

December 2024 Newsletter from Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

AWBOP Centre News

Thank you for being part of our athletics community. We know you have a choice of sports and being an affiliated club and part of our region means you are contributing to the sport for current and future athletes.

This newsletter from the Centre is to update you on what has been happening in the second half of 2024 and looking into 2025. There are a lot of ways we try and get information to you - for other centre information you can look at our website, Facebook page and Instagram page. In addition, look out for emails and newsletters from Dianne, Centre Manager, and communications from Barrie, Events and Development Coordinator.

You may have noticed we have a new voice on Social Media. Athlete Mia De Jagar is helping our centre as an intern with Instagram posts showing some of the cool stuff that is happening in our region. Here is a link to our Instagram page - <https://www.instagram.com/athleticswbop/>

Here are some photos at a recent open meet featuring some of our athletes, coaches and volunteers.



CoachForce Officer – Bay of Plenty

There is a change ahead in the CoachForce Officer position for the Bay of Plenty.

AWBOP would like to thank Kerry Hill for his work in the CoachForce Officer over the last eight years. Kerry is a wonderful advocate for athletics and has been in this role and in all his other roles across NZ and internationally. Kerry is an enthusiastic coach, expert in relays and we have been grateful and happy to have his assistance. In 2023 Kerry won the Arthur Eustace Award for Coaching from Athletics NZ. Kerry is still involved as a coach and resource for our region. Below is a photo of Kerry receiving his service Award from Bruce Cortesi at the AWBOP AGM.



The CoachForce Officer role is now covered by Kim Mickle (Athletics NZ) who you will be seeing around the Bay in many capacities. Athletics NZ have secured funding from Sport Bay of Plenty for this role. The funding comes from Bay Trust and the Bay of Plenty is fortunate to have this funding available – it is a real boost to the sport in the region. Kim is based in Tauranga as part of ANZ’s strategy to have staff in the regions across NZ.

AWBOP Board update

The Board is about to launch our new strategic plan which we will be distributing for consultation in January. This will be setting our strategy for the next three years. Things we are considering are the changing sporting environment including increased social running, the need to better develop our clubs, coaches and officials and trying to ensure our event calendar is relevant and provides options for all of our athletes – tamariki, rangatahi, para-athletes, seniors both competitive and social, and Masters athletes, across the winter and summer.

Our Board welcomed Jarvy Aoake (Ngāti Hinerangi, Ngāti Ranginui), Sport Development and Coaching Team Leader at Sport BOP as an appointed board member. With a strong governance background, we are delighted to have another voice from the Bay of Plenty.

Sally Kerr’s term ends in August 2025, so we will be seeking a new elected board member at the AGM, however it would be beneficial to have a transition so we are eager to hear from people who would be interested in joining the board - please contact Dianne, Sally or another board member.

The board would like to thank our staff, Dianne and Barrie, for their excellent efforts all year. Barrie has been active within many clubs and schools, providing education and programmes for clubs to operate with less volunteers and to keep engagement high. Dianne has run a year of wonderful events, and supported all the volunteers and clubs to operate, there is a lot that goes on behind the

scenes. Kerry has been busy and active as well, as have all our Operations Committee, Officials, Childrens committee and club helpers. Thank you!

Coaching and Officials Courses

There have been multiple coaching and officials' courses offered over the spring and summer for CAD Level One as well as Run Jump Throw, C Grade Officials as well as Photo Finish. It has been pleasing to see people stepping forward to train in these fields and also to see a stream of people put their hand up to be a Community Coach. It is important for our sport to keep training people, so we encourage all clubs to take advantage of these courses and sign people up.



Here are some options early in 2025.

Secondary Schools coaching focussed (including Para athletes) March 9th, 2025, at Porritt Stadium - 10am and March 13th, 2025, at Tauranga Domain - 4.30pm

Officials C Grade Course 18 and 19 January 2025 at Porritt Stadium.

<https://events.mygameday.app/.../officialscgradehamiltonj...>

New Event - Upcoming Challenge Days

Of recent years there has been feedback about the gap in athletics for the 10-14 age group athletes and we are excited to see that Athletics WBOP and Athletics Auckland have launched the Challenge Days, and we encourage 10-14 year olds to take part. This event is open to all athletes from these grades and is teams based. Clubs, please share to your athletes in this age grade.

Grade 10-11 year Team Auckland/WBOP Challenge Day - 6 February at Massey Park, Papakura

For information about this event see this link

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

Grade 12-13 year Team Auckland /WBOP Challenge - 1 March at Porritt Stadium (in conjunction with Fairfield Ribbon Day)

For information about this event see this link

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

Summer events - Porritt Classic and Tauranga Twilight Meet

Planning is well underway for Porritt Classic on the 15th of February. This is always a wonderful meet with a range of races for all ages and a strong para programme. We would **love to see** our athletics community come along and support this event and watch some top-quality action. Here is a link to all the information about the meet.

