

ATHLETICS

There was plenty of anticipation for the Sydney Uni Athletics Club (SUAC) in 2022.

After the success of Tokyo 2020 (2021), the year ahead was packed full of international opportunity that included World Championships in Oregon (USA), Commonwealth Games in Birmingham (UK) and the World Junior Championships in Cali (CO). The year would also see the running of the first RUNSYDUNI after several years of disruption due to the pandemic.

Domestically we had another great start to the year with athletes performing well at State Championships, but the highlight was the dominance at the UniSport Nationals on the Gold Coast, winning both Men's and Women's pennants!

RunSydUni finally got out of the blocks in 2022. After false starts in 2020 and 2021, a full ten-week training program commenced assisted by some of our EAP athletes with coaching duties. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate, with many training sessions cancelled, halting the momentum for the SSAF-funded program, however the event went ahead after a slight reschedule due to on-campus activities. The day was excellent with a two-lap course around the University. A big thanks to all 360 entrants for their interest, to the 40+ EAP athletes & club members who volunteered their time on the day as course officials, and to the University for assisting in the smooth running of the event on the day.

The results from World Championships in Oregon, were amazing:

- Nicola Olyslagers, finished 5th in the High Jump
- Mackenzie Little, finished 5th in the Javelin with a PB Club Record (63.22m), having led the competition until round 3
- Rohan Browning, recorded 10.22 in the heats
- Nick Hough, made it to the semi-finals in the 110m Hurdles
- Alex Beck, made it to the semi-finals of the 400m
- Michelle Jenneke, finished 11th in the 110m Hurdles with a PB Club Record (12.66), in the World Record winning semi-final

The Commonwealth Games in Birmingham began less than a week after World Championships. Athletics started later in the program and once again SUAC athletes achieved amazing results:

- Mackenzie Little, silver medallist in the Javelin with a PB Club Record (64.27m)
- Angie Ballard, silver medallist in the 1500m T53/53
- Shelley Jenneke, 5th in the 110m Hurdles
- Sarah Bligh-Clifton, 5th in the 100m T34
- Rohan Browning, 6th in the 100m
- Nick Hough (covid), 7th in the 110m Hurdles

SUAC only had one competitor at World Juniors, Laura Roderick, who placed 15th in the 5000m.

The Winter season began with both Open teams winning medals at State Cross Country Relays. That set the season up, culminating in a Gold medals to Laura Roderick in the Women's U20 and Lucy Mauviel in the Women's U23 at the Australian Cross Country Championships in Adelaide. Paige Campbell in the Open Women's and Lachlan Townsend in the Men's U20 also had great results.

SUAC took out gold at the Women's UniSport Long Running Championships while the Men placed second.

State Relays were held in Campbelltown, with SUAC dominating the Open competition winning 19 medals in total, more than the next 3 clubs combined (6 Gold, 6 Silver & 7 Bronze).

The Treloar Shield Final (Club Championships), was held incredibly late in the year and SUAC finished a very close 2nd, missing several key Elite Athlete Program athletes. A fantastic result given the circumstances.

All in all, an amazing year for the Club and the University as a whole. Many thanks to all members of this wonderful club and its hard-working committee as well as all the SUSF staff that have made my new appointment incredibly rewarding.

JAMES FITZGERALD
DIRECTOR

