

# Mount Isa Athletics



## PRESS RELEASE

14 June 2011

Mount Isa athletes let their presence be known in Townsville last weekend when sixteen club members were part of the 570 athletes who attended a mega-weekend of athletics at the Townsville Sports Reserves synthetic track.

Everywhere you turned there were current and past world and national champions. Master athlete Ken Dickson had the pleasure of sharing javelin with the Commonwealth champion and Olympic competitor, Jarred Bannister when their javelin events were run consecutively. "I thought I was doing alright throwing around 37m until Jarred steps up and smashed out throws of 80m, its really awesome to watch up close" Dickson said. "Another awesome thing to see was the sprint races between current 65 – 69 year World Champion Peter Crombie from New South Wales against former World Champion Heinz Steinman from the Tablelands". Dickson continued "the Australian Team heading to the World Youth Championships in France were also in attendance making for one hell of a weekend of athletics".

On the home front our athletes were there to compete in the NQ Sports Foundation Student Games, Queensland Masters State Championships, and Australian Masters Combined Events Championships.

The Isa athletes stepped up to the plate achieving Personal Bests in half of their events and returning with 25 first, 19 second and 19 third placings. The best in the PB stakes were Kayla Horne, Denzil Perkins, Iain Faithful, Maureen Sweeney and Liam Sweeney. As well as the Clubs 63 placings the crew bettered 14 Club Records in the process.

Erin Faithful took out the 12 year girls Age Champion in convincing fashion returning with three gold, two silver and one bronze medal, two personal bests, two Club Records in 200m with a time of 28.48s and 80m hurdles 15.91s as well as equalling her own triple jump record of 9.03m.

Seven year old Denzil Perkins caught everyones' eye by convincingly winning all of his races by huge margins. Perkins PB'd five of his seven events to return with 6 first placings. He can now also add the 100m Club Record to his list of achievements after running 16.80s to equal the 7 years record. Perkins PB's also lowered his record times in the 80m - 13.39s, 200m – 34.98s and 60m hurdles – 12.04s.

Little sister Trinity also performed well netting three PB's amongst her two firsts, two seconds and a third place.

The event was 12 year old Tiffany Leeson's first Carnival and the big atmosphere pushed her along to a Club Record time of 3m03.17s in the 800m to go with her two PB's, one silver and one bronze medal.

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### CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval  
Able Smith Parade  
Mount Isa, Queensland

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Thirteen year old Kayla Horne must have also liked the atmosphere accumulating seven PB's, one gold, two silver, one bronze and bettering her own Javelin Club Record throwing 23.70m.

Fifteen year olds Dom Johnston and Liam Sweeney each achieved three PB's, with Johnston receiving a gold in Hammer and Sweeney threw a huge season PB in Javelin to receive bronze. Brianna Smith, 15, could not find her current form in her favoured Hammer event. Her throw of 26.10m, while 9 metres under her best, was still a metre over the State Qualifying Standard and enough to place her second in the event. Smith received three silver and two bronze medals and set new Club Records in the Weight Throw and Throws Pentathlon.

Sixteen year old Nikki Dickson, also off form, received two silver and one bronze as well as bettering her Discus Club Record with a throw of 26.17m.

The Clubs Master athletes were competing in either the Queensland Masters State Championships or the Australian Masters Combined Events Championships or both. Iain Faithful showed the best improvement gaining Personal Bests in all events which he had previous recordings for and also placed third in Shot Put.

Sharon Dickson, although disappointed with her performance in Hammer, gained a second placing along with two PB's for Discus and Shot Put.

Paul Smith accumulated two gold, one silver and two bronze and PB'd in Javelin and Hammer. Smiths' javelin throw of 26.84m was four metres better than his previous best.

Maureen Sweeney came home with five bronze medals, three PB's and a record in the Heavy Weight event.

Tony Sweeney was a little disappointed with the lack of competition in his age group in the field events which allowed him to return home with six gold medals and two personal bests.

Master Decathletes David Scott and Ken Dickson regret to advise that they have once again let the coveted WTF Decathlon Trophy slip from their grip and return to Emeralds' Gary Free. The North Queensland Decathlon Challenge was once again not decided until the final events with all three well in contention at the half way point. Dicksons' poor showing in Long Jump and his favoured Discus made it impossible for him to make up enough points in the final stages. Youth proved to be Scotts' downfall still needing 200 points to catch Free with two events to go. Scott gave his all winning the final two events but with the points adjustment for the age differences saw Free pull a further 50 points ahead. To rub salt into Scotts' wounds, a good showing in Javelin by Dickson, who also benefited from the age adjustment, saw him slide into second place ahead of Scott.

The pair were still happy with their performances overall with Dickson accumulating four PB's as well as one gold, one silver and three bronze medals from other events and Scott also managed four PB's, one gold and four silver medals to go with his two Club Records in Pole Vault with a height of 2.40m and Decathlon Points Total.

Both have vowed to return with the Trophy after the Decathlon re-match at the ANQ Championships in September.