



Newsletter from the Board – December 2022

As we approach the end of 2022 there are lots of things to celebrate. We are grateful that we can hold events safely and clubs can meet again without the complications and stresses of last summer. There is a lot of information here so thank you in advance for reading the newsletter.

It has been heartening to see registrations back up over 3700. In particular there have been lots of children registered so I want to thank our volunteers – club helpers, coaches, officials, and the children’s committee who have put in a huge amount of work. More registrations mean events are more exciting, tamariki enjoy club nights with their friends, and there is more revenue coming into the centre giving us more options about how to support events and clubs.

Levies

Athletics NZ have just released the range of membership models available for the 2023/24 year. All clubs should consider these, and which will suit them. Here is a link to the new structure.

[FAQ_Membership-Changes_Dec-2022.pdf \(athletics.org.nz\)](#)

Athletics WBOP are planning a Special General Meeting on the **26th February 2023** (online) to present our proposals for levies for the new season. The changes in ANZ levies impact us as well. We will put out a proposal the first week of February to the clubs to consider at our Special AGM.

It is a balance between setting levies too high for members, or too low that we cannot sustain our core function of supporting athletics and running and clubs in our region.

Hamilton and Tauranga Track news

Porritt has undergone repair, and a more substantial rebuild is due for Spring 2023. Repairs have included patching to areas on the track and high jump fan. It has been a bit frustrating with the erratic weather but it’s great to see the improvements so clubs and Centre meets can continue this season.

But Tauranga is where big changes are being considered which have brought forward a range of feedback. There is a proposal by the Tauranga City Council to move the athletics track to Bay Park, with a Stadium to be built on the current site at the Domain. This is part of a plan across the three main sporting venues in the city – the Domain, Bay Park, and Blake Park. The Board is focussing on listening and learning for the next couple of months and have allocated our **Feb 7th Board meeting** to this topic.

If you have feedback, or an opinion, you are welcome to submit to the board either in writing or request to speak at the meeting. We wish to get a range of views as a move does mean significant change for clubs and meets in the regions.

Health and Safety Manual

The Board have prepared a Health and Safety Manual and Handbook for use by clubs, meet managers and other people in our centre. It can be accessed here:

[Health and Safety | Athletics Waikato & Bay Of Plenty \(athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz\)](#)

Upcoming events

Please put **11th February 2023** in the calendar – the Porritt Classic is a wonderful showcase event, and we would love to get a full grandstand. It's a great event with athletes at the top of their sport – perfect for the whole whanau to attend on a summer night.

Planning is underway for an event for 12/13 athletes in March or April. It is very likely to be a team-based event, including both competition and coaching, and including Auckland, Counties, Northland, and our region. As soon as more information is available, we will distribute this.

Events

NZ SS Athletics – Highlights and results

Louie Endres of Hillcrest High School went close to Geoff Shaw's 1975 record of 5:52.90 in the 2000m steeplechase recording 5:55.35. Boh Ritchie was a triple winner in the junior girls collecting the 1500m, 3000m and 4km road race. Mia De Jager scored a unique double in the junior girls adding the 400m in 55.49 to the high jump of 1.75m won earlier. In the Para events Jaxon Woolley Papamoa College T38 200m 26.62, 400m 60.77. Lucas Pedersen (Cambridge High School) T54 200m 40.98 and T55 discus throw 12.10m.

See the last page of the newsletter for other results from our school athletes.



Photo (left): Louis Endres on the way to his Senior Boys Steeplechase win



Photo (right): Losaline Lose on the podium for her Silver in the Junior Girls Javelin

Track & Field Open Meets

To date we have held six Open Meets – 2 in Hamilton and 4 in Tauranga due to the track at Porritt being under repair. There have been consistent entries to these open meets especially in the lead up to the NZSS T&F Champs. A big thanks must go to our Officials that allow these events to proceed, as we certainly have been under pressure making sure we have enough officials to cover all events on the programme.

Children's Relay Champs

Tauranga put on a top day for the Relay Champs. After so few events last summer it was wonderful to get back out there.

Observations by the Board Chair who attended as an official:

- The attitude of the tamariki was very positive. They tried their best and were supportive and polite to the officials. Best chant I heard came from Cambridge! This is a team day – lots of memories are made hanging out with your club friends.
- There were many officials giving their time and expertise for the day. As an official, it is tiring – I went home for a nap afterwards. We should be very grateful to these kind patient people. Sadly, less people are volunteering to train as officials and the board see this as a major risk to our sport.
- Parent and whanau help was awesome. Hats off to the Lake City rangatahi who helped out and learnt about the long jump – thank you!
- We managed to reduce the number of DQ's for this event due to a more relaxed approach to younger athletes and good training for the older ones. There's still work to do – seeing children DQ'ed for small mistakes is not where the future of the sport lies.

Celebrations and Awards

Afternoon Tea to recognise officials

In November, an afternoon tea was held to honour some long-term volunteers in our sport. A group gathered to reminisce and thank Douglas and Ashley Taylor, and Jeanette Vedder- Price. It was wonderful to hear their stories about athletics since the 1950s including officiating at Commonwealth and international meets. These volunteers gave so much so that athletes today have excellent facilities and events, and it reminds us that what we give today can benefit not just clubs or athletes now, but those many years in the future.



Photo: Sally Kerr (AWBOP Board Chair), Douglas Taylor, Jeannette Vedder-Price, Ashley Taylor, Andrew Langman (AWBOP President)

Regional Sports Awards

In addition, at the Sport Bay of Plenty Awards there were plenty of people from the athletics community as finalists. The top award for the night went to Craig Kirkwood – both Supreme Award and Coach of the Year – Craig has had success as a coach over many years. And with two of his athletes up for Sportsman of the Year, it was very well deserved. Hayden Wilde won Best Sportsman of the year, and whilst he is mostly a triathlete, he competed very successfully on the track last summer. Lisa Adams won Best Sportsperson with a Disability after her performances internationally including the Commonwealth Games.

