

Life Membership – Bernadette Jago (July AGM 2019) – prepared by Peter King and others
Presented by Life Member, John McBrearty

This person was born in 1956 and like so many Cantabrians came from the West Coast. More accurately from Kumara.

In her earlier life, otherwise known as, before running, she was a basketball player but she caught the running bug and spent several years as a member of the Marathon Clinic here in Christchurch. In 1992 she joined the St Martins club and has been very competitive in age group races ever since. She had a short time in Wellington running for Scottish Harriers before returning to Christchurch and re-joined St Martins. She has been a successful competitor in both Track and Field and in Cross Country and Road.

On the track she has won many titles up to and including Oceania Masters events especially over the 1500 and 5000 metre distances. Her first Oceania title was in the 5000m here in Christchurch in 2006 and last year she was 2nd in the 5000m with many other titles and placings at Canterbury, South Island and New Zealand Championships in between.

She had perhaps even greater success in cross country and road, again winning titles right up to Oceania Masters level. She won the cross country at the Townsville Oceania Champs in 2008 and was a title winner at the recent Canterbury Cross Country Champs. She was equally successful on the road with excellent times over 5K, 10K, the half marathon and full marathon. One particular success was as a member of the Port Hills masters women relay team that won all the Canterbury relay events in 2008 including the Takahe to Akaroa.

Despite being such a successful competitor over so many years she has, at the same time, been one of the great stalwarts of the so very valuable team of administrators in the sport of athletics in Canterbury. She has been a committee member and secretary of the St Martins and then Port Hills clubs a number of times since 1993. She has also held the position of Secretary with Canterbury Masters, the Cross Country and Road Committee and Athletics Canterbury. Just about every one of us has sat next to her at some point and marvelled at the squiggles that somehow turn out to be a perfect record of the meeting. There are very few people who have contributed such much to the running of our sport over the last 25 years. As well as committee work, she has been on duty as an official at just about every Athletics Canterbury event for many years. Be it at the track, at the cross country or the road she has been there no matter the weather.

She has long been an essential member of the organising committee for the Takahe to Akaroa Relay. Has been the heart of the timekeeping team for the 5K Series over many years and was instrumental in starting the Crater Rim trail run eighteen years ago. Talk about fingers in many pies. But it does give you a feeling for just how much we owe to her work for athletics in Canterbury.

And of course, there is yet another side to her life, the life and soul of many in an after-match function. One of her long-time colleagues assures me that there is plenty of photographic evidence to support this. But the same colleague also assures me that the evidence will be kept quiet.

With such a long and outstanding record as a competitor, administrator and social member of our sport I am sure you will all join me in accepting as a Life Member of Athletics Canterbury

Bernadette Jago