I am looking forward to getting back to t-shirt and shorts. The Oceania Throws competition is planned for 27<sup>th</sup> Sept and Rene Otto has everything under control at Edgecumbe College for a great event. Fay and I visited the venue and will be making sure everything will be up to standard.

Our winter runs have almost completed and we have laid some ground work for next year to make sure our response from the local areas improves. Whakatane had a good representation and a very enjoyable run and after-event chat. Keep active and out of the comfort-zone

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**WBOP Masters Athletics Inc. NZMA / Merger Murray Clarkson**

At our recent AGM a report from the President of NZMA was tabled with his thoughts and discussions on the format for a merger between the two groups

The aim is to better conduct the affairs of both groups & consolidate membership.

It was resolved at the meeting that some history of NZMA be supplied as a background to this report. I now endeavour to give this information being mindful not to influence in any way the decision of members.

**1962** – The NZAVA (Veterans) movement was first muted under the guidance of the late Clarrie Gordon. This was at a time when marathon running was at its zenith & there were no provisions for people who wanted to compete in later



years. ANZ only provided competition grades to 19+ as seniors & a large group of athletes could not be recognised for their efforts.

**1966** – This group was recognised and registered as a Club by the Canterbury Centre and Veteran grades were included in competitions.

**1970** – First solely Veterans Cross Country NZ Championship took part.

**1971** – First International Pre-Games event (Cross Country) held at Rawhiti Domain, ChCh.

**1974** – Women's events included in Veteran Championships.

**1975** – First NZAVA Nat T & F Champs held in ChCh (Waikato were Hosts in 1976).

**1981** – Canterbury Veterans held the 4<sup>th</sup> World Veteran Games in Christchurch.

This was a highly successful event and cemented the need for NZ to have a fully representative organisation to conduct Veteran Athlete activities.

**1983** – NZAVA was established with 11 centres throughout the country, a formal constitution written and a National Board established to enable it to run independently from ANZ.

**2002** – (Approx.) NZAVA became NZMA & NZAAA became ANZ.

Although I do not have the date, Road & Cross Country events for both groups were being held at the same venue on the same date but operated separately. ANZ athletes who were not members of NZMA were permitted to run but could not gain titles, trophies, or medals.

In order to tidy this up, an agreement was reached whereby ANZ would collect entry fees and run these events on NZMA behalf. ANZ registered athletes were permitted to compete for and take titles without being members of NZMA. The NZMA trophies were no longer presented from this date forward.

I am attempting to get a copy of this agreement and when it is received I will make it available to all members.

A merger must, as the word implies, have advantages to both parties. At present NZMA athletes do not need to belong to ANZ to compete at NZMA Cross Country and Road Champs. This would change with the proposition presented. NZMA will no longer have control over subscriptions.

Please respond on your thoughts regarding this proposal so that a majority consensus can be established and the future of our movement can be determined.

## Great Wall of China Marathon Run 16 May

Graeme Adams



I belong to the Tauranga Road and Trail Runners Club. In May ten of our club members along with thirty-eight other kiwis set off for the 16th Great Wall of China Marathon in Huangyaguan, Tianjin Province, China. With 5,164 steps and many hills, this is billed as one of the toughest marathons in the world.

The course certainly presents many challenges along the way, but at the same time is beautiful and very scenic. At various points you wind through Chinese villages lined with large numbers of locals, through fields and valleys and at the start and end over the Great Wall itself. This is truly astonishing and breath-taking.



Yin and Yang Square, in the old Huanyaguang fortress functioned as the start and finish area for the marathon. The first of five waves started off at 7.30am. It was a very cold start, but two hours later the temperature had climbed to above 30 degrees Celsius!

Positions in each wave were assigned based on previous marathon times. As I had no recent marathon time I started in the last wave and had to pick my way through the congested traffic ahead of me. At the end of the day I managed

to finish 198th and win my age group ahead of Japanese and Italian fellow competitors. As a sporting accomplishment, it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done.

As a tourist I got to see Tiananmen Square ( the largest city square in the world) and it really is something special. In Beijing I visited the Olympic stadium ,the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City. In Xi'an I saw the 2,000 year old Terracotta Warriors. and in Shanghai I stood on the highest viewing platform in the world (it's 100 levels and there are two hundred towers over fifty stories high). I recommend Shanghai as a must see city .On the flight home I travelled on the new Air NZ Dreamliner.

