

Introduction:

At the recent NZMA AGM, the role of the Masters Committees was discussed. Since the MOU between NZMA and Athletics NZ was introduced, the two organisations have worked more closely. As a result, all masters events are now included in the Athletics Canterbury programme, as they are in many other centres. This approach has been used for cross country, road, and trail events for several years and now also applies to track and field meetings.

An exception is the programme run by Anne Davison, with support from Rick and Justine Whitaker, for our older group of throwers. These events are held before interclub meetings or on Wednesdays and Sundays. This initiative is much appreciated and helps ease pressure on the senior interclub throwing programme.

Opening Day for the eighth track and field season at Ngā Puna Wai is set for 18 October 2025. Athletics Canterbury interclub meetings average about 135 participants, including around 15 masters athletes. Female participation is lower because many older women hold their events outside the regular interclub programme.

South Island Masters Track & Field Championships:

With South Island Championships were held in Nelson from 23 – 25 January 2026, at Saxton Fields. Of the 75 competitors, there were 19 from Canterbury. Later this year the SI Championships will be held in Invercargill.

The following Canterbury athletes broke records: Tania Lutton (W55) – shot put (11.60m), discus (27.89m) & throws pentathlon (2994pts). Anna Lynch (W40) – throws pentathlon (2612pts), John McManus (M55) – javelin (27.04m) & throws pentathlon (2439 pts), Joden Pratten (M40) – discus (42.15m) throws pentathlon (2931pts)

NZMA Track & Field Championships:

Because of a crowded season schedule, the NZMA Track & Field Championships were held at TET Stadium in Inglewood from 13–15 March 2026. Organising a master's championship now extends beyond local Masters Centres, and the Taranaki LOC included Taranaki Masters members, the Athletics Taranaki Track & Field Committee, and paid staff member Melissa Maw. Police and FENZ members were again invited to compete. My role included liaising with the LOC, setting the order of events, managing online entries, preparing the programme booklet and race numbers, seeding events, and helping with results. This was a substantial task, especially in producing a workable programme. We were fortunate to have experienced Taranaki officials on the LOC, along with many Athletics NZ officials who delivered the meeting efficiently throughout the weekend. I would also like to acknowledge Mark and Andrea Harris. Mark provided significant technical equipment, and his expertise with AthleticNET and photo-finish was invaluable. Andrea was responsible for setting up the EDMs for the throwing events.

The event attracted 230 competitors, the second largest number since my involvement dating back to 2010., Canterbury had a small team of 19 attend the meeting. It was encouraging to see many younger masters attending, which bodes well for the future.

During the season following Canterbury athletes set a **NZMA National** records: Louise Martin (W60) – 60m (9.03), Helena Dinnissen (W40) – long jump (5.31m), Tania Lutton (W55) – shot put (11.87m), Anna Lynch (W40) – throws pentathlon (2612pts), Craig Oliver (M40) – 800m (1:57.78), Philip Parkin (M80) – 1500m (6:27.12) & 3000m (14:17.80)

During the season following Canterbury athletes set a **NZMA Championships** records: Maicalia Steinegg (W30) – 400m (58.67), Tania Lutton (W55) – shot put (11.64m), Philip Parkin (M80) – 1500m (6:27.12) & 3000m (14:17.80)

Oceania Masters Track & Field Championships:

The OMA Championships were held in Brisbane from 6–10 September 2025. I attended to assist with results and AthleticLIVE and to take part in the OMA AGM. As a current OMA Council member, I offered to host the next championships at Ngā Puna Wai when expressions of interest were invited. For the event to succeed,

we will need strong support from Athletics Canterbury, our local community, and Athletics NZ officials from around the country.

Just under 100 New Zealanders took part. The following Canterbury athletes competed.

Vic Chapman (W45) – 4th 800m (2:35.83),

Helena Dinnissen (W40) – 1st 100m (12.90), 2nd 200m (26.44), 1st long jump (5.31m),

Sheron Farmer (W75) – 6th weight (7.76m), 7th shot put (5.89m), 5th discus (13.58m), 8th hammer (17.46m), 4th javelin (10.25m), 5th throws pentathlon (1920pts)

Nadine Fea (W45) – 3rd high jump (1.10m), 4th shot put (8.65m), 6th discus (20.17m), 9th hammer (20.74m), 6th javelin (15.85m), 7th weight (10.30m)

Tania Lutton (W55) – 2nd shot put (11.29m), 2nd discus (29.76m), 6th throws pentathlon (2767pts)

Wendy Richards – 5th 5000m (23:53.79), 6th 6000m XC (41:57.00),

Justine Whitaker (W80) – 1st shot put (6.60m), 1st discus (15.49m), 3rd hammer (16.93m), 2nd javelin (12.20m), 2nd weight (8.12m), 3rd throws pentathlon (2540pts)

Adrian Dinnissen (M45) – 2nd high jump (1.44m), 5th long jump (4.21m),

John McManus (M55) – 4th shot put (9.35m), 9th discus (27.64), 5th hammer (25.55m), 6th javelin (28.94m), 5th weight (9.89m), 4th throws pentathlon (2123pts)

Peter Richards (M65) – 2nd 800m (2:37.39), 1st 1500m (5:23.90), 1st 5000m (19:03.40), 1st 8000m XC (33:00.00),

Roger Ward (M70) – 5th 800m (3:03.53), 4th 1500m (6:07.54),

NZMA Board Up-date:

This year, Christine McCahill was elected to the Board. Having previously served on the Board, she brings valuable accounting expertise and will be an asset to the committee.

The Board has a good balance of younger and older members, but an ongoing challenge is preparing newer members to take over when the time comes. This can be difficult, as younger Board members are often time-poor because of work and family commitments.

Work is continuing behind the scenes to secure the future of Masters' athletics within New Zealand's crowded summer season, particularly in February and March. The 2028 NZMA Track & Field Championships are planned for Dunedin.

CMA 2023 / 2025 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), 17 (2024-2025) & **18 (2025-2026)**.

Each year I note that most masters athletes—more than **200 within clubs**—do not compete at Ngā Puna Wai. I hope that hosting the combined Oceania and New Zealand Masters Track & Field Championships there will encourage more Canterbury masters to take part.

The success of masters track & field relies on us encouraging ANZ club master's members attending events at Ngā Puna Wai.

CMA Records:

Anne Davison has assisted with maintaining a list of records set by our throwers. However, I am currently looking for someone to take over the 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 has remained an Incorporated Society. 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 seem to have remained about the same, but still lower than in previous years. 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.