



Hi Clubs!! Well the winter season is well and truly in full swing as we build up to the Athletics NZ Cross Country Champs in Christchurch in less than two weeks. During that same weekend we are also holding the Athletics New Zealand AGM and Club Connect. Remember if you registered your club with Athletics NZ before 2 June 2015 your club has voting rights at the AGM so make sure you head along and have your say.

There have been plenty of things happening to keep everyone in the Athletics world busy over the last couple of months. In this issue read about how some regions celebrated World Athletics Day, learn who the new staff at Athletics NZ are and check out some great new member benefits.

Cat O'Sullivan

Club Connect Conference

2 August 2015

This year's Athletics NZ Club Connect Conference aims to provide insight and direction for both summer and winter clubs. We've listened to your feedback and have an exciting and insightful programme planned that will help your clubs grow and develop. We will take a look at the roles and responsibilities of key organisations operating in the Athletics environment. We think it's important for our clubs to understand who we are and what we can do to help. Come ready to share, interact and think! We even have a Run Jump Throw kit up for grabs for one lucky club attending. Please see below the links to all the relevant information. We look forward to seeing you all there!!

[CONFERENCE TIMETABLE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Conference Dinner

A great opportunity to mix and mingle in a relaxed setting after a hard day at the Cross Country. Join us at the Old Vicarage in Halswell for a 2 course dinner. The menu looks delicious. Drinks in the bar start at 6pm dinner at 7pm. Cost: \$45. Register as part of the conference above.

Member Benefits

Athletics New Zealand offers a number of significant Member Benefits for the athletics family. We'll be adding more benefits soon but [check out](#) what we have already



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World Athletics Day

What the regions got up to

This year 4 regions across New Zealand celebrated World Athletics Day with various events across the Month of May. Now in its 20th year, the IAAF World Athletics Day is the sport's annual worldwide festival of youth and one of the busiest programmes of competitions on the athletics calendar. When it began in 1996, the IAAF World Athletics Day was initially planned exclusively for youngsters who were members of clubs affiliated to IAAF member federations. But in recent years, the scope of the project has broadened to include the participation of school children in team competitions and has now become a complete and an important event which promotes the sport around the world. Check out what our regions got up to below.

Otago

On Sunday 17 May the first of the Athletics Otago Kids Cross Country series was held as part of World Athletics Day celebrations. Primary and Intermediate school children from the region were invited to take part in the event. Forty children between five and twelve years old registered for the event. They competed in age grades over a distance of 800m to 2km. The cross country course was set out over sports fields and forest trails.

IAAF Kids Athletics Activities were set up on the sports field between the start and finish line. Children enjoyed running, jumping and throwing with the IAAF Kids' Athletics gear as part of their warm up. Despite the rain and cold the kids enjoyed the hurdles, pole vault, cross hop, discus and turbo throw. Even the parents had a go at the various activities.



Waikato

Waikato partnered with the Cambridge club cross country relay event to celebrate World Athletics Day. The concept was to include local schools and families to enter a team of 3, integrated with the relay event. 85 participants from 9 clubs attended and participated in the teams cross country event.

Wellington

Wellington had 515 children taking part in a fun Kids Cross Country event at Karori Park in Wellington. It was an event that was open to all children, so it didn't matter if they were part of a club or not. The children were aged between 4 and 13 years of age. They had 10 of their teenage athletes volunteering on the day as tail end and lead runners, helping on the start line and handing out medals at the prize giving. They also had a number of officials from Athletics Wellington. This event was run by Athletics Wellington in partnership with the Karori Athletics Club. It's the third year

Wellington have run the Kids Cross Country Series and each year the numbers have increased significantly. The aim is for kids to come and give cross country a go. They are encouraged to

get a few friends together so they can run as a team. From kids taking part in these events it is hoped to link those to clubs in the future by promoting what clubs have to offer leading up to the athletics and cross country seasons.

Auckland

World Athletics Day was incorporated into the second race of the Athletics Auckland Cross Country Grand Prix Series. The event was held on Saturday 16th May at the Pukekohe A&P Showgrounds. A total of 14 Auckland clubs were represented and also Athletics Whangarei and Hamilton City Hawks had athletes competing.



New Community Staff Members

Amie O'Brien – Amie started last week and has taken over from Michael Sharapoff as Community and Participation Manager. Check out her [bio](#)

Stephanie Cunningham – Stephanie recently took over from Karen Laurie as National Get Set Go Manager. Stephanie comes to us from Sport Auckland where she was Regional Get Set Go Coordinator. Check out her [bio](#)

Kerry Hill – Kerry has come on board to cover part of Amy McClintock's parental leave. He is focusing on Coach Development. Check out his [bio](#)

Trevor Spittle – Trevor has come on board to cover the Official Development aspect of Amy McClintock's role. Check out his [bio](#)

Thanks Volunteers

Thanks to all the awesome volunteers out there who help deliver Athletics to their communities. You all play a very important part in our sport and we wouldn't exist without you all. If you would like to Thank a Volunteer in your club there are a couple of ways you can do this below.

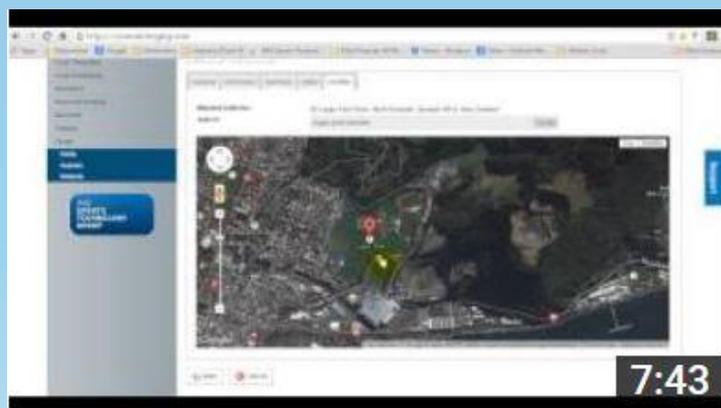
[Sport NZ Thank a Volunteer](#)

[AA Thank a good sort](#)



Club Finder

Club Finder is a new aspect of the Athletics New Zealand website that allows potential members to search clubs in their area. For those clubs that are still to fill in their club finder details you can do this in ClubNet. Make sure that you are on there and all details are up to date so that you can be found. To help you out follow these [instructions](#) and for those visual learners out there Bryce Watt our database guru has kindly created this ['How to' video](#).



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CLUB CHAT





ATHLETICS NEW ZEALAND

CLUB CONNECT CONFERENCE

VENUE: Christian Cullen Room, Addington Raceway, Christchurch

DATE: 1-2 August 2015

ADMISSION: FREE!

All Athletics New Zealand Clubs and Members welcome.
Register @ www.athletics.org.nz before July 24th 2015