



Mackay Athletics Club Inc

2011 CLUB PRESIDENT REPORT

6-11-2011

On behalf of the club committee for 2011, I wish to thank all the families who have contributed in some way or other, in another year for the club.

Thanks to our young athletes who have achieved many personal bests during the season and congratulations to our athletes who achieved an award this year. Your determination has rewarded you well.

And thanks to the staff of Mackay State High School for again allowing the club to continue using the facilities of the school.

A year in review.

Club Events

We said at the end of the 2010 season we would maintain the grounds during the summer break so that it would be an easier start for the year. Well those thoughts were well and truly washed away with the very early start to the wet season in November continuing through to mid-February. During that time no one could get onto the fields to mow or prepare the track & field. We were lucky enough for a dry spell a few weeks before our Sign on Day to get done what we could.

Our sign on day was our most successful for some time with 50 new athletes attending the day and most signing up for the trial period. There were still lots of work to be done at the grounds though but we managed to have one Discus and Shot fan open, one long jump pit open and the 100mtr straight.

Unfortunately the next weekend which would have been our first club day, was cancelled as it started raining again. In fact it did not stop raining for five weekends forcing us to cancel each weekend. This then led onto the Easter school holidays which we needed that time to prepare the grounds again for what we hoped would be our first club day 8 weeks after our orientation day.

Finally we did restart however the long period we were forced to cancel the club days saw not many of the trialists return. In fact, it was reported that most athletics clubs in North Qld had a drop in membership due to the extreme weather events.

Our official membership numbers at the end of the season was 39 athletes and 9 volunteers, compared to 72 athletes in 2010. A breakdown of the numbers in age groups are:

5 and under - 0, 6yo - 4, 7yo- 4, 8yo - 3, 9yo - 8, 10yo - 5, 11yo - 8, 12yo - 2, 13+ - 5

Our club days were reduced to four events instead of five for a few weeks whilst the grounds dried up and we were able to maintain them. Unfortunately, the track remained wet for some time and we could only use the 100mtr straight. The far straight of the track was in very bad shape with the

CLUB VENUE

Mackay State High School Oval
via English Street
Mackay, Qld

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grubs making the grass very lumpy. Again the club arranged for a compaction roller to roll the badly affected track which certainly did help but still is not perfect. Finally towards the end of May we were able to use the whole track.

With some age groups having very little numbers, we joined some age groups together to make it a bit more competitive for each athlete. Overall, the club days was well supported by the member's right through to our last club day.

Despite the small membership numbers, our club was well represented in many of the regions athletic events and we thank the families for travelling to these events. Our most successful Interclub meet was this year with 85 athletes participating from Mackay, Sarina, Slade Point, North Mackay Little Athletics, Whitsunday, Moranbah and Emerald. The following are the events our club took part in, and how many athletes from our club attended.

Sarina Interclub Meet	12
Slade Point Interclub Meet	21
Mackay Interclub Meet	28
Central Qld T&F Carnival Rockhampton	2
Bowen Track & Field Carnival	13
ANQ Student Games (Townsville)	12
Whitsunday Pentathlon	17
ANQ Championships (Townsville)	7

Training/ Coaching

The club coaching afternoons was on Tuesdays and Thursdays however due to the drop in membership, many of these training days only had three to four people attend. It seems to be an ongoing challenge to conduct coaching during the week but coaching is a vital part if athletes are to progress in the sport.

Throughout the year, Jos has been attending the Slade Point club about two to three times a week to further enhance coaching skills from Cheryl Dixon. Jos also attended the Oz Squad in Townsville and attended a coaching congress three day seminar in Canberra. This was funded through a grant received from Sport & Recreation in February. Jos says she has picked up a lot of skills that will help our coaching program in the future.

So a big thanks to Jos and also Cameron Quirk for his time with the club earlier this season.

Volunteer Development

As part of the grant received from Sport & Recreation, Cheryl Burns, Leesa Graham, Rhonda Bates, Jos Grech, Sandra Wilson, Balinda Gall, Cameron Quirk and myself are now Level C athletics officials. Congratulations

Also funded under the same program are first aid certificate holders, Jos Grech, Sherrie Diefenbach and myself. Jos & Sherrie continued to the next level and are now qualified Level 1 Sports Trainer.

A grant application has now been put in for two members to attain level 1 and level 2 Athletics Coach and for Jos and I to go from level 2 to level 3. Successful applications are advised in December.

Equipment Update

The club was successful in two equipment grant submissions during the year. The first was just over \$2300.00 for a 4mtr square marquee with side walls, a new set of victory podiums, and six sets of folding chairs. Thanks to the Qld Country Credit Union for this grant.

The second was for \$800.00 from Mackay Regional Council which got us a new set of high jump uprights, 2 new high jump bars, 2 x 500g javelins, 1 x practice javelin, and some field markers.

We have a grant application in for a new mower and line marking equipment worth about \$16,000. This is due to be announced very soon.

Facility Improvements

During December 2010, a group of about 20 people attended a meeting to set up a Synthetic Surface Track progress committee. The meeting was very successful with Cheryl Dixon, Jos and I nominated as the representatives for this group. A meeting was then set up with the Mackay Regional Council with our ideas of a facility at the Central Queensland University Campus at Ooralea. The idea was well received and since then, we have had four meetings with CQU who are very much in favour of the idea. The CQU have indicated that they are also interested in an aquatic facility as part of the project.

The latest on the idea is the MRC are now putting together documents that CQU and the MRC can use to help justify such a facility in Mackay.

New Uniform

The new uniform material has proven very popular and sales for the shirt was very strong. A second order has been placed in preparation for next year's season.

Club Supporters

Thanks to all the businesses who either in a small or large way, contributed their support to the club. Our major supporters this year was, Harrup Park, Porters, Daily Mercury, Amart Allsports, Sky-Ag and Matts Flying.

2011 Committee

A huge thank you to the committee of 2011 being Jos Grech for her secretarial and coaching duties and front desk enquires, Rhonda Bates for looking after the clubs finances, and front desk enquiries, Balinda Gall for canteen supplies, Cheryl Burns and Tracey Kucks for general committee services, Cameron Quirk for his experience and dedication to travel and coach our members and Wade Bates for helping out in the preparation of the grounds.

I'd also like to thank Lachlan Grech for his assistance in mowing and giving me a hand around the grounds when needed.

I wish all the best for the incoming 2012 committee as they continue to grow the sport in the region.

James Grech
President, Mackay Athletics Club Inc.