

Introduction:

The Opening Day of the second season at Ngā Puna Wai occurred on 17 October 2020. Of the 140 competitors of all ages, only 9 masters attended. Despite nearly 200 masters registered with Athletics Canterbury, the number interested in track & field continues to remain low.

I appreciate we are an aging population, but unless there is a real effort to create and promote more opportunities for masters, I cannot see the situation improving.

This season we had two events of significance.

South Island Track & Field Championships:

This year, the meeting was held in Dunedin. When the event has been hosted by Canterbury, we have incorporated masters events within a bigger meeting. Otago Masters were given the generic programme, that included a track event on Friday night. For some reason Athletics Otago refused to use the standard programme, despite repeated requests from Otago Masters. Consequently a revised programme was used which made it a challenge for our members to do their normal array events. Hopefully this will be rectified next season.

NZMA Track & Field Championships:

This year the NZMA Championships were held in Inglewood, having last been held there in 2009. Following a last minute rush and an extension of the entry closing day, there were over 250 entries. That was good a outcome, given it is not the easiest venue to get to.

Nineteen CMA members made the trip north and entered 84 events. Over the weekend the weather was fantastic! A pleasant change from the windy condition we seem to face each week at Nga Puna Wai.

At 10:00 pm. Saturday, just as the NZMA Awards Dinner was coming to an end, we heard the New Zealand was into a 'lockdown' due to a community Covid 19 outbreak in Auckland.

Under the Level 2 guidelines, a gathering of no more than 100 was allowed. The LOC, with support from the NZMA Board, a plan for keeping groups within the 100 was created and we complete all events on the Sunday. I would like to acknowledge the professional way the LOC organised the meeting over the weekend and particularly dealing with the issues on Sunday.

NZMA Board Up-date:

At the NZMA AGM, the Board was elected as a group with no defined roles as in previous years. The new Board will allocate roles based on the skill set of those elected. Stewart Foster (treasurer / secretary) and John Campbell (Vetline editor) did not seek re-election.

To be fair, most of us will continue in the same roles as before, so that means I am still the President. However we will rotate who chairs the meetings. The Board sees this as a way for creating succession planning going

forward. NZMA have identified they need assistance regarding the finances and they intend to co-op a person with those skills.

Our next challenge now is to work toward creating clear job descriptions as part of the succession planning. Once this has been achieved, it might be time for me to step aside. I am fortunate that all members of the current Board are easy to get on with and we can have honest discussions about anything, without anyone getting upset.

Athletics Canterbury & Nga Puna Wai Sports Hub:

This season I continued as the Chairman of the Track & Field Committee and Chair of the Athletics Canterbury Board. This does involve a considerable time commitment, which does affect my involvement in masters activities.

For a third year, Athletics Canterbury have employed a General Manager, Ian Thomas. It is my job to oversee the work he does.

On reflection, the role that we thought Ian would be doing was not what Athletics Canterbury expected. What has become very clear, is that our sport needs such a role. It would be unrealistic for a volunteer to do what is required of this role, as well as be in fulltime employment.

Athletics Canterbury are always looking for new officials. Several CMA members already help out at interclub. It is a good way to give something back to the sport, so why not consider becoming involved. Have a talk to Anne Davison or Lois Anderson if you would like to know more.

CMA 2020 / 2021 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)**.

It was interesting to note that there were **213** masters registered with Athletics Canterbury, i.e. those that belong to clubs, so where are they during the summer? While many of our members join clubs, fewer masters than ever competed in track & field events. With more options these days, particularly mountain biking, it is perhaps not surprising.

The success of the MOU relies on all of us encouraging ANZ masters to attend our events and working together as one group and I believe it has helped keep numbers up at Island and NZMA Championship events.

CMA Throwers Meetings:

During the season Anne & Rick Davison organised a series of throwing events. These have either been held just before the Saturday senior interclub meeting (outer

throwing area), offering an opportunity for an additional event or two or as a throws pentathlon held on a Sunday. Athletes from Otago Masters have also attended and this will occur next season as well.

CMA 2020 - 2021 Championship Review:

The major CMA Championship events were again held within the Athletics Canterbury Track & Field Championships (Friday night / Saturday afternoon). 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.

Nga Puna Wai Relay (Pete Watts Memorial):

At the request of the Cross-country and Road Committee of Athletics Canterbury, this event had been moved to the end of the winter season, planned to occur at Nga Puna Wai in mid October 2020. However, due to a lack of interest from club athletes, the event was cancelled. More investigation is needed to determine when the event should be held.

CMA Records:

This season, Janis Russell has taken over collating the CMA records. While Janis does look through meeting results for records, I remind athletes that it is your responsibility to notify an official if you break a record and ensure that all the correct paperwork has been completed. This includes making sure any implement used in breaking record is checked accordingly.

A full list of records broken during the 2020 / 2021 season is on the CMA website. Please check the records to see if any have been missed.

Finances:

With cheques no longer usable, CMA is now using online bill payments. This is not a lot of transactions to deal with unless we are hosting the South Island Championship. Thank you to Anna for managing our finances.

Promotion of CMA:

We continue to use our website (not much happens there) and Facebook to promote what our members are up to and up-coming events. Thank you to Jonny Baird and Janis Russell for doing this.

Annual CMA & NZMA Awards Dinner

The annual NZMA Awards were held in Inglewood, well organised by Michael Wray. Canterbury only had one winner this year.

John Campbell was the NZMA Male Sprinter Athlete of the year.

Brian Senior was the NZMA Male Thrower Athlete of the year.

Glen Watts was the NZMA Female Thrower Athlete of the year.

Well done to you all.

The CMA Awards dinner was cancelled last season and as yet no decision about a 2021 event has been made. One possible suggestion is a combined Awards / AGM gathering, with a social following.

CMA Committee:

During the past season, the committee had very few meetings ... one could almost say we were inactive! Bernie Jago stepped up to be secretary, Anna McNab (treasurer), plus Beverley Church, Nick Bolton and Jonny Baird were the committee. Last year Anna produced 'easy to read' accounts, which I expect again this year. We have not seen Anna much all season, due to her having her second baby, so life is busy.

I am happy to continue guiding the CMA, but I am keen for new people to come on board and share the workload.

Our challenge is to promote what we have to offer so we can attract more members. Athletics Canterbury organised five Thursday night twilight meetings in November. These should be meetings we could promote and attract new members. Having Nga Puna Wai will help us do that. Together with help from Ian Thomas, we have a fantastic opportunity to promote ourselves and run some 'masters' only events mid-week at Nga Puna Wai. I would like some help to get this implemented during the 2021 / 2022 season. Afterall, there are six retirement villages in the area.

NOTE: The Oceania Masters Track & Field Championships planned for Norfolk Island 2021 were cancelled due to the uncertainty of travel between Australia, Norfolk Island and New Zealand. Currently Oceania Masters Athletics are looking for a New Zealand Centre to host the 2023 event. It is possible we will hold it at Nga Puna Wai. Watch this space.

Finally, thank you for all the support I receive from you all personally over the past 11 years in charge. It is a pleasure to be your President, but we do need to look for others to become involved and share the tasks. I am happy to pass on my knowledge.