

Welcome to the first edition of Club Chat, a frequent communication for all athletics clubs and their members throughout New Zealand. My name is Cat O'Sullivan, the new Club Development Manager at Athletics NZ.... a brand new role with a focus purely on clubs (Yay!) This came as a result of the Athletics NZ restructure late last year, as did the creation of the Athletics NZ Community Sport Team. This team is led by our Community Sport Manager Michael Sharapoff and also includes Coach and Officials Development, Competitions and the GET SET GO Fundamentals programme. The aim for this team is to provide strategy and programmes to members, clubs, coaches, officials and athletics organisations operating at grass roots in Athletics.

Over the last 6 months I, along with the Community Sport Team have been assessing and researching the current environment out there in 'club land'. As you are probably aware it's sometimes a tough environment we find ourselves operating in....it's quickly changing, volatile and competitive, not to mention highly reliant on hardworking volunteers that give up countless hours of their own precious time. This creates an array of challenges for clubs and highlights the need to remain relevant to our members and to treasure our volunteers.

The club development role has been established to help and support clubs to achieve their goals and to deliver relevant and quality experiences to their members and communities they operate in. Athletics NZ highly values the work member clubs do in the community and for our sport as a whole. Clubs are the shop front for our sport and the platform for the delivery of Athletics in the community. It is Athletics NZ's goal to drive a 'club focused' approach by implementing best practice models and producing the tools required to create strong vibrant clubs.

If you ask me, communication is key! I believe it's important that we can communicate effectively and more directly with clubs. This has not always been easy with contact details often changing, so over the next couple of days your club should receive a link to an online club registration form. The purpose of this is to collect up to date contact details for your club. We would really appreciate each club filling this out the best you can. Don't worry...it should only take about 10 minutes and will be well worth it to receive invigorating and up to the minute information from us here at Athletics NZ.

As part of this newsletter we would like to showcase innovative and exciting club projects and best practice models happening throughout New Zealand. In this newsletter read about some new programmes Athletics New Zealand has available to children's clubs, a way to simplify membership administration and how an Otago club went about celebrating World Athletics Day. If your club has any exciting projects or programmes currently happening I would love to hear about them.

I thought I'd take this opportunity for a sneaky wee reminder... the Athletics New Zealand annual 'Club Connect' conference is being held in Hamilton 2-4 August. We have some great sessions planned around club development and club programmes. It's not too late....online registrations are still open on the Athletics New Zealand website. Don't miss this great opportunity!

Finally thanks for all the amazing work you do for our sport and I look forward to meeting you all over the next few months and supporting your club to grow and develop.

Cat O'Sullivan

Simplifying Membership

This is it...a way to make life easier and more efficient for clubs. We believe clubs play one of the most important roles in our sport, by creating a place where athletics is vibrant in the community, where kids learn, adults thrive and competitors are born. We've found a product to simplify administration so clubs can focus on what's really important. Enjoying Athletics! Athletics New Zealand is launching a new online member management system this summer...a system that will allow clubs and individuals to register and pay online. Each club will have their own online portal, which will enable them to manage membership and easily communicate to all members. Ultimately this system will simplify membership for clubs by enabling individual members to register and pay online, and update their own contact details when needed. Thus saving clubs hours of data input and updating. Our aim is to have all members on the system this summer, so initially there will be a bit of work required, but don't worry we are here to help you through the process...there will be frequent communication and training with all clubs throughout to assist and support you through the implementation phase. We thank you in advance for your time and effort in implementing the new system...it will be worth it!! For more information please contact Alastair Dunn – alastair@athletics.org.nz

World Athletics Day – Caversham Athletics Club Builds Club School links

Sport Otago in association with Caversham Harriers and Athletics Club organised a Kids Athletics Festival on Friday 24 May in celebration of World Athletics Day. The event was held in the new Forsyth Barr covered stadium in Dunedin and was targeted at a cluster of primary school kids aged 8-10. It was the first time an Athletics event had been held in the stadium which added an extra element of excitement for the kids.

The Kids and Teachers loved the IAAF Kids Athletics event, with all schools involved showing interest in the programme, with ideas and enthusiasm for holding similar events in the future. Ninety children from three schools competed in the IAAF Kids Athletics competition. Students from the Otago Polytechnic and Otago University along with Caversham Athletics Club members provided help on the day. All participating schools were based in the South Dunedin area surrounding the Caversham Harrier & Athletics Club. It was a great way for the club to build key links and relationships with the Primary Schools in their area. It also gave the club a great opportunity to promote athletics and what their club can offer.

For Secondary School students World Athletics Day was celebrated in a team Road Race organised by the Otago Secondary School Sports Association in association with the Caversham Harrier and Athletics Club. 148 Secondary School students from 12 different secondary schools competed on the Kings High School Course. Each person in the 4 Member team ran a 2km loop.

Congratulations to Caversham Harrier & Athletics Club Sport Otago and Otago Secondary School Sports Association for organising two very successful events to celebrate the 18th IAAF World Athletics Day.



GET SET GO

GET SET GO is a new and exciting initiative developed and managed by Athletics New Zealand to help Kiwi Kids develop the skills they need so that they can choose and enjoy being more active through play and sport. GET SET GO is designed for young children between ages 4 – 8, and takes a holistic “whole child” approach to help them to master the skills that will make participation in athletics and other sport and recreation activities more enjoyable and successful.

These include:

- Physical movement skills,
- Knowledge & cognitive skills, along with
- Emotional & social skills they need.



Athletics New Zealand believes athletic skills are the basis for all sport, and has a clear research based framework for developing the skills and abilities of our athletes. At the core of this pathway, is GET SET GO, with a holistic focus on developing a strong base for future participation and high level performance.

We recognise that each club will have its own unique culture and individual style, so GET SET GO has a flexible approach of delivery. Programmes can be built around the clubs junior athlete’s needs, and run along-side their existing programmes. A key goal of GET SET GO is to give parents the opportunity to interact and build their confidence in delivering the programme. GET SET GO utilises easy to understand skill criteria and assessment information to provide parents and coaches the tools they need to develop junior athlete’s skills, and their enjoyment. This is available for clubs this season. For further information please contact Cat O’Sullivan - catherine@athletics.org.nz

Lotto Supports Sport Makers

Have you thanked your coaches, officials, administrators or parent helpers recently? Head along to LottoVolunteers.co.nz to send the hard working and valued volunteers in your club a thank you e-card. This also gives them the chance to win clothing and sports gear. Lotto Volunteers is a great new initiative by Sport NZ and NZ Lotteries to reward and thank volunteers or ‘Sport Makers’. Let’s get the ball rolling and show our volunteers how valued they are.



If you have any questions, suggestions or comments I'd love to hear from you:

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