



Newsletter from the Board – May 2023

As the summer season finishes the winter season starts – there's no off season for athletics is there!

We ended the season with 3971 members – which is almost exactly our 2019/20 membership (pre covid). It has taken a lot of effort by all our volunteers – this includes club committees and coaches, officials, community coaches and the board. It was great to have a much smoother summer and were a lucky region in terms of the Cyclones and awful weather.

We did manage to hold several coaching Run Jump Throw sessions, and also a very successful “like a girl” day with a wonderful collection of coaches. Thanks to Mariah Ririnui for pulling this together.



It hasn't been all easy or positive – we weren't able to pull together a new event to replace the 12/13 Interprovincials. This has to be a priority for the next season.

We do face a genuine challenge with officials. After 30 years as an Official, Heather O'Hagan is stepping down as an official and our Officials Coordinator. Her contribution is immense including senior roles nationally and internationally, as well as leading the education of officials in our region. It was very disappointing that her offers to train new officials last year were not taken up.

After 7 years, Sandra Murray is stepping down as the Chair of our Children's Committee. But her involvement with athletics started before that at

Fairfield Club where her family started athletics 24 years ago. Sandra has also been competition secretary and an official. Sandra's work has included making sure our tamariki have a strong advocate, get ribbon days, champs and relay days – plus mahi on Interprovincial and Colgate Games organising committees. We hope to still see Sandra around in some of these capacities.

Thank you, Heather and Sandra, for your work – it has made a massive difference to our region.

We have put together a slide show of our year of athletics. It doesn't feature everything or everyone (or it would be a feature length film) but it hopefully shows the joy and passion and talent we have in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region.

Here is the link to the slideshow. [2022 – 2023 Year of Athletics Slideshow | Athletics Waikato & Bay Of Plenty \(athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz\)](https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/2022-2023-Year-of-Athletics-Slideshow)

Levies/Game Day

Thank you to the clubs and associations who attended our Special AGM regarding levies in February. The higher levies will assist the centre in resourcing.

It will be interesting to see how the new membership model affects clubs and membership, but it is positive to offer more flexibility.

Dates for the Calendar

There are many dates in the calendar for the winter season. Check out the link below for dates for all winter events including ANZ events.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/competition/events/>

Events

NZ Track and Field Champs – Highlights and results

Here is a link to all the results from the Waikato team at the NZ Track and Field Champs in Wellington. With 24 NZ titles it is hard to single out any athlete – it was a wonderful team performance.

https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WBOP-Results-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0KGs79H83JzfJqrXi2yoHKMW-zaO9WfB8KCzVdsV8IVs_Ap7NhRE4ijxQ

It is worth noting that of the Women U18 400 metre rankings on Athletics New Zealand, 6 out of the top 8 are from Waikato Bay of Plenty.

Secondary Schools Events

There were many Secondary Schools events held in the region from Zone (local) events through to the WBOP Champs held at Porritt (on a wet day). Our keenest and best athletes went to Palmerston North for the North Island Secondary Schools Champs. A huge thank you to John Tylden for his work to ensure the events went ahead in the Waikato – his knowledge and skills were instrumental to a very successful set of events.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WBOPSS-Champs-21-Mar-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR26zKTiFxRSg-Q4AOmvPiTDm4cVkpGqxcfpBouuxtVtjUH4za4QAhXyYuk>

<https://nzssaa.org.nz/static/ni-tf-2023/results.pdf>



Children's Champs and Colgate Games

A great day at Porritt Stadium – the day had strong fields and happy tamariki.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/competition/results/?fbclid=IwAR0mJvrMbGhznT211BJLxbwJfKGRxHqk4NOYw0ImSeApKDFrz6apuWFfnJ8>

The Colgate Games brought a mix of weather but are always a wonderful event. Auckland and Dunedin are the hosts in 2024.



Porritt Classic

A wonderful event as always – featuring local and national talent including very strong para fields. Criss Strange did a lot of work to pull this excellent event together.



Celebrations and Awards

Andrew Langman won “Unsung Hero” at the Sport Waikato Awards (nominated by Cambridge Athletic Club) – well deserved for someone who has contributed to the success of the children’s programme in Cambridge and across the whole region.

Board/Operations

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

We will be looking for people to stand at our AGM for the board - 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 Dianne. Please do consider this – we need passionate people on the board who want to do the best for our region.

Survey

Please see the attached survey – we would really appreciate the feedback for a Strategy Day in late June. Please email to board@athleticswbop.org.nz by the 15th of June. It is important the board and operations committee know where to focus our attentions in the new season – thank you in advance.