The Great Wall Marathon is a partnership between The Chinese Culturestone Events and Norwegian Albatros Travel .My tour was organized by Marathon Tours (part of the Calder and Lawson Group who sponsor the Waikato/BOP Masters Athletics).I had a fantastic trip travelling under the guidance of Janine and Carlos .During the trip I made new friends and whom I now keep in regular contact with via facebook.

### Results

1st man            Shen Jason China 3.41.40  
 1st lady           Eleanor Williamson USA 4.18.35  
 1st M65-69    Graeme Adams 5.36.24 (2nd 6.07,3rd 6.14)

Congratulations Graeme on a great performance, hopefully might inspire others to do the event.

### World Masters Athletic Championships Lyon August 4 -16 August

**Marcia Petley**

I think that the World Masters Championships in Lyon would have been the most difficult venue to participate at. For someone in the older years like myself it was more than difficult. We competed at tracks/throws etc., that were more than 30k apart. There was an excellent Metro, a driverless train, that sped through the city. Whether you spoke French or had an excellent understanding of the maps, you faced the alternative that I did several times and got lost.



My 100m and also the 200m final were run at la Duchere, which was the Technical Information Centre. I was brassed off with the 100m because we had been "On Call" for more than an hour, the temperature was 39degrees at 6.30pm., and I had been unable to warm-up. If one has a replacement knee like myself, I have to warm-up on a all weather track. I cannot run on the road or similar surfaces, or may lose my knee sooner than I want.

They marched our age group down the grass beside the track while the announcer spoke our name, country ,etc ., and at the end of the 100m there were a group of photographers crammed in everywhere. They certainly gave the older athletes a lot of attention.

### Marcia with a fellow competitor – Photo courtesy Gay Thompson

I was going in to la Duchere on the Metro the next morning when a woman smiled at me .She said I don't think you recognise me, but I'm the Journalist who took several photos of you last night. She told me that she had put me on Facebook, and there had been 160,000 hits or whatever they call them .

*She was from Bristol, England and had had written several books on aged people participating in all sorts of sports. My throwing events were at Parilly Park which was 30k from la Duchere. The early events like the Cross Country, etc, were held outside the stadium, and I managed to watch my roommate, fantastic Australian athlete Lavinia Petrie who was the female World Masters athlete of the year in 2014.*

I couldn't have had a nicer roommate, and this made it easier for me as I did feel a bit lonely there on my own lots of times. Found out that Chris Waring had found a few lanes of indoor track in the la Duchere Stadium and I sorted this out before running my 200m final. I was absolutely thrilled with second place in 52.21s, as I had been unable to run 54.00s back at Porritt.

/ think it was a shock to some of the kiwis to find so many speedsters from England and Europe but this was their summer season and there was some great running in the 1500m, 800m and the 400m.They used the Laurent Gerin

Stadium in Venissieux, the Pierre Duboeuf Stadium in Bron and the Marathon was run out and around the Stadium at Parilly Park.

I'm sorry that I do not know the results of other kiwis, but did meet a young woman from Whangarei who got gold in two of the walks and could speak fluent French. Liz Wilson took out the 100m and 200m but I'm not sure about the 400m. Judith Stewart from Auckland took out second in the Half Marathon, but I do not know any of the results from England.

### **WMA Championships Lyon 2015 - From a Throwers perspective... Chris Thompson AMA**

Bryan has asked me to write a piece on my experiences attending the 2015 WMA Champs in Lyon, France last month which I am pleased to do. This was my first taste of International competition in my short athletics history and what an event to experience first up, with over 8000 competitors. It was also an opportunity for my wife and I see more of France again having last been there as part of our OE back in the late 1970's.



So, after landing in Lyon, from a few days in the searing heat of Dubai, we were whisked away to our accommodation in the Lyon suburbs. To a new, smart and air-conditioned complex and part of a large group of Australian and NZ athletes, that Roy Skuse led. The following morning was the first opportunity for all to head out to the main stadium, one of four being used for these games to pick up our packs and confirm our presence.

This was our first use of the Metro and the *Jean-Jures* underground station, a five minute walk from our accommodation, was to be used many times. So once past the ticketing system, no notes!, coins or card only, we were away on a similar underground system as London. A change to another line, and then a bus trip, and we were there. The T.I.C as it was called, was in a huge indoor venue, very well staffed and a quick process to get through what we had to do. Some of those who had been to many World Champs thought it was one of the best and quickest registrations they had experienced.

