

Cross Country and Road Committee Annual Report 2020

It is always interesting to reflect over a year and 2020 was certainly one I am sure we will remember for many years to come. The stark reality is that many of the plans we had devised for the 2020 CC & R season went out the window as we scrambled to put together events that matched the circumstances we found ourselves in just before our season kicked off.

When I think about it though, I am proud of just how well our team responded to the situation we found ourselves in. Right from the off set, when Robyn got us enthused about virtual runs, the team stepped up to devise a novel programme to meet the situation and we did manage to hold a very respectable programme of events. I am especially proud of the work done to create a fantastic community response to the Takahe to Akaroa road relay and the special vibe this evoked. Likewise, I would congratulate the team from Crater Rim who had record numbers in their national trail event. All the events held were special and to hold them at the standard we did for 2020 is a real credit to all. Thank you to all involved and especially our awesome officials.

I would like to make special mention of the work John Gamblin did to ensure our events met the Covid requirements imposed on us. While running the events was a team effort, John's work with the CCC made it possible for our events to run when others did not. Thank you, John.

Thank you also to the members of the Cross Country & Road Committee for all your work both behind the scenes and on the day to make our events run smoothly. This group remained unchanged for 2020 yet I think it would be fair to say all did more work than normal to ensure we could hold the events we did. Much of this work is not immediately visible to athletes so it is important we take a moment to thank the team - Robyn Perkins, Victor Gamperle, John Gamblin, Sandie Gamperle, Peter King, Daniel Reese, Kevin Prendergast, Anne Kennedy, Bernie Jago, and Kevin Jago for their work in bringing us great events, selecting teams and generally keeping the sport in order. Special thanks to our race secretary Anne Kennedy who has decided to step down from committee work this year albeit she has agreed to continue with the work she currently does for our events. It is people like Anne who ensure the runs we hold run smoothly and I would like to thank her for all the quiet work she has done on this over many years.

Outside our committee I would also like to thank Craig & Shona Brown, Chris Rowe, Dianne Phipps and Brian Theobald for their roles in producing results and getting us all registered. The sport is very much indebted to you for the work you do. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Andrew Stark, the Chair of the Athletics Canterbury Board, and Ian Thomas, our General Manager.

It will now be 2021 in which will look to add the improvements identified from our 2019, and now 2020, surveys, into our programme of events. Thank you those who took the time to respond to our queries. It is only through feedback we can get better.

Likewise, over 2021 the CC & R committee will look to evolve considering the new structure and strategy ratified by our members at the Athletics Canterbury AGM this year. We will be

looking at how we best work with the Board and various working groups to ensure we maximise the outcomes for our members while minimising any overlaps and duplication of effort. In a sport manned by volunteers, this is always a good thing. Hopefully, we will also attract new people with new skills into the sport; another good aim for 2021.

I continue to be excited about the future of our sport and have really enjoyed being part of the running community we have here in Canterbury this year. While 2020 was a year full of challenges it has been wonderful to be part of a “can do” attitude team. Together we made good things happen in 2020 and I am confident we will respond well to the challenges of 2021 whatever these may be.

Annette Campbell
November 2020