



ATHLETICS

2019 WAS ANOTHER CRACKING YEAR FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB WITH UNRIVALLED SUCCESS BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND AT HOME.

The last seven years has really been a golden period for the club. With the 2020 Olympics looming, 2019 was an important stepping stone for many of our athletes and to say they exceeded expectations would be a massive understatement.

Let's begin abroad. SUAC athletes represented Australia in 2019 no less than 53 times, 10 of those at World Championship level (Nicola McDermott, Rohan Browning, Bec Bennett, Michelle Jenneke, Nick Hough, Paige Campbell, Catriona Bisset, Alex Beck, Angie Ballard and Joshua Ralph). The highlights of the international season came from Catriona Bisset and Josh Ralph who took home a world championship relays silver in the mixed 2x2x400m. Bisset also smashed the long-standing women's Australian 800m record, running a sensational 1.58 at the London Diamond League. Jess Pascoe broke the Australian 5000m indoor record, Nicola McDermott jumped a club record 1.96m which was also a Tokyo Olympic qualifier, while Milly Clark also ran an Olympic qualifying performance in the marathon. Additionally, Ed Fernon and Marina Carrier have already been selected to the Australian Olympic team for Tokyo in Modern Pentathlon.

At the World Universiade, SUAC had 5 representatives (Paige Campbell, Jess Stafford, Genevieve Cowie, Angus Armstrong & Catriona Bisset). Bisset was triumphant in the women's 800m, taking the win in a dominant performance, with Jess Stafford

and Gen Cowie bringing home the bronze medal in the women's 4x400m. On another international note, SUAC had a record 13 athletes compete at the Oceania Championships, five of which were crowned Oceania Champions.

At home in domestic competition, SUAC was just as successful with an incredible 58 athletes qualifying for the National Championships, resulting in 11 SUAC athletes calling themselves national champions. SUAC also took out the Nationals Division 1 Men's and Women's titles (formerly Australian University Games).

In New South Wales' athletics competition, SUAC were crowned ANSW 2019 Champion Club of the Year, winning the Men's and Women's Club Championship, the Men's and Women's Winter Premiership, the NSW Relay Championships and producing 13 State Champions.

From a club perspective, the club has grown in member numbers again this year, which is a testament to the fine work of the SUAC committee. The club ran a successful end-of-season function where Nicola McDermott and Nick Hough won the 2019 Athletes of the Year. The club's Target Tokyo fundraising initiative this year supported more than 15 athletes to train and compete in Europe for seven weeks and so far our very generous alumni have donated more than \$110,000 to this program which is an amazing contribution and is clearly making a real difference to our athlete's chances of Olympic selection.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of our outgoing President Phil Brennan who steered the club through this stellar period over the last six years - simply outstanding! We welcome our new President Gillian Ragus and wish the general committee of SUAC and our phenomenal athletes, coaches and alumni the very best for 2020.

DEAN GLEESON | DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS