

# Cairns Athletics

---

NEWSLETTER 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**FIRST, a message from the organiser of the premier event on the Cairns 2015 Sporting Calendar, THE 2015 OCEANIA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS...**



For those who may have missed it, last week one of the most significant Athletics Carnivals within the Pacific Island Region was held here in Cairns on your home track.

The 2015 Oceania Athletics Championships saw 21 Nations and over 400 athletes competing for three days at Barlow Park. The calibre of the athletes competing was outstanding and the accompanying dignitaries certainly raised the event to a truly international level. Joining the athletes, officials and team managers were the IAAF Vice presidents, Lord Sebastian Coe and Mr Sergey Bubka. These are two of the greatest athletes of all time, who continue their dedication to athletics within the global athletics community through the IAAF (Our younger athletes may like to do a quick search on Google). Rather than sit up isolated in the VIP box, both gentlemen found their way onto the track and the field to officiate and mingle with the athletes.

Witnessing Sergey Bubka, still the world record holder of the outdoors men's pole vault, doing the spiking for discus, and Seb Coe (2 time Olympic gold medal and 2 time silver medallist in the 1500m & 800m respectively) starting the 1500m race was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the majority of those competing or spectating.

Of course, hosting such as the Oceania Championships does not happen overnight. Months of planning occurred in the lead up. A small but very dedicated group of Cairns Athletics Committee Members (and one ring-in from Mulgrave) put in countless hours of preparation. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks and congratulate the wonderful crew that formed the local organising committee (LOC) for their efforts and dedication to their sport: Sue Slatcher, Trudy Watson, Rob Murchie, Cathy Marino, Ruth Phillips and Lindy Banaghan (Mulgrave). Without these volunteers Cairns would not have had the opportunity to witness such a high level of athletics and the multicultural spectacular that is the Oceania Athletics Championships.

In addition to the LOC, there were many that helped out greatly during the three days of competition. In medal presentation, canteen, and basket carriers for the track: Lee Stewart, Sue Slatcher, Ruth Phillips, Cathy Marino, Peter Banaghan, John Redmond, Percy Williams, Tracey Anderlini, Jean Lendon, Hunter McAvoy, Karlene Markos, Leonie Strano, Ronelle Brown, Nadya Sinclair, Siobhan & Andrew Colville, Gavin Rick, Noah & Theo Watson, Jane Rhodes, Lacey & Monique Marino, Gwilym, Cherry & Llewellyn Vaughan, Zac Ballantine, Edward Orchard, Yumi Taylor and Judy Rick.

I would also like to mention the fantastic achievements of our Cairns and other ANQ athletes who represented Australia or the Regional Australia teams, with at least five Oceania Championship

medals going to our Cairns Athletes. I will leave it to others to detail the achievements of our athletes, but your efforts and sportsmanship were admired by many at the Championships and from around the athletic community.

Having now hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> Oceania Championships, it is recognised that Cairns Athletics and the facilities at Barlow Park can accommodate national and international events. Those who caught the news coverage on seven and nine over the week would have heard both Sergey and Sebastian speak highly of the region and its facilities, even suggesting that World Juniors could be hosted here; easily dismissed as a throw-away line until you realise that one of these gentlemen will be the IAAF president in 2016.

There is only one thing that will stop Cairns from continuing to host Championships of this nature and that is a lack of volunteers. The LOC was undoubtedly understaffed for such an event and despite several public calls for assistance the task was left to six people from a club of 300+. So if you enjoyed viewing the spectacle of the Oceania Championships, please consider being part of the next organisational group, whether it is for our own Coral Coast Carnival or hosting Peninsula Championships. Not only do you help to promote the sport of track and field, you also get to assist your club in generating additional income to keep our fees to one of the lowest in the state and keep our equipment at international level.

Shane Watson  
LOC Chairperson



## Next Club Meet

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 5:45pm

The temperature has dropped a little as we head towards Cairns' attempt at winter. The breeze at night can be a bit chilly out on the track at Barlow Park so take the opportunity to don some winter wear, we don't get much opportunity up here in the tropics.

### FRIDAY NIGHT MENU...

- \*Beef Korma Curry
- \*Ham and Cheese Toasties
- \*Sausage rolls
- \*Pies
- \*Hots Chips

## Upcoming Events

Mulgrave Relay Day will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> may 2015 at Johnson Park, Campbell St, Gordonvale. This year's theme is Hawaiian. Athletes are encouraged to come wearing flowery clothing. Mulgrave will supply laes to all paying athletes. So find a partner and co-ordinate your costumes. Nomination forms can be found on our website.



Entries close Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAIRNS ATHLETICS Code of Conduct

As we move into the third month of Athletics for 2015, most of us are starting to feel well and truly at home in our new age groups and are making good friends with new members this year. Unfortunately I am aware of incidents of unsporting behaviour by Cairns Athletes causing unhappiness for their team mates both at training and club meets. Parents, please take your child through the Cairns Athletics Code of Conduct (on pages 4&5 of the year book and on the website under 'our club'). Whether or not you suspect your child is a perpetrator, victim or bystander to bullying behaviour, it is important they are aware of the standard expected of them and their comrades.

If any adult witnesses an act of bullying or offensive language by an athlete, they have a duty of care to the other athletes to step in to stop the behaviour and require the offender to apologise and withdraw from the activity for an appropriate length of time. A serious or repeat offence will require the offender to leave the field of play. Please be proactive in implementing these measures. It is far better for all concerned, to observe and gently prevent a child from making a bad behaviour choice than to wait for the 'inevitable' to happen and impose the necessary penalties.

It is also necessary to remember that **athletics throwing implements are modelled on ancient war weapons and as such are capable of inflicting considerable injury**, even when downsized and in the hands of a careless youngster. Do not allow athletes to handle the equipment when it is not their turn, particularly the larger equipment laid out in preparation for the older athletes.

Heather Vaughan,  
President

**See you ON THE TRACK** 😊