

# 2019 Annual Report

Welcome members to the 2019 AGM. This will be my 3<sup>rd</sup> report as Club President and proud member of the Port Hills Athletic Club.

## **Committee Thank You**

Once again, a big thank you to the committee, in no particular order, Bernie Jago, Glen Watts, Peter King, Amanda Landers, Frouke Geertsma, Nikki McAvern, Emma Griffin, Kevin Knight, Sonya Hazlett, Don Chittock, and Peter Bayliss. The work you all do keeps this club running at its best!!

## **Volunteers Thank You**

Our volunteers, you're a big group and too large to name here in the report. Some of our coaches and support crew, Jamie Hawker, Phil Chapman, our junior coaches Holly Johnston and Thomas Coleman and then our track and field coaches, George Edwards and the team that Amanda runs, a big thank you to you all. Sonya and Faye continue to do great work with the uniforms and management there too and Gareth handling summer registrations is a big job done well.

Sadly for us, Jamie Hawker is retiring from his role as Coach at the end of October. Jamie is an amazing person and an inspiration to us all. His tireless enthusiasm is infectious and his ability to talk without taking a breath something to be marvelled at!! For me personally, some of the best runs I've had have been with him, endless talking, amazing scenery and epic runs including one session where we ran with Pete Watts as our support man and water boy. That run sticks in my memory as something I'll never forget, a solid effort up over the Port Hills, down the other side and back again. My kids have pretty fond memories too and my son Isaac refers to him as Jamie Hoka (completely by accident too). God speed and enjoy the time off Jamie.

## **Club Connect Conference**

Last weekend, I attended the Athletics NZ Club Connect conference. The new management there are looking like a great team and I left really encouraged to hear about some of the initiatives underway to support the community clubs. We're in a very strong position too as a club with one of the main points they spoke about being to create advocates for your club from your members which is something that Port Hills Athletic and its members do very well.

## **Track and Field**

What a great season from our track and field team. I was forever updating the club website with new records from the juniors. 19 records are highlighted as current season club best performances. Some of those had multiple updates so were beaten many times throughout the season too. The club nights and Tuesday and Thursday training sessions were always a sight to behold. This ran like a well-oiled machine and the results reflected this too. William Stedman continues to make the headlines with winning the Senior Athlete of the Year shared with the famous Tomas Walsh at the Athletics Canterbury Awards for 2019 and George Edwards winning Coach of the Year. Well done to both of you!!

## **Cross Country, Road and Trail**

Port Hills continues to be a strong club on this scene with some of the best athletes with many local titles. Many of our athletes peaked quite nicely for the Canterbury Cross Country Champs to take up all the top spots on the podium across many age groups. Moving on to the National Cross Country champs and Martina Conner won the NZ U18 Cross Country title with many of our other athletes placing highly in their events including Angus Sevier who will be an athlete to watch for the future.

## **Crater Rim Ultra**

A huge amount of work goes into making this event the success that it is each year. Jamie, Heather, Jamie F, Hugh, Peter King and myself make up the main organising committee this year and are committed to producing a quality event that services the trail running community well and provides a good revenue source for the club too. The numbers again this year look to be going very well and the organisation again looks great. I gave a quick talk about this event at the Athletics NZ Club Connect conference as it's something a little different for Athletics NZ and the clubs to embrace. It certainly sets us apart as a club from the pack with something a bit different to offer. Some recent developments for this event are that we've now trademarked the name "Crater Rim Ultra" and also listed the event on the ITRA International Trail Running Association website. Looking to the future, this event can certainly continue to be improved and streamlined and keep delivering a great revenue stream to the club that we can put back into the members and community.

## **5K Series**

This is one of the marque events for the athletics calendar in Christchurch bringing in both high performance athletes and fun runners alike into a fun festival atmosphere. Whilst numbers aren't as great as they have been in years gone by, we're committed to keeping this event going and can certainly look at making adjustments to it where required to generate more interest. Whilst it doesn't generate as much revenue as the Crater Rim Ultra, it's still a great thing to be a part of as a club and is something all the other local clubs are very jealous of.

## **Club Subsidies**

With the revenue we generate from the events we run, we're able to put money back into our club members. This is mainly in the form of club subsidies for travel and accommodation for athletes selected to represent Athletics Canterbury or Athletics NZ. This generally ranges from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year we invest into our members and not just our younger members as I personally would have received a subsidy for last years National Cross Country champs if my flights hadn't been free (thank you Air NZ Airpoints). This year we're also proposing a reduction to our club subscriptions thanks to the healthy nature of the accounts and the revenue generating events.

All in all, a very positive year and some great work done by all club members. You might not be on the committee or in any recognised role for the club but any contributions you make are making a difference and this club wouldn't be what it is without you.

Thanks!!

## **Paul Johnston**

Port Hills Athletic  
Club President