

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

15th June, 2012

Athletes at the Mount Isa Athletics Club will be spread far and wide this school holidays with the crew attending two major carnivals and a coaching clinic.

In the fine Mount Isa tradition of exporting champions we have two quality athletes from our local Club who will be representing Australia at the Oceania Regional Championships in Cairns on the 27th June. The Oceania Championships will see athletes from 22 different Oceania federations compete at what is deemed to be the No.1 athletic event in Australia this year.

In her first ever international competition is 16 year old Brianna Smith. Smith enjoyed a successful championship season in the latter part of 2011 and early 2012 placing 2nd in the Secondary School State Championships and 3rd at the Schools Nationals. Brianna then went on to the Club Championship Circuit placing 2nd at the Queensland Athletics State Championships and 8th at the Athletics Australia National Championships in the U/18 womens Hammer which is an age group up from her normal division. While competing through the Club circuit Smith also nominated for the U20 Hammer events for the extra competition. Throwing a heavier weight hammer Smith surprised herself again placing 2nd at the States and put in a very credible performance at the Nationals in the older age group. These results were enough to qualify her into the Northern Australian Team in the U20 Womens Hammer throw at the Oceania Championships.

The other of our international athletes is 24 Year old Cameron Clayton. Clayton is no newcomer to this level of competition having competed in the Oceania championships twice previously and has also competed in two Stawell Gifts and placed third in the 800m at the National Championships as an 18 year old. Clayton will be representing Australia in the Open 5000m event which he qualified for late last year. While Clayton's preference lies with the 800m and to a lesser degree the 1500m he is still hopeful of a good result at the Oceania Championships.

Both athletes will use the North Queensland Games in Mackay the weekend prior as a final practice session before travelling up the coast to Cairns.

Thirteen other Mount Isa athletes will join the pair at the NQ Games in what has turned out to be quite an impressive array of athletes. The group's ages range from 4 years to 50 years and have an athlete in nearly every age group. Club Coaches David Scott and Ken Dickson being the mad multi-eventers they are have decided to do an unofficial Octathlon at the Games while throwing in two more of their favourite events while they are there. Up and coming All-rounder Liam Sweeney will join the pair in their quest for points when he competes in his first Octathlon.

Fifteen year old Jacqui Keily is also taking on eight events for the weekend and on her current form, good results are likely in her 800m, 1500m and 3000m events.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
Able Smith Parade
Mount Isa, Queensland

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Joshua Scott (13) has been steadily increasing his Javelin and High Jump PB's and is hoping to further increase them at the Games. Joshua's sister, Jade, will also be one to watch in the 11 years High Jump.

Two athletes from the now 30 strong Cloncurry Club will also be part of the Mount Isa team. Daniel Grant (12) like his mother, Sue, has proved he is no slouch in whatever event he puts his mind to. He has had good results recently in Discus and Shot Put and hopes to continue improving at the Games. Daniels' 9 year old brother Jordan will also be aiming for gold in his results.

Estelle Smith, Mother of Brianna, has also proved that she is adept in the throwing events and will be gunning for some Club records whilst at the Games

The Riddle brothers Sam (6) and Declan (4) are sure to impress on the running track as will six year old Trinity Perkins.

And most exciting will be seeing serial record breaker Denzil Perkins (8) again terrorising the track in a different town to our own. After the Games Perkins will be stopping over in Townsville to attend an ANQ sponsored coaching clinic in an attempt to make the speed demon even faster.