

Introduction:

Ove the past 10+ season I have written lengthy reports about how Canterbury Masters have been going. The reality is that the stand-alone Masters Committee that I first chaired in 2010 has had its day, and no longer meets or is functional. That is not necessarily and bad thing, but is a sign of the times. All masters events have been integrated into the Athletics Canterbury programme. This has been the case for cross country, road and trail events for numerous years and is now what happens within our track & field meetings.

The only exception is the Anne Davison, supported by Rick, 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.

The Opening Day of the sixth track & field season at Ngā Puna Wai was to occur on 14th October 2023. However, strong wind and damage to grandstand meant that the meeting was cancelled. The average attendance at Athletics Canterbury interclub meetings is 127. Of these, the average number of masters is 11 males and 1 female. The lower number of females is due to the 'older' members conducting their events outside of the normal interclub programme.

South Island Track & Field Championships:

With South Island Championships were held in Nelson from 19 – 21 January 2024, at Saxton Field. Of the 56 competitors, there were 16 from Canterbury (10 males & 6 females).

The following Canterbury athletes broke records: Jo van Rensburg - 800m (2:34.83); Roger Ward - 800m (2:51.15), Peter Richards - 3000m (11:06.32), 5000 (19:16.01), Georg Ludwig - 100mH (23.69), Lois Anderson - long jump (2.57m), high jump (0.94m).

NZMA Track & Field Championships:

The NZMA Track & Field Championships were held at Nga Puna Wai from 16th - 18th February 2024. Gone are the days when a masters championship is organized by the local Master's Centre. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Athletics Canterbury Track & Field Committee for the support I received to make this event happen, plus the numerous volunteers who stepped up on the day to help officiate. My role was to organize online entries and prepare the programme booklet, seed events and assist with the results. Thank you to Bernie Jago who helped organize the medals.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge the fantastic work done by Eddie Cropley (AC Fund Raising Manager), who made several funding applications (\$10k) on CMA behalf. He also acquired a sponsorship deal from The Elms Hotel (\$5k), which was the venue of the NZMA Awards Dinner. We also received \$2k from the 4thWVGT, plus collected \$13k in competition fees. A very successful meeting. This will results a good profit this year for CMA. The intention is to reinvest that money within the sport, as and when needed, to Athletics Canterbury.

There were 194 competitors, with 43 from Canterbury (12 female, 31 males). The number of local attendees was pretty disappointing, given we have over 200 masters within clubs.

The following Canterbury athletes broke NZMA Championship records: Brett Tingay - 3000m (9:07.26), Nick Bolton 100mH (14.44), Rozie Robinson - 1500mTW (8:07.23), 3000mTW (17:38.10), 5000mTW (30:26.01).

NZMA Board Up-date:

At the NZMA AGM was held at Nga Puna Wai. A new board member, Dale McMillan joined the Board. It is a good mix of young and old, yet the on-going challenge is up-skilling the newer Board members to take over the 'reins' when the time is right. It is proving difficult at times, as the younger Board members are 'time poor', due to family and work demands.

The 2025 NZMA Track & Field Championship with be hosted by Auckland. After much discussion and challenges around the availability of Mount Smart, this event will be held from 28th - 30th March 2025. The

North Island Championships will be in Whangarei (29th November - 1st December 2024) and the South Island Championships will be at Nga Puna Wai (24th - 26th January 2025).

Work continues in the background to ensure the future of Masters' athletics within the New Zealand summer season, which is very congested during the months of February / March. Recently there was a big restructuring with several Athletics NZ roles being disestablished. How this will affect the sport, I am not sure. When I know more, I will let you know.

CMA 2023 / 2024 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) & 10 (2023/2024).

Once again a majority of masters (**200+ within clubs**) do not come near Nga Puna Wai. While the Don Greig Racing Stables Club does train regularly at Nga Puna Wai and it would be great if others did the same and race more at nga Puna Wai. Athletics Canterbury's Track & Field Committee are more than happy to offer some masters specific events to encourage more masters to 'have a go!'.

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

CMA Records:

I am currently looking for someone to take over looking after the records. Please contact me if you can help.

CMA Committee:

During the past season, the committee has not met since the AGM. CMA is an Incorporated Society and we will have to decide if we re-register. It is advantageous for CMA to remain this way, as it enables us to make funding applications, independent of Athletics Canterbury.

The future of CMA?

Each year the CMA / NZMA membership numbers continue to decline. This is not unique to just Canterbury. I remind ALL members that any athlete who is over 30 and a member of a club is also by default a member NZMA / CMA. Our challenge is to work out how we engage with this group and not let it feel like it's 'them' & 'us'. If you don't think we need a separate group, left me know.

Canterbury athletes competing at the NZMA Championships held at NPW, February 2024.

