



Newsletter #48

Results and news from Thursday 22nd August to Thursday 5th September 2019

Our Masters' grade athlete, Francie Bayler, competed with success in the 75-79 grade at the Oceania Masters' Athletic Championships held in Mackay this week. In typical Francie style, she advised us her results telling us that after finishing her competition, where she ended up with a silver medal in the triple jump, a bronze medal in the long jump, 4th in 100 meters and 5th in 60 meters, she then became an official for the rest of the championships.

Coach Anne Thomson commented that Francie was disappointed with her long jump. While she finished third, it was her distance that she doesn't like. Her run up accuracy did not have the consistency she has developed. However, how well would any of us perform in 32 degree heat?

Francie is certainly an inspiration to us all and her attitude to our support can only be admired.

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The 2020 Olympic Games is certainly becoming the focus for many our athletes. In the past week, both Jake Robertson and Eliza McCartney have decided to withdraw from New Zealand Team that will compete at the 2019 IAAF World Track and Field Championships in Doha later this month, instead deciding to focus on their Tokyo build up. Brave decisions but probably the correct one.

Another athlete who has made a tough decision is our own Ben Langton-Burnell who has decided to resign from his accountancy employment and become a full time athlete in order to give himself the best possibility of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics next year.

The World Championships will certainly be an important meeting for our athletes and a good pointer as to their chances of being selected for the Tokyo Olympics.

Of course our local interest will be on the performance of Hamish Kerr in the high jump. Watching the last few Diamond League meeting it has been quite interesting to see that many of the top competitors have been struggling to better his winning performance at the Oceania Championships earlier in the year. A repeat of this performance will certainly see him as a medal prospect.

The men's shot put sees Tom Walsh hitting top form at the right time which has possibly seen the performances of Jacko Gill slipping under the radar. Achieving personal bests in his last two competitions, he must be a definite chance of joining Walsh on the victory podium.

For me I will follow with interest the progress of sprinters, Edward Osei-Nketia and Zoe Hobbs. Sprinting is not an area that we have had great representation in the past and good performances from these two very talented athletes could perhaps open the door to the development of competitive relay squads.

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Something not to miss next Saturday is Palmerston North Park Run celebrating their 100th parkrun in Palmerston North. They want to celebrate with colour and are encouraging participants to wear as much colour as they like - the louder the better!

Come and join them for a run or walk along our beautiful Manawatu Riverside walkway,

certainly one of the best around.
Congratulations on achieving this milestone

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Sunday will see the final round of the Winter Track Series held in Masterton with the following programme.

1.00pm 100m Discus Hammer High Jump

1.20pm 1000m, 3000m, 5000m

1.45pm Shot Long Jump.

1.50pm 1500m

2.10pm 400m or 2 x 200m

With training scholarships being awarded to the top five athletes based on points scored over the four meetings, much interest will focus on the performances of the leading contenders. Local athletes, Andrew Matsuoka-Webber and Monique Gorrie currently sit fourth and fifth on the rankings with Pavinee Watson sitting just outside the top five in seventh placing.

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Some advance notice the first meeting of the Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Clubs season will take place on Tuesday October 1.