

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

30 July 2013

It took a while but the Mount Isa community now has access to a regulation discus/hammer throwing cage. Spectators can now feel at ease behind the five metre tall chain mesh safety enclosure.

Plans for the cage valued at over \$20000 were first discussed way back in 2010 and negotiations with the Mount Isa City Council on its location at Sunset Oval commenced in 2011.

With a successful grant from the Mount Isa City Council of \$3500 in April 2012 the Club then gave NRC Fencing the go ahead to commence construction. With the process well underway the Club was successful with a second grant of \$750 from Sports Cover Australia which was to aid in the construction of the closure.

Barkly Engineering was then approached to fabricate the 2.5m steel throwing ring which was to be set in concrete. They generously donated the ring a no cost to the Club.

A parent of one of the junior athletes was associated with the Evans Harch hospital upgrade and queried on whether they may be of any assistance to the Club in regard to the concreting of the internal area of the cage. To the delight of the Club they offered to supply all concrete and materials for the entire internal area. The labour for the concreting was then sub-contracted to Isa's Kan Du who generously donated their time and labour costs.

The project was finished just in time to be officially opened by Mount Isa Mayor Tony McGrady on July 20th during the Xstrata Great Western Games. International hammer thrower Brianna "Thor" Smith was given the honour of having the first official throw from the cage. The Open Womens and Mens Hammer events were conducted as part of the cage's opening ceremony. Smith went on to take on the Womens Hammer event with a throw of 41.87m and James Sweeney achieved gold for his 29.77m throw in the Open Mens. Both Smith and Sweeney threw over their regulation weight for their usual age group and broke the existing Club records in the cage's opening event.

The need for the structure was then very evident when just three days later athletes at the Primary Schools District Athletics Carnival got to feel what it was like to throw in a real cage. The following day then saw athletes competing in the Secondary Schools District Championships also get to break in the cage.

Athletes and officials from the Western Games and both Primary and Secondary schools were both very appreciative of Mount Isa's new landmark which is already showing some scars from Brianna "Thor" Smiths' meteor like Hammer throws.

The Club and community would again like to thank Evans Harch, Isa's Kan Du, Barkly Engineering, Sports Cover and the Mount Isa City Council along with David Scott and Ken Dickson for their assistance in getting this project to come to fruition.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
Able Smith Parade
Mount Isa, Queensland

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