

# ATHLETICS

**2023 was another phenomenal year for SUAC with success on the domestic, national and international stages and providing University of Sydney students with a second full year of our student participation program, RUNSYDUNI.**

A club record 70 athletes represented SUAC at National Championships held in Brisbane after great NSW Championships success. SUAC athletes left with eight National Open championship titles and three National Junior championship titles, by far the biggest haul of any club in Australia.

Our female student athletes excelled at UniSport National Track & Field championships taking the Pennant in a dominant fashion by 64 points with our men narrowly losing by five points to a strong University of Queensland team on home turf. A 55 strong team competed with University pride over the three days.

In a World Championships and Para Athletics World Championships year, 27 SUAC athletes travelled to Europe for the northern summer to achieve qualifiers demonstrating a huge commitment to the sport. SUACs wonderful alumni and friends were able to assist these athletes with funding assistance via our Target Paris program and we were thrilled to see club uniform on display at international meets.

Four University of Sydney current students and one University of Sydney graduate competed at World University Games in Chengdu China with Connor Murphy narrowly missing bronze in the Triple Jump.

Club stalwart and Australian team co-captain Angie Ballard and 19 year old Sarah Clifton-Bligh competed with distinction at World Para Athletics Championships in Paris. Sarah competed outside her classification achieving a T33 Championship record in her first World Championship team, Angie competing in an incredible 9th team.

World Athletics Championships were held in late August in Hungary. Some 20 plus SUAC friends and family travelled to Budapest to support our nine athletes selected and the Australian team. Club captain Michelle Jenneke had the honour of being Australian team co-captain assisting new University of Sydney students Allannah Pitcher and Erin Shaw in their debut World Championships. University graduate Nicola Olyslagers and Mackenzie Little both won Bronze medals in thrilling championships. Other SUAC athletes competing were Rohan Browning, Cameron McEntyre, Jacob McCorry and Nick Andrews.

On the domestic winter cross country and roads season, our men won the Winter Premiership for the first time since 2019 and our women finished runners up. A huge number of new athletes stepped up to fill teams across winter for which we are truly thankful.

Younger and older athletes again joined forces prior to year end at NSW Relay Championships and NSW Treloar Shield, named after club alumni John Treloar AM OLY. Club captain Michelle Jenneke, Commonwealth Games representative Kailyn Joseph along with World Championships representatives Bec Bennett, Erin Shaw and Sarah Clifton-Bligh led the SUAC team to take out the Treloar Shield Grand Final. A massive thank you to all athletes who achieved our grand final qualification through rounds one to six.

SUAC continued its commitment to student participation across all levels of ability with its RUNSYDUNI program, a free 4km fun run on campus preceded by a free twice-weekly, nine week training block run by the club's student athletes. We look forward to making this a huge campus fun run in future years.

A massive thank you to all our club volunteers, supporters, Athletics NSW, Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness and University of Sydney for another great year.

**ANDREW HEIL**  
**REGISTRAR & TREASURER**

