

John Tylden – Awarded Athletics New Zealand Life Membership.

At Athletics New Zealand's 133rd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 8 November at Pulman Park Conference Centre in Papakura one of NZSSAA distinguished long serving members was awarded Life Membership of Athletics New Zealand.

John Tylden commenced his long service of almost fifty years to secondary schools' athletics back in the early seventies when in 1971 through 1975 he became Secretary, then Chairman of Southland and Otago-Southland Secondary Schools AA. He helped reorganise competitions to include both genders which led to the formation of the South Island Secondary Schools AA and their inaugural Championships in 1976. Moving to Fairfield College in Hamilton he became involved in the Waikato/BOP Secondary Schools AA in various roles: Secretary/Chairman, organiser of regional & North Island athletics & cross country/road championships over the past 44 years!

In 1979 he joined the NZ Secondary Schools AA Executive, becoming President & Chairman on three occasions and remains on their Executive as immediate Past President. Over these 41 years the NZSSAA programme has broadened to encompass all disciplines for both genders in winter and summer Championships have the largest entries of Athletics New Zealand events. Over the many years John has often had a major organisational role for numerous championships. John is the current chair of the LOC for the 2020 edition of the NZSSAA Track & Field and Road Championships to be staged at Tauranga Domain from 11-13 December.

John joins Alec McNab and the late Don Chadderton as NZSSAA Executive members to be awarded Life Membership to Athletics NZ

John commenced his early running involvement which resulted in success with the Northland Secondary Schools mile & cross country titles and Centre representation. After University & Teachers Training College, in 1970 he gained a position at James Hargest High School in Invercargill where his involvement in coaching and organising athletics commenced, leading to managing teams to regional & national events.

Not surprisingly, he has held many key posts in both Hamilton City Hawks Club and Waikato/BOP Centre, as well as officiating with Level C field, Level A Track & Out of stadia qualifications. As Meet organiser outside secondary schools, John has played a major role on many occasions including recent times as Chair of the LOC for the Athletics NZ Track & Field Champs in Hamilton 2017 & 2018 and Organising Committee for the annual Porritt Classic. He has attended many Athletics NZ AGMs as NZSSAA representative, becoming Athletics NZ President in 2014/15. He received the Athletics NZ Merit Award in 2017.

He has managed and or coached the following NZ Teams at World Championships and major Events as well as with NZ Schools:

1988: World Juniors, Canada

1990 Barcelona Ekiden Relay

1993 Development Tour to Germany

1994 Commonwealth Games, Canada

1995 World Champs, Sweden

2010 Commonwealth Games, India

His abiding passion has been in coaching young athletics to achieve their potential, with long list of athletes to win National titles at School and Athletics NZ Championships and many to gain New Zealand representation to all levels.