



# Athletics Wellington Life Membership Awarded to Mark Harris

Growing up in the Horowhenua Kapiti district attending Horowhenua College Mark has never been far from Wellington Athletics. A graduate of Massey University in Palmerston North where he developed as a national level athlete going on to represent New Zealand at the World University Games in 1995 and 1997 in Fukuoka and Sicily

While studying at Massey University, Mark majored in Finance and later did a Post Graduate Diploma in Sport Management. It was at this time Mark developed had a strong interest in sports and event management and coaching. By 1999 Mark became a member of the Athletics New Zealand Board serving two years.

Mark was a founding member of the Kiwi Milers Club, set up to support the traditions and high-performance targets of Kiwi Milers in NZL

Mark also served on Athletics Wellington's Board from 2006 - 2009.

In 2013 Mark was Athletics Wellington's Development Officer, and was a key organiser for the first Athletics Wellington Sports Award in 2014 and 2015

From 2015 – 2018 Mark was involved as a lead for the Athletics Wellington Athlete Development squad and set up the systems and process for the squad.

Mark has been a valuable member in Athletics Wellington's Wairarapa Athletics community supporting growth of athletics in that region. He was a founding Trustee for the Wairarapa Regional All-Weather Track Trust (now known as the Colin Pugh Athletics Track) which was successfully completed in December 2012.

Mark contributed to bringing major athletics events to Masterton upon the track completion including the North Island Secondary Schools in 2013 and 2014, then the 2017 New Zealand Road Championships of which he was organiser and Race Director.

As an official, Mark became an A grade Track Official in 2020 within his specialty area of Photo finish and chief judge. He has officiated at numerous national events including NZ Multi Event Championship in 2018, the NZSS Track & Field Championships in 2018 and 2020, the NISS regularly in recent years, and on numerous occasions at the Potts Classic, Cooks Classic, Porritt Classic and Capital Classic in 2021.

Marks has been a successful coach for a good number of years developing numerous athletes from the Wairarapa over almost two decades. As early as 2008 Vicky Paine represented New Zealand and medalled at the Oceania Championships, while in the last twelve months Liam Lamb took gold at NZ road Championships and recently ran the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest time ever recorded by a 19 year old New Zealand athlete at 1500m. He has also supported Masters athletes to claim Gold and Silver medals at World Masters through Michael Wray and Tony Price at Cross country and wife Andrea at 1500m and 3000m. Mark has coached numerus athletes to National medal status at Athletics NZ and NZ Secondary Schools championships.

His coaching work has extended beyond personal coaching having been a NZ team manager and coach with the World Youth Championships in 2009 and Commonwealth Youth Team to Pune, India in 2008.

Mark is a lead coach for Run Jump Throw and Get Set Go courses, and a lead for IAAF [World Athletics] courses, lecturing at Level I, II and III. He is currently serving as a Coach Developer / Trainer for Athletics Wellington.

Mark is a deserving and successful servant of Athletics Wellington for Life Membership.