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

Please also promote this event to your athlete friends from other regions – last year we had 400 competitors and a full complement of officials. It is a lead in event for the NZ Track and Field Champs. We will be holding a Youth pre meet as well! This event is for the 13+ aged athletes, targeting high school age athletes – ***you do not need to be a registered athlete with a club to compete.*** See in events link above for information.

We also have the Tauranga Twilight Meet on the 2nd of January which is a great way to start the new year. <https://www.sporty.co.nz/athleticstauranga/open-events-1/tauranga-twilight-2025-1>

If you are interested in the full Athletics NZ Calendar please refer to this link

<https://athletics.org.nz/summer-athletics-calendar-unveiled/>

Colgate Games 2026 – in Tauranga

In January 2026 the Colgate Games will be held in Tauranga at the Domain. If you have not attended a Colgate Games – it is a busy exciting meet for Tamariki from 7-14 years.

We will be looking for assistance as this approaches – how can you help?

- Be part of the Local Organising Committee – contact Dianne and she can pass your name on
- Train to become a C grade official and help during the event.
- Offer to volunteer during the meet as there will be a range of jobs.
- Offer to sponsor the event through your business.
- Encourage your club to enter a team and provide accommodation for any family out of town.

NZ Records

Recently two of our teen age athletes broke NZ records. Fifteen-year-old Sam Ruthe did it again, breaking his New Zealand under 17 and 18 3000m record set just over three weeks ago. Racing in the open senior race in the Zatopek Meet in Melbourne in December he finished 13th in 8:06.56, cutting three seconds off his previous time set on 20 November in Auckland.

Madeleine Waddell flew past old records to set new U17 and U18 national 400m records in the semi-final at the World U20 Championships in Lima Peru, 28 August with a 53.50 performance.

Well done to these committed hard working (and fast) athletes.

Incorporated Society Act Changes

All incorporated societies must re-register by 5 April 2026 otherwise they will no longer exist as an incorporated society. New societies wanting to register from 5 October 2023, will register under the new Act.

There are a few things a society will need to do before it reregisters, such as preparing a compliant constitution and possibly adopting some new processes to comply with the Act. It is recommended that existing societies wishing to reregister start this process as soon as possible, as it will take some time to prepare what is needed.

There are changes in the Act which affect clubs. ANZ have developed templates which will come out imminently, one for larger clubs and one for smaller clubs. Please look out for these as there will be work to do including at your AGM.

Reminder re Child Protection Policy and Health and Safety Documents

In last board newsletter we provided background to our templates on Child Protection. Please use them as a starter for your own club policies and procedures.

Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection [Policy](#)

Appendix A – Child Vulnerable Adult Safety [Incident Report Form](#)

Appendix B – [Indicators of Abuse](#)

Appendix C – Athletics NZ [Club Audit Tool](#)

Health and Safety information <https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/about-us/health-and-safety/>

Open Meets and Porritt Updates

Our Open Centre meets have generally been well attended. We are struggling to get enough officials and volunteers committed before competition days despite parents and coaches helping out on the day.

At Porritt there are extended lane gates across 2 full lanes at Porritt, and sand has been added to both pits. We are also using electronic results through Athletic Net which is saving time for our officials and results volunteers.

We thank the Hawks volunteers at Porritt who have become the primary maintenance and set up workers at Porritt as there are no longer caretakers employed by Hamilton City Council.

Signage, chains, barriers have been put in place to try to reduce the number of trail bikers harassing other users of the park.

Life Membership and Awards



At the Athletics NZ AGM in Taupo, Murray Clarkson and Faye Riley were both awarded Athletics NZ Merit Awards after a long history of athletics, leadership and officiating. They are pictured here with Dianne Rodger, Centre Manager, Andrew Langman, President and Sally Kerr, Board Chair.

In addition, local legend, Malcolm Taylor, was awarded Life Membership of Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty. Service awards went to Kerry Hill – Athletics Tauranga, Ruth Tuiraviravi – Athletics Tauranga, Donna Howitt – Bellevue Athletic Club and Karen Lucas – Te Awamutu Athletic Club.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/2024-life-membership-awards-and-service-awards/>

If someone from your club is worthy of a service award, please let us know!!

NZ Secondary School Champs

Our region has many outstandingly committed and talented athletes. Recent results demonstrate some of their achievements. Well done to everyone who competed – whether you were a medallist, gained a Personal Best, or competed trying your best for your school. Below is a list of the medal winners with the records noted.

