

ATHLETICS

2013 was arguably the best in the history of the Sydney University Athletics Club (SUAC). The club won every senior competition it competed in; had a record number of participants at the National Championships, and 13 club records were broken. In addition to this, the club celebrated its 135th anniversary with a large dinner at Wesley College; launched the inaugural SUAC Golf Day; and had another successful trip to Queensland with a victory over the University of Queensland.

SUAC won the following competitions in 2013:

- Athletics NSW Club Championships – men and women;
- Treloar Shield – open pennant;
- NSW Open Championships – overall medal tally;
- Athletics NSW Winter Premiership – men and women;
- Australian University Games – men and women (a record 12 athletes were selected in the Green and Gold team); and
- NSW State Relay Championships – won every track running event in both the men's and women's divisions except for the men's 4x1,500m (finishing with silver).

At the National Championships SUAC had more than 50 athletes qualify to compete – by far the largest contingent the club has ever had – and a testament of the strength of the club. James Nipperess (3,000m steeplechase) and Angie Ballard (wheelchair) took out national titles,

while Alix Kennedy (discus), Justin Merlino (110m hurdles), Lara Tamsett (10,000m), Ian Dewhurst (400m hurdles), Anneliese Rubie (400m) and Emma Rilen (5,000m) all took home medals.

At a state level SUAC had a number of champions. Over the summer Joshua Ralph (400m), Anneliese Rubie (200m/400m), Milly Clark (3,000m steeplechase), Justin Merlino (110m hurdles) and Angie Ballard (100m/200m/400m wheelchair) all won NSW titles. In the winter season the club's individual state champions were Milly Clark (short course cross country/half marathon), Jack Colreavy (half marathon), Alex Matthews (marathon), Heidi Smith (marathon), Hugh Williams (Fernleigh 15km) and Nat Archer (Fernleigh 15km).

Internationally SUAC also had one of its strongest years with four athletes selected to compete at the World Championships in Moscow – Lara Tamsett (10,000m), Jarrod Geddes (4x100m), Nick Hough (4x100m) and Joshua Ralph (4x400m). At the Universiade (World University Games) the club was also strongly represented by James Nipperess (3,000m steeplechase), Alix Kennedy (discus), Nick Hough (100m/200m) and Ian Dewhurst (400m hurdles). Ian performed admirably taking home the bronze medal.

On the social front the club also had a successful year. The highlight was the 135th Anniversary Dinner held at Wesley College in November. More than 200 guests attended the event with Nick Hough and Anneliese Rubie crowned the male and female athletes of the year. One of the highlights of the night was a rap performance delivered by club stalwart Ben Liddy – well received by a very appreciative audience.

SUAC launched its inaugural Golf Day, which was held at Woollahra Golf Club. Current athletes and former greats enjoyed a great day which is sure to grow into a major fixture on the SUAC calendar.

2013 was a wonderful year for SUAC. Many thanks go to all the athletes involved and to the tireless SUAC committee without whom none of this would have been possible.

Dean Gleeson
DIRECTOR

