

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

8th March 2014

Two Mount Isa Athletics Club athletes are heading off for representative duties this week. Brianna “Thor” Smith and Cieron Cuthbert-Botha will both be travelling to Sydney to compete in the Australian Junior Track & Field Championships.

Fifteen year old Cieron gained his qualifier for Nationals at last year’s North Queensland Championships as a 14yr old running times of 11.95s and 24.77s in the 100m and 200m respectively. Since qualifying Cieron and his mother, Danielle, have been a common sight at Sunset Oval training either early mornings or late afternoons most days of the week.

Training conditions have been less than perfect partly due to the fact that in North Queensland we have a winter athletics season unlike the rest of Australia that operates in the summer months, couple this with the condition of the Sunset Park track due to the regions unwelcomed drought which has left the 200m curve and 100m start void of grass and not much better than a goat track. This will be Cierons’ first trip to “the big show” and while hopeful of taking it all the way is quite aware of the hurdles he faces in his quest for glory in the athletic blue ribbon events.

The National Championships are no new thing for Brianna with this being her third consecutive Championships. 2013 saw her place third in the Under 18 Hammer and qualified her for Athletics Australia A-Squad which recognises the top 8 in Australia. Brianna has now graduated to Under 20 and her Hammer weight has increased from 3kg to 4kg. Impressively this 25% increase in Hammer weight has only seen a 5m drop in Brianna’s distances from 50m to 45m. Her 44.75m throw at the State Championships last month was enough to again qualify her for the Nationals. If she can master the four turns she has been practicing for her lead up to the event we can once again expect to see her and fellow Queenslander Ellen Scott-Young on the podium in Sydney.

No matter what the outcome both athletes should be congratulated on their achievements thus far and for their efforts to strive to be the best they can be.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
Able Smith Parade
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