

Athletics Canterbury | Community Update

September 2026

Kia ora Athletics Canterbury whānau,

There's plenty happening across our athletics community as we head towards another exciting summer season.

The Athletics Canterbury Board met last week, and we wanted to share a few highlights from around the region - and some of what's coming up.

Athletics continues to grow

It's fantastic to see 759 registered members across Canterbury, up from 703 last year, with particularly strong growth amongst our younger athletes.

We've also seen 47 registered volunteers, almost double last year's 24. A huge thank you to everyone who gives their time to make athletics happen - our clubs simply couldn't operate without you.

Growing athletics in our communities

One of our priorities is creating more opportunities for people to experience athletics.

It was therefore great to see 1,532 Year 5–8 students take part in the Primary Schools Cross Country Finals - the largest cross country event in the South Island. We want to continue strengthening our connections with schools and making it easier for young people to find their way from school athletics into our clubs.

There are also exciting developments further afield, with a potential new athletics club in the Mt Hutt/Methven community attracting more than 100 expressions of interest.

Canterbury Club Connect is coming

At the end of September, we'll be bringing our club community together for Canterbury Club Connect.

The morning will focus on club committees and leaders, followed by practical afternoon sessions for coaches, parents and others who help deliver athletics within our clubs.

It's an opportunity to connect, learn, share ideas and get ready for the season ahead.

Building our coaches, officials & volunteers

We're continuing to invest in the people who make our sport possible.

Our officials and education programme is underway, alongside teacher professional development, coach development and opportunities to build capability across Canterbury.

Four teacher PD sessions are planned across **New Brighton, North Canterbury, Selwyn and Ngā Puna Wai**, while work continues to encourage more people into coaching — particularly throws coaching.

International athletics is coming to Christchurch

Planning for the International Track Meet continues to progress well.

There's plenty happening behind the scenes, including work around sponsorship and international athlete engagement.

We're excited about the opportunity to bring another great athletics experience to Canterbury and will share more as plans develop.

❤️ Thank you to our athletics community

Finally, a big thank you to our **clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers, athletes, parents and supporters**.

Our recently shared Strategic Plan reinforced something important: Athletics Canterbury works best when we're connected with our clubs and community. We want to keep improving how we communicate, listen and work together.

There's a lot to look forward to as we head into summer.

See you trackside!

Ian Thomas

General Manager

Jo O'Sullivan

Chair