



Newsletter #25

Results and news from Wednesday 9th to Tuesday 15th January 2019

It was the Macdermid family that provided the standout performances by Manawatu athletes at Whanganui's Cooks Classic last Tuesday night. The Athletics New Zealand under 20 3000 metre championship was part of the programme and Noah ran a very fine race to finish third in 8m40.19s taking 20 seconds off his personal best. Kara won the women's mile race in 4m52.52s, well clear of the remaining runners.

Jordan Peters showed he is approaching top form winning the long jump with a 7.30m best leap. One of the feature events on the night's programme was the 1500m featuring Nick Willis who did not disappoint the crowd taking out the event. Several of our local athletes took the opportunity to race with Nick the best of these was Benjamin Wall crossing the line in 4m00.86s in eighth place. Andre Le Pine-Day was 12th in 4m16.95s, Liam Wall 18th in 4m24.28s and Robert Norman 19th in 4m25.28s. Certainly a great experience for these younger athletes.

Our sprinters did not have such a good night. Zac Topping finishing fourth in the 200m in 22.46s just ahead of Brayden Grant who was fifth in 23.04s. Later, Grant had recorded the fifth fastest time in the handicapped 400m crossing the line in 50.87s Monique Whiteman recorded 61.99s to be the third fastest of the women in this event with Pavinee Watson fourth fastest at 63.43s This event saw all athletes running the full distance with their handicap being deducted from their finishing time and this determined the overall placings in the event.

Richmond Wells managed to complete the very energy sapping 400m hurdles in under a

minute crossing the line in second placing in 59.58s.

Two former club members were amongst the meeting standouts with High Jumper Hamish Kerr setting a stadium record with his 2.22m clearance and 14 year old sprinter Sophie Williams taking out the under 18 women's 100m in 12.20s, again heading off national champion, Genna Maples

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Last week I covered the local successes of our younger athletes at the North Island Colgate Games in Hamilton. The South Island Colgate Games were held in Dunedin and there were three local competitors that I know of that attended these Games.

Ashhurst's Ari Bennett was a gold medallist in the 11 year old boys walk at Hamilton and he was able to add a South Island gold medal to his collection winning his age group walk in Dunedin.

Stella Groube had a busy time coming home with a silver medal in the 10 year old girls 100m then was unfortunate enough to get that dreaded fourth placing in her 200m, 400m and long jump and a fifth place in the high jump. Younger sister Chloe won a third place pennant in the girls 8 year old 100m.

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There is plenty of good opportunity for athletes to experience some good competition over the coming weeks and it has been quite disappointing to see that many of the athletes who have expressed a desire to compete in the national championships not making the most

of what is on offer. This is a general comment not one aimed at only local athletes.

Friday will see the Capital Classic in Wellington, with the North Island under 18 and under 16 teams inter provincial being held here in Palmerston North on Saturday. Hawera hosts their very iconic Jumps to Music on Wednesday. I hope the weather gods are kinder to them than in the past when they have used a bit of Kiwi number 8 wire technology bringing in a fleet of buses to act as a wind break. Saturday week will see Hastings hosting the Allan and Sylvia Potts Classic.