In the pack were two A4 size handbooks, an entry list of some 130 pages and a competitor's handbook of 75 pages. This gave you a sense of the enormous operation that these Games were. Some figures I have chosen from the handbooks included another 7000 involved in putting this event together, along with 800 officials and volunteers.

So, to the nitty gritty, all my competition was done at a stadium at Parilly, about 45 minutes away from our accommodation. And at the other end of the Metro line to the Balmont Stadium, where the T.I.C and a lot of sprints took place.

First up was the Heavy Weight and to the call room some 45 minutes prior to competition. This was a large tent where basically one registered with a very loud but pleasant American lady. One may have changed here or sat around or more likely tried to keep cool just outside the tent, rather than melt inside. Once our names were called, we were marched to our throwing area. I must admit I thought the call room concept would be more regimented but it was very relaxed and not as intimidating I thought it was going to be. Nothing on our person was checked and we were free to wander.

All my throwing events were held outside the main stadium, most of the throwing was, with specially set up areas in enclosed areas for Heavy Weight, Shot, Hammer and Discus. The surfaces were a mixture of dry and dusty like softball diamonds and some grass about on other surfaces.

Warm ups were limited to two throws and in the same order as one was about to throw. You could not just enter inside the area and pick up an implement and do drills as you may do back home beside the cage.

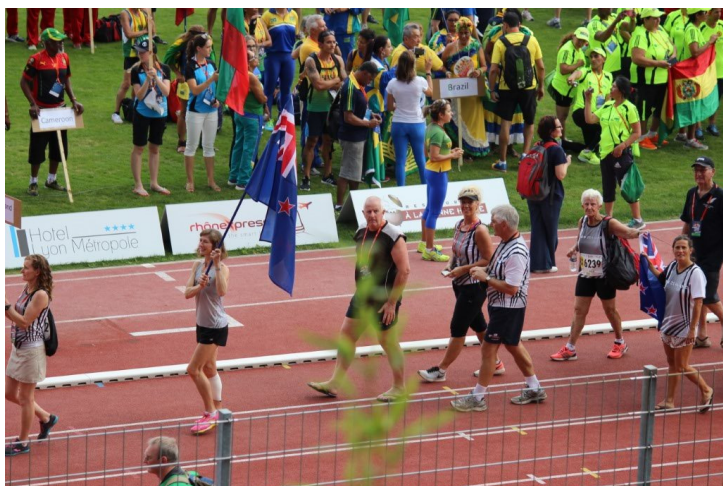
The Heavy Weight was duly completed and not one of my better days at the office, well down on what I had wanted. But nevertheless, my first experience to see how it is done well at this level. With two turns the norm and first lesson learnt, forget trying to throw on one turn, and get going with two turns again. The better group were beside us in the second of two cages which were set up in a clove of trees and provided shelter from what were some very hot days.

A day off followed unless you made that final and the Hammer awaited on the next day. Here I threw with all the big boys and was not overawed, nervous and completed right up to my best. My last throw, in the high 39 metres missed



the final by about 62cms and I was rapt to get so close. Apart of one foot fault everything else went down the middle, whilst a lot of the better throwers were into the net or outside the sector or fouled completely. The three Hammer cages were massive arrangements and set up furthest from the stadium. A very hot afternoon, which was fine, with water sprays and taps about to cool you down.

A few days off and then followed the Shot Put and Discus, where I finished in the middle of the pack. The Discus was interesting, with about 50 competitors in my age group throwing from three cages, the top group in the main arena and the other two groups throwing from cages opposite each other and within range. So we had an official marshalling between the two groups and we threw alternatively, cage two and then cage three, which was interesting to be part of. This event was the strongest in numbers and distance wise with the bulk throwing over 40 metres and some well into the 50 metres.



The events were all were stocked with officials, the full quota around the circles and out in the sector, and whilst all French we got by okay, the measurements were always called out in French which required a sneaky peak over the recorders shoulder to see the distance written down.

The opening ceremony was held a few days into the programme and after the finals of the 100m sprints. This was well done with competitors from over 100 countries lined up at the back of the stadium and then moved in, and generously clapped along the way by the French team, a nice touch I thought. Once inside and a walk down the main straight we were placed on the grass to hear the welcome speeches and then

released. Not too long and well done and nice to be part of for the first time.

So the competition was over for me and now it was time to move around France on Roy's organised trips and our own sightseeing, both in this lovely old city of Lyon which dates back to Roman times and set on the Rhone and Soane rivers and particularly Paris.

In summary, well worth being part of, recommend it if you have not been before and now already planning for Perth in October 2016.

