

# Mount Isa Athletics

## PRESS RELEASE

13 March 2013

Mount Isa's Brianna 'THOR' Smith is once again Australia's 3<sup>rd</sup> best U/18 Women Hammer Thrower.

Smith made sure that her marathon trip to Perth to compete at the Australian Junior Athletic Championships was not to be in vain by hammering out her first throw to an all time Personal Best of 48.94m. With the pressure to get a good one in now off, Brianna was able to power out another all time PB throwing 49.59m with her second attempt setting herself firmly into third place for the rest of the competition. A fair indication of the quality field was that the first place throw of 56.33m took out the Championship record.

Her 49.59m throw at the Championships also added two and a half metres to the Mount Isa Club's Hammer record for Under 18 yrs women. With the start of the athletic season just around the corner Smith is hopeful of officially cracking the elusive 50m mark very soon.

Brianna's results at the Championships become even more remarkable when you consider the added difficulties associated with living in Mount Isa. Firstly is the fact that North Queensland and Northern Territory athletic seasons are held in winter due to the soaring temperatures. This means that Brianna had her last competition in late September 2012. This is opposed to the rest of Australia which competes in summer meaning all her opposition are now peaking at the end of their season and she has been forced to train right through her off season. Then there is the facilities, while the Mount Isa Athletics Club is continually improving and upgrading their amenities and equipment they are still a far cry from the multimillion dollar facilities and synthetic tracks in the south that her counterparts get to train and compete in year round. And last but definitely not least is travel expenses, as we all know there is no cheap way out of Mount Isa.

To add to her ever growing collection of accolades, Brianna was recently informed of her nomination for the North Queensland Sports Foundation's 'Junior Athlete of the Year' award which will be announced at the North Queensland Sportstar Awards in Port Douglas on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Brianna is now turning her sights to the Oceania Area Championships which will be held in Tahiti early June. Hopefully her good showing at the Nationals and her Bronze medal from last year's Oceania Championships will be enough to again gain her selection into the Northern Australian team. Should she make the team it will be back down to Bunnings to conduct even more sausage sizzles in an effort to raise funds for her ever increasing travel expenses. Should there be any person or business that would like to assist Brianna in her travels please contact the Mount Isa Athletics Club and they will put you in contact with the Smiths.

Proving her many talents, while in Perth Brianna, mother Estelle and father Paul found themselves as part of a successful attempt at a new Guinness World Record for the longest 'Towel Chain'

I guess Mount Isa really is the "Home of Champions"

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### CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval  
Able Smith Parade  
Mount Isa, Queensland

### CORRESPONDENCE

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