

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

5th November 2011

Training will now be just that little bit easier for the budding pole vaulters at the Mount Isa Athletics Club. Local company, ART Airconditioning and Sheetmetal, have just finished construction of vault box (the box where the end of the pole is placed before the competitor is sent skyward) which they have generously donated to the Club. With pole vault boxes having a starting price of \$650, ART's offer to build and donate one will take a lot of pressure off the Club finances.

Level 3 Jumps Coach and Pole Vaulter David Scott said "Merv (Whitney) approached us one day at training and said if there was anything he could do to assist the Club to just let him know. We gave it some thought and realised a Pole Vault box was right up their alley, at that point we are just using the sand at the edge of the long jump pit and when our vaulters got to Townsville in September the different feel of the pole sliding in the box compared to sticking in the sand was causing a few problems".

To sweeten the situation in a recent interview that Robert Dark from the Mining Advocate had with Mr Scott the subject was raised that Mount Isa Club had eight athletes attempting to train for Pole Vault for an upcoming Championship but were struggling with make shift equipment as they were 900km away from the nearest venue. The question was asked what the Club needed to keep the vault squad going and the reply was "poles". Mr Dark then enquired how much they were and was told they start at around \$500. He then replied "we could donate one if you like". As transport is a major issue due to the length of the poles the Club intends to purchase an extra one along with the one from the Mining Advocate. As well the three adult Vaulters, David Scott, Iain Faithful and Ken Dickson, were considering chipping in for a third.

Mr Scott continued "we have had a great year for assistance from the community. There was an urgent need to extend our long/triple jump pit before the Xstrata Great Western Games, with the assistance of Robbie Katter we had no less than three earthmoving companies, Spence Contracting, North West Equipment Hire and Abel Earthmoving, assist in the digging, transport and filling of the pit. As an added bonus the Estelle Cardiff kindergarten donated the sand as they were renewing the pits at the kindy. On the monetary side Mount Isa Harley Owners Group has given us sizeable donations in this and in previous years which has been used for the purchase of equipment and has covered costs of our Mount Isa Carnival (held on the opposite year to the Western Games) until 2014. The Club also secured sponsorship from Local Directories which saw three local junior athletes feature on the directory cover".

Something Mr Scott fails to mention is the massive contribution that his own business, Paint and Decor, gives every year to the Club ranging from trestles used as training aids as well as seating to line marking equipment. The generosity and support that these and other businesses give to all the various Clubs in Mount Isa is wholeheartedly appreciated and allows them to obtain the necessary equipment and facilities in a much shorter timeframe than they would otherwise be able to afford which greatly improves the safety, quality and quantity of service the Mount Isa Clubs can provide to their members.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
Able Smith Parade
Mount Isa, Queensland

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