Finalists (Top 3) also deserve congratulations - in their category Athletics Tauranga, Sam Tanner, and Jaxon Wooley made the top three in the region and it is an honour to get to this point.

In addition, Andrew Langman is up for Unsung Hero for the upcoming Sport Waikato Awards – we wish you all the best Andrew.



Photo (Left): Kerry Hill, CoachForce Officer Sport BOP with Jaxon Wooley, finalist. Kerry is Jaxon's coach.

Photo (Right): Craig's Achievement – Supreme Winner.

Funding Update/Grants

Dianne has been successful in achieving grants from the Lion Foundation for event gazebos, tear drop banners, championship medals and a laptop for photo finish and from Grassroots Trust for photo finish equipment at Porritt Stadium as the system in place was purchased in 1999 and was reaching it's used by date.

Board

The AWBOP Board has six trustees; three are elected positions at our AGM, two are appointed positions, and we have a President.

Sadly, Monica Robbers, one of our appointed trustees, has resigned from the board as she is unable to make meetings due to demands in her job. As a result, the board will be seeking a new appointed trustee for early 2023. As three of our positions also end their term in August 2023, we are also interested in people who want to come on as Board Observers for 2023 to find out more about the board, consider standing, and assisting with the workload. The Board is a governance body responsible for ensuring those on the operational side have the support to do their work – the money to make the sport sustainable, the people, the structures, and the strategy. A good board member could be an athlete, someone from a club, a parent, or someone with an interest in sport and making a difference. We meet at night about 9-10 times a year, some online and some in person. You need to be available to do work outside the meetings. If you are interested, please contact Board Chair via for a chat early in 2023.

Wrap up

In the meantime, the Board wishes everyone a safe and happy summer. To athletes competing at any of the wonderful events over late December and January from Tauranga Twilight Meet, to the Colgate Games, or even beach races on your holiday, we wish you good luck.

We also thank Dianne, our hard-working Centre Manager, and Kerry, CoachForce Officer for their excellent work in 2022.

Meri Kirihimete! Best of luck for the New Year.

Sally Kerr, Andrew Langman, Thomas Refoy-Butler, Ashleigh Sando, and Tony Rogers.

Other Results from NZ Secondary Schools Athletics (AWBOP)

Link is <https://nzssaa.org.nz/static/nz-tf-2022/results/results.pdf>

Senior Boys

2000m Steeplechase, Louie Endres (Hillcrest High School) 5:55.35 1.

Shot put: Harrison McGregor (Aquinas C) 17.19m 2,
Discus McGregor 56.83m PB 2,

6km Road Race: Matthew Hill (Tauranga BC) 18m 29s 3.

Senior Girls

300m hurdles: Sophie Hancock (Rototuna HS) 44.09s 2

2000m steeplechase: Sara Jury (Hamilton GHS) 7m 12.97s PB 3.

4km Road Race: Poppy Martin (John Paul C) 13m 42s 2

Junior Boys

200m: Henry Smith (St Peter's S) 22.89s PB 1

400m: Jack Marra (John Paul C) 51.21s PB 1

800m: Hamish Murray (Aquinas C) 1m 59.98s 3

1500m: George Wyllie (Tauranga BHS) 4m 3.97s 3;

3000m: Wyllie 8m 31.75s PB 2

100m hurdles: Paul Steyn (Bethlehem C) 14.01s 1:

300m hurdles: Steyn 40.23s 1

Discus throw: Manaia Christians (Rotorua BHS) 46.24m 3

High jump: Langley 1.86m 1, Regan Wilson (Tauranga BC) 1.83m 2, Blundell 1.83m 3.

4 x 100m relay: St Peter's S 46.36s 2

Mixed 4 x 400m relay: St Peter's S (Lily Greenough, Maddie Waddell, Caleb Woodfield, Henry Smith) 3m 49.86s record 1.

Para Junior Boys

100m Jaxon Woolley (Papamoa) 12.75 NZSSR

200m Woolley T38 26.62, 1, Lucas Pederson (Cambridge) T54 40.98 2 (both NZSSR)

400m Woolley 60.77 NZR, Pederson 21.70

Long Jump Woolley 4.49m NZSSR

Discus Pederson 12.10m NZSSR

ShotPut Woolley 6.51m NZSSR

Junior Girls

400m: Mia De Jager (Rototuna HS) 55.49s PB 1

800m: Holly Fausett (Aquinas C) 2m 15.46s PB 3

1500m: Boh Ritchie (St Peter's S) 4m 34.54s 1;

3000m: Ritchie 9m 56.48s PB 1

300m hurdles: Holly Fausett (Aquinas C) 45.67s PB 1

Shot put: Melelosaline Lose (Hamilton GHS) 12.47m 4;

Discus throw: Lose 41.87m 3

Hammer throw: Melelosaline Lose (Hamilton GHS) 43.79m 2, Amelie Wood (Taupo Nui C) 41.99m 3.

Triple jump: Zarah Rattray (Hamilton GHS) 10.38m 3

High jump: De Jager 1.75m PB 1

4km Road Race: Ritchie 14m 29s 1, Bronwen Rees-Jones (Cambridge HS) 14m 56s 2, Brooke Weir (St Peter's S) 15m 1s 3. Teams 3 and 6 person St Peter's S

Year 9 3km Road Race: 6 person team St Peter's S