

New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletic Association

AGM 2012

Chairman's Report

It is a pleasure to deliver my third report as President of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Association. This is the 8th year the Executive has been based in the Auckland and Waikato regions. It is important to acknowledge the work done over the past year by the Executive ensuring that our championships remain a feature of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Sports and Athletics New Zealand calendar. The success of our two major championships and our Young Olympians Tour is due to the support of all our schools, athletes, officials, coaches and parents. I want to particularly thank Alec McNab for the work he continues to undertake in organising and running the Young Olympians Tour which will again be taking place in January 2013.

The 2011 39th NZSSAA Track and Field Championships and 37th Road Race Championships were held in Wellington. The Championships were once again well supported by schools and athletes throughout New Zealand and our thanks go to Roger Booth and the organizing committee for hosting and running an excellent meet. I would also like to thank Ngaire Drake and her team from College Sport Wellington for the time they spent in making this a very successful meeting. It was great to see excellent weather conditions for the Championships resulting in a number of outstanding performances along with a number of records broken.

The North and South Island Championships for 2012 were run in Tauranga and Nelson respectively early this year following individual school sports, zone and regional meets in February and March. Both these meets attracted good support but the perennial problem of winter sport encroaching into the latter part of Term 1 is continuing to impact, particularly at the senior level of the sport

The 2012 Secondary Schools Cross-Country Championships were held in Auckland with a superb course and excellent weather greeting all athletes and supporters who travelled to the event. The organising committee did a great job in the smooth running of these Championships and I wish to extend my gratitude to the hard work they did.

It was again pleasing to see that in 2012 there were a record number of grants given out to athletes to assist them in attending events both in New Zealand and overseas. Although this bites into our finances it is important that we can assist and grow our sport by giving assistance to our athletes. These athletes attended competitions all around the globe and we look forward to the NZSSAA continuing our support of those athletes who meet our criteria.

The Executive has already agreed in principle to sending teams to the 2013 Australian Cross-Country Championships in Hobart and in 2014 the ISF Cross-Country Championships to be held in Israel. A New

Zealand Boys and Girls Team will be selected for the Australian championships and ISF Cross-Country Championships, while two school based teams will also travel to Israel in 2014. To all those athletes and officials who travelled away with New Zealand schools teams, congratulations on the excellent performances you had. On a sadder note, it was disappointing to see the postponement of the Pacific School Games which would have given some of our track and field athletes' international exposure.

In 2012 we selected a New Zealand NZSSAA Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country team to travel to the Australian Championships in Adelaide where they competed with great distinction. It is the intention of the NZSSAA to make this an annual event.

The NZSSAA and Athletics New Zealand continue to enjoy a close relationship and I would like to acknowledge the continued support of Scott Newman and ANZ as we both strive to enhance and build on the traditions of athletics in New Zealand.

Finally, on a personal note I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Dion Latter who tragically lost his life after an accident shortly after competing in the Junior Boys Road Race last year. NZSSAA and the entire athletic community were saddened when we heard of Dion's untimely passing and our condolences go out to his family, friends and school.

Geoff Shaw

Chairman NZSSAA