

ATHLETICS



by our alumni and friends, over twenty SUAC athletes benefitted from the five year program, with multiple national and club records achieved, and wide Australian representation at Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

Our Tokyo representatives were:

- Silver medallist Nicola McDermott (High Jump) who broke the Oceania record with a phenomenal 2.02m jump in the final
- Mackenzie Little, 8th place (Javelin)
- Finalists Ed Fernon & Marina Carrier (Modern Pentathlon)
- Semi finalists Liz Clay (10th, 100m hurdles), Rohan Browning (13th, 100m 2nd fastest Australian ever) and Nick Hough (110m hurdles)
- Six time Paralympian Angie Ballard (100m, 400m, 800m)
- Two time Olympians Anneliese Rubie-Renshaw and Jenny Blundell
- Alex Beck (400m) and Catriona Bisset (800m)

Given the young age of these athletes and a pipeline of fine newcomers rising through the ranks, SUACs reputation as Australia's strongest athletics club remains assured.

On the domestic front, a massive 57 athletes qualified for National Championships. Eleven SUAC athletes came away as National Champions. Our women won UniSport Nationals in dominant fashion. Winter season was heavily impacted by COVID, meaning a big break in competition for much of the year, particularly team events. Despite this, SUAC again dominated NSW State Relays at Open level with the most Championship titles and overall medals won, a highlight being a sixth consecutive men's 4x100m Gold in the blue ribbon event. A special mention to Mackenzie Little who was named University of Sydney female Blue of the Year.

Sadly some goodbyes were said in 2021. Josh Ralph, Ian Dewhurst, Larissa Pasternatsky, Ed Fernon, James Nipperess, and Ella Nelson all retired from international competition. Phenomenal leaders and servants of the club, combined they achieved 3 Olympics, 6 World Championships, 8 Commonwealth Games, and 17 National Championship titles, as well as thousands of fond memories. Our beloved Director of Athletics Dean Gleeson also said goodbye. Without a doubt, Dean has been the driving force behind the success of the club through over two decades of dedicated service. A distinguished athlete, administrator and coach, Dean instituted the Target Tokyo program and was appointed Head Coach and Team Manager of the Australian Modern Pentathlon team at Tokyo Olympics, a pinnacle of any career. SUAC and the SUAC committee sincerely thank Deano for his service, he will be very missed.

A big thank you to all athletes, volunteers, and committee members for a very special year.

JOSH TASSELL
DIRECTOR

2021 was undoubtedly the most successful year in the Athletics club's 143 year history, with a record twelve SUAC athletes competing in the Tokyo Olympic Games and Nicola McDermott winning a silver medal, a fitting culmination of SUACs Target Tokyo program.

Commenced in 2017, Target Tokyo was specifically aimed at giving SUAC athletes the best possible chance of making the Tokyo Olympics through the establishment of a European training base and overseas support from SUAC personnel. Entirely funded

AUSTRALIAN RULES

Despite a strong and extremely promising start to 2021, SUANFC was faced with another challenging year following the forced cancellation of the AFL Sydney season. Nonetheless, our club was part of the growth of AFL participation across NSW, and the addition of two new SUANFC teams in 2021—in Women's Division 4 and Men's Division 3—was a standout win for the year.

COACHING & SUPPORT STAFF

The club began the 2021 season with some exciting new coaching and support staff appointments, as well as the retention of several key coaches and staff from the 2020 season. The club kept on our highly knowledgeable Director of Football, Wayne Campbell, and brought on board a new Director of Coaching in Brad Miller. The Women's football program saw a change of leadership in 2021, with Yucel Celenk coming on as head coach of the Women's Premier Division team. Tom Morrison once again took on the role of Men's Senior Head Coach, with Lindsay Scown remaining as Senior Assistant Coach.

2021 SEASON

After a strong pre-season, our Men's and Women's Premier Division teams were plagued with injuries in the early rounds. Both teams were starting to find their form by the second half of the season, before COVID unfortunately brought their journeys to an abrupt end. The Men's Premier Division Reserves were a different story, kicking off the season with a win, and remaining undefeated throughout.

A highlight of the season was certainly the success of the brand-new Women's Division 4 team. The team came out strong with a debut win in Round 1, then followed it up with six wins and one loss for the remainder of the season.

SUANFC also saw both of our Men's Division 3 teams battle it out in a Friday Night Lights game at Oval No.1 in Round 8. With commentary, and great rivalry, the atmosphere at Oval No.1 was certainly something special.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS SUPPORT

The support from SUSF in 2021 was essential to the success of the club, and it was fantastic to once again see some of our most promising players welcomed into the SUSF Elite Athlete Program.

SUANFC entered its fourth year of partnership with construction leaders Growthbuilt in 2021. It was fantastic to see the

relationship with our naming-rights sponsor continue to grow and evolve throughout the season.

The club was also excited to welcome two new sponsors on board in 2021: Assessment Hub and Scarlett Financial. SUANFC would also like to thank our partners CplusC, ISC, SportsLab, Prudence Rehab, Rycon, Skinx, and Nag's Head Hotel for their ongoing assistance and support.

With the hope for a return to normality and a full season in 2022, SUANFC is excited to see what can be achieved by this incredible group of players, coaches, support staff, and volunteers. We look forward to another year of growth and success for our club.

DANI PASZKIEWICZ
GENERAL MANAGER

