

# Mount Isa Athletics

## PRESS RELEASE

24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

The Mount Isa Athletics Club is sending a powerhouse team to Townsville this weekend to compete at the ANQ Championships. The Championships are the equivalent of the Queensland State Championships in that athletes from 13 years up who place 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> qualify to attend the 2013 National Championship if they wish.

One athlete who is intending to go onto the Nationals is Hammer thrower Brianna Smith. Smiths' recent good form throwing her own and heavier weight hammers will put her in good stead for some impressive results. Smith will also be competing in the Under 18 Weight Pentathlon.

Olympic 800m runner and now registered Mount Isa Athlete Arnold Sorina is true to his word of branching out into new athletic disciplines and has nominated himself for the Long and Triple Jump and is to have his first attempt at Pole Vault at the Championships. Sorina has also nominated for the Hector Hogan Memorial 100 yard race which carries a first place prize purse of \$500.

Sorina's Coach and Training buddy Cameron Clayton will also be in attendance and competing in the 1500m as well as the State and NQ one mile championship.

Eight year old Denzil Perkins' steady improvement throughout the year has put him in a prime position to replicate last year's extraordinary performance at the Championships when he broke 4 of a possible 5 track records for seven year olds.

Denzils' little sister, Trinity, has also come into her own of recent and with friend and rival Hailee Kokles there to push her along, don't be surprised to see the pair in the top three of most of their events.

The Fraser family, Kai 5, Jace 6 and Katidjah 8 will also perform well within their age groups and should place well on the weekend.

Thirteen year olds Mitchell Hujanen and Joshua Scott have more riding on the Championships than most with the two neck and neck in the race for end of season points trophy and age champion. Scott currently holds a narrow lead but if Hujanen can out PB Scott over the weekend things will change dramatically. The pair are currently sitting in second and third place in the age championship race and both will need multiple PB's to take out the award.

Scott's sister, Jade, is hopeful of good results in her two favoured events of 60m hurdles and High Jump. Jade is currently only 5cm short of the 1.20m ANQ Development Squad qualifying height and his hopeful of surpassing this at the Championships.

Hujanen's brother, Ryan, is still to find his niche event and has nominated for all events available to him and is expected to do well in the 800m and 1500m events.

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### CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval  
Able Smith Parade  
Mount Isa, Queensland

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Middle distance runner, Jacqui Keily, has given herself a heavy workload for the weekend nominating for the 400m, 800m, 1500m and 2km Steeplechase as well as the full array of jumps including Pole Vault.

Fourteen year old Carmen Preston is thankful of the extra freedom she now has after having the cast removed from her broken right ankle last week. The break has greatly hampered her training and performance at the recent North West Regional Championships but is now hopeful that with the cast off she can hit her goal of 30m in her favoured Javelin event.

Recent illness has hampered 16 year old Liam Sweeney's preparation for the Championships but good results in Triple Jump and Pole Vault could well be on the cards.

Track star Holly Johnstone has been looking impressive at training and providing a head wind isn't an issue PB's in her 100m, 200m and 400m events should be assured. Fellow seventeen year old Nicole Dickson misses most of the weekend but will arrive in time to compete in the Under 18 discus event.

Open athlete Cat Hannells' return to athletics has seen impressive results at Club level and she now has a chance to test herself at the Championships in her favoured Long Jump event. Hannell is also a very competent Javelin thrower and sprinter and may also nominate for Pole Vault if she is happy with her form at the training clinic which is being held at the Townsville Sports Reserve this Thursday prior to the Championships.

Ten Master athletes will also be in action. Master Women Sharon Dickson, Kath Hujanen, Estelle Smith and Maureen Sweeney will all be competing in the throws events and with the exception of Dickson the Weight Pentathlon.

Sixty five year old Tony Sweeney will be hitting the track in the 100m, 200m and aiming high in the High Jump. Andrew Preston and Paul Smith will also be contesting the throws with Preston also trying his hand at the 1500m race walk.

Master Decathletes David Scott and Ken Dickson have convinced fellow Mount Isa local Iain Faithful to join them in the quest for the "WTF" (we tread foolishly) NQ Masters Decathlon trophy. This year will see a field of six masters from Mount Isa, Emerald and the Tablelands battle it out over 10 events for the prize.

Also entering the realm of Multi-Events is thirteen year old all rounder Erin Faithful. The women's Heptlon consists of seven events over two days. The Heptlon should be well suited to Faithful as all the events with the exception of the 800m are events which she excels at. Faithful has elected to do an extra four events to keep herself occupied in her spare time.

All in all with the team that is to attend the Championships the Club can expect to return with a boot full of medallions from the weekend.