



Newsletter #47

Results and news from Thursday 15th to Wednesday 21st August 2019

Last Saturday the Athletics Manawatu Wanganui Road Championships were conducted in very trying conditions. Despite the very unpleasant weather some good performances were recorded. The event, hosted by Manawatu Striders, was able to take advantage of the loop offered by the opening of the pedestrian bridge across the Manawatu River.

The first event was a 1k race for under 8 and under 10 year olds. Ella Singleton (PNAHC) was first home, taking out the under 10 girls title. She was followed across the line by Aiden Billing (Wanganui Harriers), who claimed the boys under 10 title. Lewis Isles (Feilding Moa) was next and took second place in the boys under 10, he was just ahead of the Moa duo of Harry Waugh and Joshua Addenbrooke, the first two in the boys under 8 race.

The 3k race saw competitors in the under 12, under 14 and under 16 grades compete, and also those under 10 we decided to compete over the longer course. Feilding Moa athletes proved to be very prominent in this race with Rueben Duker being first home and winner of the under 14 boys title. He was followed home by Cameron Walker who claimed the under 16 boys title, with Hayley Cornwall next to finish winning the under 14 girls race. Sophie Addenbrooke was the first under 10 finisher, with Taylor Trow (PNAHC) first in the girls under 12 and Lucy Evans the first under 16 girl to finish. The boys under 12 first finisher was Will Sablerolle-Stone.

The 5k loop was the distance for the youth women with Stephanie Walker being first home here. The youth boys competed with the masters women's grade over 6k. Sam Stichbury

took out this title with Ben Conder second. The masters titles went to Heidi Hasegawa (W35) Fiona Donald (W40) Paula Conder (W45) Dale McMillan (W50) Wendy Watts (W55) and Jo Speary (W60)

The 10k loop which saw the runners out to Massey and back saw Chris Sanson the victor, finishing ahead of Harry Dixon and Nick Johnston. Next home was Andre Le-Pine Day the first under 20 finisher followed by David Lovelock the M35 winner. Other masters title winners were AJ Cornwall (M40) Michael Ives (M45), Andrew Davenport (M50), Neil Mayo (M55) Paul Woodfield (M60), Kevin Rolls (M65) and Roger Woodroffe (M70). The men's walk title going to David Jones, with Margaret Stuart being the women's winner.

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The first ever Technical Officials Education and Certification System Level II course took place in Christchurch the other week with 15 officials from around the country being invited to attend the 5 day course.

Local officials Steve Simcox and Brian Curry were amongst those selected and were successful in passing the course exam. This makes them eligible to officiate at international competition as well as being able apply for a place on the Oceania Area Technical Panel. Congratulations to them both.

I also see that Debbie Fern from Taranaki and Sharee Jones from Hawkes Bay were also amongst the attendees so the Lower North Island will be well served with a strong group able to take charge of meetings. It has long been a concern that many of the leading

officials in the area, myself included, are now getting on in age.

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Some news from the Feilding Moa Harrier Club who have their 80th birthday celebrations this Saturday.

Club Patron and Life Member Bruce Wilson is bringing along a heap of interesting Moa memorabilia he has collected over his many years with the club. And between him and a few other "old timers there is sure to be some interesting stories. Some perhaps may get exaggerated through the mists of time...for example Bruce reckons the hills they used to run were longer and steeper than anything we do today; and instead of fences or gates to leap, they had gorse hedges."

You may not realise it, but Bruce has been a club member since 1952, meaning this is his 68th year with the club - perhaps something of a record among athletic & harrier clubs? Hope the celebrations go well.

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It is AGM time for many of the clubs and these meetings are a good chance for parents and members get a chance to contribute on the direction they would like their club to move in. The Ashhurst club have their AGM on Tuesday 27 August starting at 6PM, with the venue being the Ashhurst RSA.

Athletics Manawatu Wanganui's AGM will be held on Wednesday 11 September and all clubs should be looking at making sure they are represented at this meeting.