

athletics

2011 has been an extremely successful year for the Sydney University Athletics Club (SUAC). The club has competed with distinction at both summer and winter competitions. SUAC's elite athletes have continued to excel in competition at state, national, and international levels; while the club's participation base has continued to expand, with athletes frequently setting new personal bests across a variety of events.

The club's performances in the Athletics NSW (ANSW) track and field competition were highlighted by an outstanding team performance at the NSW Club Championships, where the club placed first in the men's division. In the women's competition SUAC finished second, and first in the overall competition.

The standout performers at the NSW Track and Field Championships included Russell Dessaix-Chin, James Nipperess, Lachlan Chisholm and Andrew Giltrap. Larissa Stanley continued her impressive run of form in the NSW Masters State Championships event winning the 35+ Masters 800m.

At the Australian Track and Field Championships, Lachlan Renshaw and Anneliese Rubie won selection into the World University Games team later in the year. Anneliese also earned selection in the 4x400m relay team for the World Championships in Daegu, her first Senior Australian team selection. Despite battling a hamstring injury she ran well and looks to have a promising international future ahead of her.



The club's performance during the 2011 winter season was extremely consistent across a large number of different meets, testament to the level of depth and commitment in the club's distance running community. Some of the best team performances included resounding victories for the men's team at both the NSW Cross Country Championships and the NSW Short Course Championships; as well as second place finishes at the NSW Cross Country Relays, NSW Road Relays, and the NSW Half Marathon Championships. At the end of the winter season, the club claimed the Open Men's Winter Premiership, beating winter powerhouse Bankstown Sports by a large margin. This was a first for the club in the modern era – an achievement that the club can be very proud of.

Lara Tamsett won the female selection trial for the World Cross Country Championships and managed to finish a very credible 29th in the Open Women's race. Hugh Williams claimed victory in the Junior World Cross Country selection trials. He then went on to represent Australia at the Junior World Cross Country Championships, where he finished an encouraging 65th place despite an early fall.

At the World University Games James Nipperess placed 8th in the heats of the men's 1500m; Anneliese Rubie made it through to the semi-finals of the women's 400m; and Lachlan Renshaw was crowned World University Games Champion in the men's 800m.

At the 2011 Australian University Games, Sydney University finished first in the men's division, second in the women's division, and first overall. Milly Clark and Lachlan Chisholm were the outstanding individuals, who were supported by the relay teams.

As the winter season drew to a close, James Nipperess claimed victory in the Burnie 10, which ranks

amongst the most prestigious road races in the country. James also represented Australia in the Chiba Ekiden relays.

The club received an incredible nine Blues; the recipients were James Dooley, Jacqui Fry, Alix Kennedy, Lachlan Chisholm, Andrew Giltrap, Hugh Williams, Stephen Andrezza, Larissa Pasternatsky and Lara Tamsett. Lara Tamsett was awarded Blue of the Year.

The club is grateful to the ongoing efforts of head coach Dean Gleeson, whose energy and passion for Sydney University Athletics continues to provide invaluable support to the life of the club.

The club held a number of successful social events which is seen both in the growth of the club's membership and an ever-developing sense of camaraderie amongst the club's athletes. The highlight was the first SUAC 'Blue & Gold' Lunch. The club thanks Rodney Tubbs and the SUAC committee for their assistance in putting together such a wonderful afternoon.

As of 31 December, the club currently leads the Open Pennant Championship in the Club premiership, and has high hopes of retaining this lead for the duration of the season. If so, it should top off a year where the men's teams won practically every event they could and the women's line-up was not too far behind – an outstanding year by anyone's reckoning. Much credit must be given to the SUAC committee who have done an exceptional job this past year; many thanks must also be given for the ongoing support of SUSF without which none of this would be possible.

Ben Cross
Secretary