



Newsletter #37

Results and news from Wednesday 24th to Tuesday 30th April 2019

Feilding Moa had a very successful day at the Anzac Day Relay held at Scoutlands near Whanganui last week. They certainly showed a show of strength with eleven teams competing in the various grades. They started the day off strongly with Hazel Duker taking out the 1k race and followed this up with a one two in the 2k race with Jordan Botham coming in first and Lucas Taylor second.

In the women's event the team of Hayley Cornwall, Tessa Webb, Bella Ives and Lucy Ives took out the victory with Tessa recording the third best individual time. A great victory by a very young team and it is believed this was only the second occasion that Moa has taken out this event. The Palmerston North Athletic A team of Ashleigh Gunn, Angela Dukes, Kyla Gunn and Georgie Funnell finished fourth just ahead of the Moa B team. Palmerston North B was next across the line closely followed by the two other Moa teams.

In the men's competition victory went to Hawera Harriers with the Moa A of Sam Phillips, Nick Johnston, Luke Scott and Andre Le Pine Day finishing second. The Palmerston North Athletic team of Cooper Funnell, Aden Porritt, Mark Searle and Harrison Porritt was fourth just ahead of the Moa B team of Liam Wall, Sam Stichbury, Rueben Duker and A J Cornwall. The fastest lap time was recorded by Benjamin Wall who quite surprising was competing in the Moa C team which came in eleventh. The other Moa teams finishing 12th, 14th, 16th and 17th with the Palmerston North Athletic B team finishing 15th.

* * * * *

Palmerston North Boys High held their Cross Country Championships at Keeble's Farm and it was no surprise to see many of the top performers from the Anzac relays figuring prominently in the results. Benjamin Wall taking out the senior title from Andre Le Pine-Day with Luke Scott third. The intermediate title going to Liam Wall with Nelson Doolan second and Luke Brown third. In the junior boys, Reuben Duker was first over the time followed by Fergus Doolan and Max Connor. These boys will all be hoping to do well in the Manawatu Secondary Schools cross country championships that are being held at Manawatu College on May 15.

* * * * *

For the last couple of weeks I have been covering the performances of the Manawatu-Whanganui Athletes who were part of the tour organised by Greg Lautenslager. These tours have become a regular offering available to athletes of all abilities. I must say that the performances achieved by our athletes speak very highly on the benefits such an experience.

Monique Whiteman ran a personal best 800m of 2m25.08s just before she left on the tour. At the Beach Invitational Meeting she lowered this to 2m23.10s then last week at the Steve Scott Invitational she further reduced her personal best to 2m20.90s. Experienced athletes normally reduce their personal bests by a matter of tenth of a second to be able to bring it down by almost 5 seconds is outstanding.

Tayla Brunger is one of our top athletes as demonstrated by her successes at the North

Island championships. On tour she ran two personal best times for the 200m running a 25.06s early in the tour then at the Steve Scott meet she reduced this winning her heat in 25.02s. An indication of the type of competition available at this meeting is that although her time is the sixth fastest time recorded by a New Zealand under 18 athlete this year, it was only the twenty second fastest at the meeting. She also won her 400m heat in 56.66s.

Jonathan Maples has had a lot to live up to with both his sisters Lexi and Genna being very successful at national level. He has certainly performed well on tour returning home with a 11.35s PB for the 100m and 22.70s PB for the 200m. It will certainly be interesting to see these athletes' performances next season.

* * * * *

This weekend the Rotorua Marathon takes place and there is sure to be a few locals wishing to be able to cross this off their bucket list. Liam Woolford is entered and is hopeful of a top placing. This will be Liam's last competition in the Palmerston North club singlet as he is moving to Australia shortly after completing this event. We wish him well.