

# Mount Isa Athletics

## PRESS RELEASE

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MOUNT Isa athlete Brianna Smith has shone in her first international competition by claiming a bronze medal in the under 20 women's hammer throw at the 2012 Oceania Area Championships in Cairns last week.

As part of the Northern Australian team, the 16-year-old Smith stepped up in age divisions and impressed with her throw of 39.04 metres, which was only 66 centimetres behind the throw of the athlete that claimed the silver medal.

Wet conditions in Cairns made things difficult for all athletes and while she finished on the podium, Smith said she could have thrown much better.

"I knew I could do better than that [39.04m] but it was raining and quite cold," she said yesterday.

"It's really hard to throw well when the circle is wet so I guess the result was okay for the conditions."

The last seven days pushed Smith's skill to the limit, as she was forced to compete in wet, abysmal conditions in both Cairns and Mackay, where she competed in the RACQ Insurance North Queensland Games.

Proving the depth of her ability, Smith dominated in Mackay, setting a new Games record in her age division with a monstrous 46.47m throw in the 16yrs age group.

Smith said her first international experience was eye-opening and while she didn't find it overly stressful, was constantly reminded "how big" the event was.

"Actually it was pretty relaxed," she laughed.

"It was pretty much like every other competition but you kept getting the feeling it was an international competition."

While the sky seems to be the limit for the Mount Isa Athletics Club member, Smith said she was going to limit the number of competitions she attends during the next two years as she focuses on completing her senior studies.

The softly-spoken athlete is determined to get the marks required to study physiotherapy and languages at university in Brisbane or Sydney, and said it would take precedence over hammer throwing.

"I'm going to keep training [until I complete year 12] but I probably won't be going to any bigger competitions," she said.

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### CLUB VENUE

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As she prepares for the Emerald Track and Field Carnival on July 14-15, Smith said she was glad she didn't have to do any fundraising for awhile.

The majority of funds for her Oceania campaign came from weekly sausage sizzles outside Bunnings and she said she had "lost count" of how many they had done.

"They [Bunnings] put up with us for awhile," she laughed.

"Mum [Estelle Smith] is completely sick of sausages."

