

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

Mitch Hujanen – Melanesian Championships, Fiji - 9 July 2016

Seventeen year old Mitchell Hujanen did himself and the Mount Isa Athletics Club proud on his recent trip to Fiji to compete in the Melanesian Track and Field Championships as part of the Regional Australia Team for his second time. Mitch initially was only to compete in his favoured Hammer Throw but on arrival found himself also nominated for Discus and to his surprise, the 4 x 100m relay.

Unhappy with his preparation leading up to the championships due to the strain of year 12 school commitments and battling a persistent back injury he was still determined to give it his best shot even though he was up against some of the best U/18 Hammer throwers around. Two of which were attempting to get qualifiers to the World Youth Championships.

The bulk of Mitch's throws consisted of his standard 48/49 metre distances and actually saw him placed 2nd up until the fourth round due to inconsistent throwing from his competitors but sadly with this calibre of competition it's not over until the last throw and saw him pushed back to 4th in the fifth round. On his last attempt he let loose with his first 'official' 50 metre plus throw which saw the Hammer land 51.13 metres from where he launched it. The throw was a mere 50cm short of the much desired podium finish.

While not in the medals Mitch was ecstatic with his performance "How could you not be happy throwing a Personal Best at a competition of this size and coming in 4th." Mitch said, "I was well in touch with the leaders and even got televised on Fiji television."

"Not too bad for a boy from the bush I recon"

Mitch's mum was also in attendance and was elated with his performance, "I'm so very proud of Mitchell and I know everybody at the athletics club is as well and best of all he had all six throws with no fouls" she said, "It's such a great atmosphere down there (at the club) and all the athletes encourage each other like their one big family yet we still have so many outstanding athletes"

Mitch also competed in Discus but was not fully prepared for the event and saw him a few metres under his best. The Regional Australia team also threw him into their 4 x 100m relay team which managed a 3rd place and the opportunity for Mitch to return home with a medal to mark the occasion.

The next two events on his agenda will be the Outback Sunset Carnival in Longreach in August which is combined with the North West Schools Regional Championships and the North Queensland Championships in Townsville in September. The ANQ championships will give Mitch an opportunity to qualify for the Athletics Australia National Championships early next year.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
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