



## Canterbury Masters' President's Report 2022 – 2023 – Andrew Stark

### **Introduction:**

With all Covid restrictions now removed, it was busy as usual for the sport during the past year. The CMA AGM was delayed from August until the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. The same small group of members gathered at the St Luke's Union Church Hall in Halswell, with the venue being kindly organised by Lois Anderson. The future of CMA was discussed as the on-going trend seems to be fewer members joining CMA and fewer Canterbury club masters competing at the track & field meetings. While there were suggestions about promoting ourselves better, offering 'have a go day', it requires a coordinated approach and someone willing to take on the role. Is that person you?

Throughout the winter season, master's athletes continue to be the bulk of the competitors in attendance and the officials.

The Opening Day of the fifth track & field season at Ngā Puna Wai occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022. There were only 99 competitors (113 in 2021), seven of whom were masters. This attendance was again down on previous seasons. However, being the last weekend of the school holiday, this may have impacted on overall attendance.

### **NZMA Track & Field Championships:**

The NZMA Track & Field Championships, due to be held in March 2022 were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. The rescheduled time for this event was early December 2022, hosted in Wellington. Of the 225 entries, 21 were from Canterbury. It was a well organised and successful meeting, although we do need to look at the field event age groupings to create more even groups.

### **South Island Track & Field Championships:**

With NZMA Championships being held in December, we moved the South Island Masters Championships to 20 – 22 January 2023, held at Nga Puna Wai. This was a combined Athletics Canterbury Interclub / master's meeting. Of the 150 competitors, 74 were masters including a few from the North Island. There were 18 women's and 16 men's SI records broken.

### **NZMA Board Up-date:**

At the NZMA AGM held in Wellington, Michael Wray stepped down and three new members were elected; Brayden Grant (WMA), Hayden Robinson (WMA) and Carolyn Smith (NTH). Succession planning is important for all organizations, so in my role as President I am keen to upskill these new members to take over in due course. Brayden has already taken over records.

Work continues in the background to ensure the future of Masters' athletics within the New Zealand summer season, which is becoming very congested during the months of February / March. Following on from last year's survey, the NZMA Board are keen to work more closely with Athletics NZ. The challenge of finding venues to host own three championship events is on-going and very reliant on Athletics NZ finalizing their season. So that we could give all masters a 'heads-up' of when events would occur during the 2023-2024 season, I offered to host the NZMA Championships here at Nga Puna Wai. This will occur during the weekend of 16-18 February 2024. The SI Championships have been moved to Nelson, 18-20 February 2024. The NI Championships will be in Palmerston North, 1-3 December 2023.

### **Athletics Canterbury & Nga Puna Wai Sports Hub:**

Athletics Canterbury continued to use online entries for interclub and create the seeded timed programme prior to the competition on Saturday. The system works well and based on the number of entries it is easier to allocate the available officials to events.

During the season, Anne Davison continued to 'look after' our maturing group of throwers, by organising events

either prior to the interclub meetings or on a Wednesday or Sunday. I know this was greatly appreciated by this group, plus it also relieved some of the pressure of senior interclub throwing events. It also provided an opportunity for athletes from Otago to join in.

Athletics Canterbury is always looking for new officials. It would be great if more CMA members would come forward to help, and not just leave it up the 'regular' few who already undertake this role.

#### ***CMA 2022 / 2023 Membership Details:***

The previous membership figures are as follows: 160 (2010), 131 (2011), 110 (2012), 97 (2013), 82 (2014), 70 (2014/2015), 90 (2015/2016). All of these figures include members of clubs & NZMA.

Since the MOU in 2016, we have two separate groups. CMA members who only join NZMA have been as follows: 32 (2016/2017), 13 (2017/2018), 22 (2018/2019), 22 (2019/2020), 11 (2020/2021), 14 (2021/2022) & **12 (2022/2023)**.

Once again, the majority of masters (**200+ within clubs**) do not come near Nga Puna Wai. The Don Greig Racing Stables Club does train regularly at Nga Puna Wai, and it would be great if others did the same AND then attended track & field interclub meetings?

The success of masters' track & field relies on us encouraging ANZ club masters to attend events at Nga Puna Wai.

#### ***CMA 2022 - 2023 Championship Review:***

The major CMA Championship events were again held within the Athletics Canterbury Track & Field Championships (Friday night / Saturday afternoon), with 25 athletes taking over the two days. Given NPW has numerous throwing circles, we were able to timetable masters only events. We did self-manage some events, but also had some assistance from Centre officials. Thank you once again to Anne Davison for coordinating the master's throwing events.

#### ***CMA Records:***

This season, no-one has taken charge of collating the CMA records. At the time of writing this report, the 2022 / 2023 records have not been updated. I am looking for someone to take over this role.

#### ***Finances:***

The CMA account has very few transactions to deal with unless we are hosting the South Island Championship. Thank you to Anna Lynch for managing our finances and preparing the final accounts. The completed accounts will be available in September. CMA did make a \$3000 donation to Athletics Canterbury to enable them to purchase two new laptops.

#### ***CMA Committee:***

During the past season, the committee has not met. A suggestion for CMA Committee members to become part of the Athletics Canterbury's Track & Field Committee has also not occurred. The future of this committee is in the members' hands!

#### ***Athletics Canterbury Awards Function:***

The CMA Awards dinner has not occurred for a few years now. This year we introduced an award for a master's athlete, which is long overdue. The first recipient of the award was Helena Dinnissen. She is a regular attendee at Nga Puna Wai competing in sprints, jumps and the track pentathlon. She attended the World Masters' Track & Field Championships in Tampere, Finland (June 2022): 1<sup>st</sup> long jump, 2<sup>nd</sup> 100mH and triple Jump, 5<sup>th</sup> 100m and high jump, 8<sup>th</sup> 200m.

#### ***Oceania Masters' Athletics:***

The 2023 OMA Championships were held in conjunction with the Oceania Cup, held in Saipan, Northern Mariana (22-24 June 2022). This is an open athletics meeting and while there were 930 competitors, I am not sure how many masters went. OMA are currently in discussion with Oceania Athletics to become a sub group of that organization.

#### ***The future of CMA?***

The number of masters registered with Athletics Canterbury is about 220. However, the CMA / NZMA membership numbers continues to drop. I remind ALL masters that anyone who is over 30 and is a member of a club, is also by default a member of NZMA / CMA. If we are interested in retaining a separate

Masters Committee, our challenge is to work out how we engage with this group of masters and not let it feel like it's 'them' & 'us'.

I look forward to hearing what others have to say.

*PS: Success amongst our peers ... at the Athletics NZ AGM held in Palmerston North on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the following members were recognized for their contributions to athletics.*

1. **Daniel Reese** was awarded an **Athletics NZ Merit Award** for service to the sport, a total of 50 years. Due to his poor health, this award was presented to Daniel on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Unfortunately, he lost his battle with cancer and passed away peacefully at home on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, surrounded by his family.
2. **Kevin Jago** was awarded an Athletics NZ Life Membership, as acknowledgement of 65 years service to the sport of athletics. We will present the badge at the CMA AGM.
3. **Andrew Stark** was elected Vice-President of Athletics NZ. This is a two year position, followed by two years as Athletics NZ President.