

ATHLETICS

2010 will be fondly remembered as one of the Sydney University Athletic Club's most successful years.

High quality individual performances, highlighted by the Commonwealth Games selection of Lachlan Renshaw and the City to Surf win by Lara Tamsett, coupled with a plethora of strong team and relay results has made for a year that was nothing short of outstanding.

The calendar year began well with the NSW Club Championships. The Club was able to field almost a full strength Men's side including Lachlan Renshaw (800m, Relay) Justin Merlino (200 hurdles, Long Jump, Shot Put, Relay, 100m) and Andrew Giltrap (throws). The men took the gold medal and their fifth NSW Championship in seven years. The athlete of the day was without doubt three time National Hurdles Champion Justin Merlino who put in an iron man performance in forty degree plus heat, competing in five events. The Men's team won by only three points.

In the Women's event the Club finished third. Standout performers were Elizabeth Jenkins who competed in five events. Lara Tamsett won the 3km in the fastest time in Australia for 2010; Lara was closely followed by Emma Rilen.

At the NSW Championships held in March the Club finished second in the Medal tally to Asics Wests (a club nearly three times the size of SUAC) winning nine gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

At the Australian Championships Lachlan Renshaw won his second National title at 800m and gained selection for the Commonwealth Games in India, where he made the final. Lara Tamsett was second in both the 5km and 10km track races and gained selection in the Australian World Cross-Country team where she went on to record a very impressive 31st place. Anneliese Rubie won the 400m at the Australian Junior Championships and is going to represent Australia at the World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada. Todd Wakefield also won the Australian Junior Championships and was selected to compete at the World Juniors as well.

The winter season saw the Club again post some impressive results. The standout was Lara Tamsett winning the City to Surf. Lara also won the Noosa Bolt and the Burnie 10km. Russell Desaix-Chin won the NSW 10km Road Championships and Bradley Croker produced one of his best performances for the Club, finishing second. Russell went on to finish second overall in the NSW Distance Runner of the Year Point Score. The Sydney Bridge Run was won by SUAC's James Nipperess, who was followed to the line in second place by the SUAC's two time national Champion (1500m) Lachlan Chisholm.

In winter relay events the Club finished first in the NSW Team Walks over 10km, second in the Men's X-country relays (4x4km) and third in the Men's NSW Road Relay

Championships (4x4km) and the Women's X-Country relays (4x4km).

The Club completely dominated the Australian University Games winning both the Men's and Women's events and the overall point score.

At the NSW Track and Field Relay Championships the Club won the Women's 4x200, 4x400 and the Men's 4x1500m. The Club took the silver medal in the Women's Medley Relay and the Men's Medley Relay. Further, bronze medals were won in the Women's 4x800m, 4 x Discus and the Men's 4x200m. The standout performers for the women were Elizabeth Jenkins, Anneliese Rubie and Siobhan Clayton (4x800, 4x1500). On the men's side the standout performers were James Dooley and Todd Wakefield.

On the social side of things the Club launched the Sydney University Athletic Club Foundation with a special function at the Grandstand in May. Over 200 guests attended the evening and it is hoped that the foundation will eventually form a large part of the Club's fundraising in the future.

The efforts of 2010 would not have been able to be achieved without the continued assistance of a determined committee with special mentions going to Dean Gleeson (Head Coach, Competition Manager), Andrew Heil (Registrar), Ben Cross (Secretary, AUG Games Manager) and Erin Binks (AUG Manager).

Bobby Broadhurst
Club President

