

Life Membership nomination – Andrew Stark
Presented at the Athletics Canterbury AGM
26th July 2023

This person has been involved with the sport of athletics for just over 50 years. They started their journey in athletics whilst still at school and while there, it was evident that they had talent in athletics. In their time at school, they were able to get the right guidance for the athlete, they were later to become.

They went on to compete with some of the greats of New Zealand middle distance running across the late 1970's and early 1980's winning national titles and beating some known global athletes, like John Walker and Tony Rogers, along the way.

Like most of us, as we get into our 20's, life takes hold and the real-world responsibilities become our priority, so at 27 this person stopped running. It wasn't long before they got back involved, but this time not as a runner but more from working in the background. Canterbury Masters Athletics was their first stop, and within a short period of time, due to the passing of the then President, they stepped up to that role and at the same time became involved with the Athletics Canterbury track and field committee.

It wasn't long before they became President of the Athletics Canterbury track and field committee, along with already being President of NZ Masters, they were also elected to the Oceania Masters committee. As if four committees weren't enough, they decided to make it five by being elected to the Athletics Canterbury executive committee.

In May 2017, the then President of Athletics Canterbury, Kevin Jago, asked them if they could chair the May executive committee meeting. They were subsequently elected as the President at the AGM in July 2017. This position is now chair of the Athletics Canterbury board, a position they still hold.

They led the early planning when engaging in all things Nga Puna Wai, and still today is leading the charge with the changes that will benefit the sport in the future. They can be seen regularly throughout the year at our events and in particularly down at the track over the summer months, as mainly the friendly face in the window, helping athletes get into events and coaches in getting results.



Since being chair of the Board, they have been one of the driving forces behind Athletics Canterbury's desire to be more professional, to how we deliver and operate the sport in Canterbury. One of their early tasks as the Board Chair was ensuring Athletics Canterbury updated their Strategic Plan through community engagement, identify where changes were needed to align themselves with the new environment going forward.

Late 2017 and into 2018, they were the Athletics Canterbury representative attending the Nga Puna Wai Project Steering Group meetings and working through the operational structure of Nga Puna Wai. This not only involved regular monthly meetings, but also hours of reading the various documents required from the ChCh City Council project, plus numerous phone calls and discussions about 'issues' relating to the project that came up and needed answers. Their willingness to be available showed the commitment to the project.

I could go on and on about their contribution to our sport, but I believe the reason for this Life Membership is more for the dedication that they have made over the past decade and the continued countless hours of work, they have put in behind the scenes. It is all these hours of work and total dedication that we as a sport can be most proud of.

I am sure you will all be aware by now, that I am talking about Andrew Stark. Ladies & Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure I put forward Mr. Andrew Stark and recommend he be awarded Life Membership of Athletics Canterbury.

Prepared by General Manager, Ian Thomas
read by Daniel Reese
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