



Newsletter #23

2018 Athletics Review

New Year Greetings to you all and what better way to start the New Year than to review the past years performances.

This time last year the Palmerston North Club season was on hold as the track was out of action with the long awaited resurfacing of the Manawatu Community Athletic Track being undertaken. The wait was worthwhile seeing the old tired red track being replaced by a very smart blue track. Guess the only downside of the new colouring is the dropping from ducks on the track is more prominent.

2018 proved to be a great year for performances from Athletics Manawatu Wanganui and this is certainly highlighted by reviewing the Athletic NZ rankings for the year. One of the things I should point out is that the rankings are calendar year based so cover the second part of the 2017/18 season and the first part of the 2018/19 season.

In the 100 metres, Zac Topping ranked fifth with his best time of 10.83s but it was our under 18 years girls rankings that stood out with Tayla Brunger's 12.23s giving her top ranking with Genna Maple's 12.29s ranking her second and Sophie Williams ranking fourth with 12.36s. The 200m has Topping as eighth best for open men's with a 22.07s best. Again the under 18 girls impress with Maples fourth 25.11s. Brunger fifth 25.48s and Williams ninth 25.78s

The 400m men's ranking has Brayden Grant as the ninth best with his PB of 49.24s. Harrison Porritt's 51.28s was the eleventh best in the under 20 listing whilst Travis Bayler's victory in the NZ Schools 400m final gained him third ranking in the men under 18 listings. Grace

Godfrey had a year's best of 58.76s ranking her seventh in the under 20 women's ranking whilst Emma Osborne's outstanding 55.58s gave her the under 18 second ranking with Brunger ranking fourth with a 56.13s

Liam Back was the top ranked athlete in the under 18 men's listing for 800m with a 1m53.90s effort, Benjamin Wall was fifth ranked with 1m55.66s and Andre Le Pine-Day seventh with 1m56.23s. Fourteen year old Ana Brabyn ran 2m15.37s which gave her ninth ranking in the under 18 list, one place ahead of Rebecca Baker whose best was 2m15.43s

The under 18 1500m saw Wall ranked top with 3m55.81s, Back second with 3m56.80s, Le Pine-Day sixth with 4m01.80s and Noah Macdermid thirteenth with 4m05.63. Baker took out the second to top ranking in the under 18 women's list with her 4m33.73s effort.

Back again figures in the 3000m ranking second with an 8m35.11s best whilst Macdermid's PB at NZ Schools of 8m52.17s gave him the eleventh ranking. Baker again making the women's under 18 list with her 9m58.53 ranking her fourth.

Back's domination of the rankings continues with his 6m11.94s for 2000m steeple ranking him second. Ashleigh Alabaster took the sixth ranking in the under 18 girl's steeple

Onto the field events and I think our most outstanding performance of the year would be the high jumping of Hamish Kerr whose clearance of 2.25m saw him not only ranked top in the listings but lifted him to second place in the New Zealand all time listings. Our girls also made the rankings with Lea Muetzel ranking fourth in the under 20 grade whilst in

the under 18 grade we saw Sam Mackinder ranked ninth and Ranae Savill eleventh.

The long jump rankings saw that despite being the national champion, Jordan Peters had to be content with the second top listing with his best of 7.32s being bettered by Jesse Bryant's 7.40m effort. Reuben Brown an athlete we haven't seen in the second part of the year ranked fifth in the under 20 list. Corinna Minko took the third best ranking in the women's grade with a 5.94m best. Lydia Bamford ranked fifth in the under 20 grade whilst Maples had the second best listing in the under 18s

Bamford also appeared in the triple jump rankings listing fourth with her best of 11.25m. Keiran Pere had a best of 12.55 which was the seventh best listing for men's under 20.

Ben Langton-Burnell despite living in the Waikato proudly still competes for us and it was great to see him in action in the Commonwealth Games his best effort for the year of 78.20m saw him at the top of the javelin listings. Guy Petersen ranked fifth in the under 18 listing whilst in the women's listings Ariana Blackwood's effort in the heptathlon saw her with rankings of eighth in the women's javelin.

Although Jack Lewer's best shot of 10.51 ranks him eighteenth in the men's shot he would be top of his AWD Category listing. Certainly a most impressive listing.

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It is not a good way to start the New Year to receive news that a long time athletic friend has passed away. I received news that Mike (Noddy) Savage passed away on Thursday. One of my athletic treasures has been my association with the athletic community in Newcastle Australia which now dates back forty years and like me, Noddy had that same connection. He was one of the team managers of the first exchange and played a big part in the successes of exchanges between the two areas. He spent many years as team manager

of the then West Coast North Island centre teams to nationals. A Taranaki personality who will be sadly missed.