**Thank you Chris for your contribution. Chris is Secretary/ Treasurer of the AMA.**

**Marcia Petley's Investiture Government House**

**Karen Petley**



actual ceremony will take place.

Being a recipient or guest at an Investiture Ceremony is a once in a lifetime experience that you will cherish. This particular ceremony was held at Government House in Wellington on Friday 11 September 2015. The recipient was Marcia Petley, being honoured as a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

Upon entering the grounds of Government House you see the manicured lawns and gardens with a mix of colour and native plants. Inside Government House the guests are seated whilst the recipients gather together in another room preparing for the ceremony. The décor is what one might expect to see, with royal like furnishings, chandelier lights, and on one wall, at the front of the room, sits a portrait of the Queen. An appropriate setting for where the

After the guests are briefed on how the ceremony will be conducted, the recipients are led into the room to be seated. Government dignitaries are then seated and finally the host of the ceremony, The Governor-General of New Zealand, Lt Gen. The Rt. Hon. Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO enters the room. Official photographers are ready to capture the moment and a video recording of the ceremony is also being taken.

Amongst the 20 recipients there are four being knighted, eight members of the NZ order of merit and eight receiving the Queen's Service Medal. The recipients come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from services to business, sport, health, domestic violence, conservation and historical research. The ceremony gets underway with everyone singing the national anthem. The Governor-General welcomes everyone to the ceremony and recognises the achievements of the 20 recipients.

Each recipient is asked to stand, whilst a speaker reads out a citation on what the recipient has achieved. The recipient then walks to the front of the room to meet with the Governor-General. New Zealand Navy personnel are on hand to assist with proceedings. After the medal is presented to the recipient the Governor-General has a private conversation with each recipient and then photographs are taken. When Marcia had her presentation the private conversation with the Governor became public. He asked her how old she was, when enquiring how she had gone when competing in France at the World Masters Track and Field Championships. Much to the delight of the guests the Governor-General then popped his head out and told the audience that she was 86.

After hearing the citations for each recipient you can't help but think how selfless these people have been in going about their lives sacrificing their time for the benefit of others.

Both guests and recipients then have an opportunity to walk through out the rooms of Government House, whilst enjoying morning tea. As you wander down the main corridor leading to several rooms, adorned on the walls are cabinets filled with treasures from various countries around the world. In one room there are elegant tables and chairs, the chairs are rather special as each one has the cushion and backseat depicting towns in New Zealand. The view out of one of the windows to the front lawn is spectacular. There is a grand staircase leading up to the accommodation where Royalty has stayed.

The perfect finale to this ceremony was the opportunity for both recipients and their guests to meet the Governor-General of New Zealand. Once summoned you enter a room, which was the same room where Prince George attended a playgroup with other NZ babies during the royal visit of Prince William and Kate. A short time is spent talking with the Governor General, who seems easy going. Outside the room recipients and guests have official photos taken. After spending the morning at Government House there was a sense that everyone had enjoyed the experience. The weather was kind to us upon departing Government House so one could enjoy the vast grounds one more time.

### **WBOP Masters Run / Walk Hamilton Gardens 13 September Judy Chandler**

Thanks to Marion and Bruce for hosting this event for us and for organising our picnic afternoon tea. After a coldish start the weather got warmer and warmer and it was very sheltered down around the gardens, a lovely Spring day.

These Gardens - Our Hamilton Gardens - won the International Garden of The Year Award for 2014. Goodness we can remember way back, when we used to take our trailer and go to that very spot to dump our rubbish in the tip there. Some years ago too David Bellamy renowned conservationist etc visited and said that our gardens would be world famous.

Plenty of variety running for our five runners, up and around the slopes and I heard there were one or two interesting up and down pathways. Hopefully the walk around the Theme Gardens was not too fast to see the garden. This walk included up through the Rhododendron walk, around the Turtle Lake and down to our Waikato River. The Rhododendrons were just spectacular. We hope everyone enjoyed the day. Thank you all for coming we can always have more folk joining in these winter walk/run events.

From the Gardens you are able to walk/run/ cycle all the way past Fairfield Bridge even past Flagstaff on the Western side river pathways. Is a great spot.

Thank you everyone, and all best wishes for Summer running.

### **Snippets**

Congratulations to Les Williams for became reached the magic big 80 on Tuesday 15 September.

We wish Karyn McCready a speedy recovery from surgery for her foot.

Our condolences to Hector Mein for the recent loss of his wife Dorothy.