NZSS TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL WINNERS

Gold			
SG 200m	Mia De Jager	24.30	
SG 300m Hurdles	Zara Rattray	45.07	
SG 400m	Maddie Waddell	53.71	Record
SG 800m	Boh Ritchie	2.05.38	Record
SG 1500m	Boh Ritchie	4.28.87	
SG 4x100m Relay	St Peters	47.95	
SG High Jump	Mia De Jager	1.72m	
SB High Jump	Jackson Hepi	1.86m	
SB Para 200m	Jaxon Woolley	25.47 T38/F36 06	
SB Para 400m	Jaxon Woolley	59.04 T38/F36 06	Record
SB Para Long Jump	Jaxon Woolley	4.91m T38/F36 06	
SB Para 800m	Daniel Kits	2:34.43 T37 07	
NZU20 Mixed 4x400m Relay	St Peters	3.40.56	Record
SB 6k Road Race	Finnley Oliver	17:29	
JG 300m Hurdles	Jamie Fell	45.64	
JG Long Jump	Jamie Fell	5.42	
JG Triple Jump	Casey Day	11.53m	
JB 800m	Sam Ruthe	1:51.23	Record
JB 1500m	Sam Ruthe	Final 4:06.10 Heat 3:49.49	Record
JB Long Jump	Hemi Peachey	6.38m	
JB Shot Put	Adriaan Nel	14.94m	
JB Discus	Adriaan Nel	48.11m	

Silver			
SG Hammer	Melelosaline Lose	49.97m	
SB 800m	George Wyllie	1:55.38	
SB Para 400m	Daniel Kits	68.19 T37 07	72.36% Record
SB Para 1500m	Daniel Kits	5:36.67 T37 07	70.78%
SB Para 2000m	Daniel Kits	7:56 T37 07	50.07%
JG 80m Hurdles	Jamie Fell	12.46	
JG Triple Jump	Jamie Fell	11.04	
JB 3000m	Ronin Dickens	8:54.18	
JB 1500m	Vaughan Murray	4:08.52	
Bronze			
SG 100m	Teeka Randell	12.20	
SG 200m	Teeka Randell	24.85	
SG Triple Jump	Zara Rattray	11.11m	
SG Discus	Ruby Jones	42.05m	
SB 100m	James Lowther	11.20	
SB 1500m	George Wyllie	4:06.73	
SB Triple Jump	Daequan Su	12.56m	
SB 4x100m	St Peters	43.72	
JG 80m Hurdles	Erin Bower	12.72	
JG 200m	Taylor Murdock	26.18	
JG Long Jump	Casey Day	5.10m	
JB 100Hurdles	Hemi Peachey	14.48	
JB 300m Hurdles	Lloyd Crerar	40.37	
JMixed 4x400 Relay	St Peters	4.09.20	
JB Shot Put	Frazer Hazeldine	13.54m	
JB Hammer	Frazer Hazeldine	36.17m	
JB Discus	Frazer Hazeldine	42.63m	

Athletes selected for New Zealand Secondary Schools Track & Field and Road Race Team

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sam Ruthe -Tauranga Boys College | Mia De Jager -Rototuna High School |
| George Wyllie -Tauranga Boys College | Jamie Fell - Hamilton Girls High School |
| Finnley Oliver -Mt Maunganui College | Zarah Rattray -Hamilton Girls High School |
| Jaxon Wooley -Papamoa College | |
| Casey Day -Western Heights High School | Boh Ritchie -St Peters School |
| | Maddie Waddell -St Peters School |

SPECIAL AWARDS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Junior Boy of Meet | Sam Ruthe -Tauranga Boys College |
| Para Athlete of Meet | Jaxon Wooley -Papamoa College |
| NZSS Good Sport Award | Fletcher van Heuven -Matamata College |

The Good Sport Award had to be "someone who goes above and beyond, is an inspiration to your school or club, sets amazing values and standards for others to aspire to".

John Tylden and Alec McNab received special awards for their respective 50 years worth of contributions towards the [New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association](#). Both John and Alec have played pivotal roles over such a long time in helping to organize, grow and innovate athletics and cross country in New Zealand.



Photos are of some our Lake City athletes in their school team uniforms for Secondary School Champs and John and Alec with their awards.

Relay Champs

In comparison to the 2024 Children's Champs the Relay Champs were blessed with hot sunny weather and it was a successful day. It's always wonderful to see Tamariki competing as a team and having fun with their friends. Thanks to all who participated and helped out at a very busy time of the year. Here is a link to all our centre results including the relay results.

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



Just in – Athletics NZ was successful in receiving increased High Performance Sport Funding. Exciting news to end the year. <https://athletics.org.nz/funding-boost-propels-athletics-nz-toward-la-2028-success/>

***The Centre wishes everyone a safe, happy, fun holiday season.
If you are heading to the Tauranga Twilight or the Colgate Games
or training at home, then have fun with your sport. Mere
Kirimihete!!***