

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Friday Compendium (Items Circulated for Information)

**MEETING DATE:** 20 May 2022

**TITLE:** Manawatu Community Athletics Track - 2021 Annual Report

**PRESENTED BY:** Aaron Phillips - Activities Manager Parks

**APPROVED BY:** Sarah Sinclair, Chief Infrastructure Officer

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1. The Manawatu Community Athletics Track was established on Massey University's Turitea Campus in 2001 in a partnership between the athletics community, Massey University and the Palmerston North City Council.
2. The facility operated under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was formed in 2000. The 2000 MOU was reviewed and updated in 2021.
3. Under the MOU an Advisory Committee oversees the track governance with appointments from Massey University, Palmerston North City Council, Manawatu District Council, and Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club (PNA&HC).
4. Councillor Bruno Petrenas and Activities Manager Parks, Aaron Phillips, represent Palmerston North City Council on the Advisory Committee.
5. The Council currently contributes \$78,900 + GST per year towards both the maintenance and renewals of the track. Massey University provides day-to-day facility administration, management, maintenance and security services, as well as sharing in maintenance and renewal costs. The PNA&HC provides track and field equipment and often assists with events and schools use.
6. The 2021 Annual Report (attached in Appendix One):
  - a. Notes the disruptions and additional requirements required due to Covid.
  - b. Acknowledges the contributions of all the parties and especially Massey University and PNA&HC in operating the Athletics Track for the benefit of the community.
  - c. Shows 523 bookings were made with an estimated 21,633 uses of the track. These are up significantly on previous years, as shown in Figure One.

7. Figures One and Two plot the estimated booked use numbers (excluding casual use) and booking numbers trends:
  - a. There has been a downward trend in formal booked use since 2010. The trend in number of bookings has been fairly static.
  - b. There has been a significant increase in use in 2021, returning to usage levels last seen in 2016.

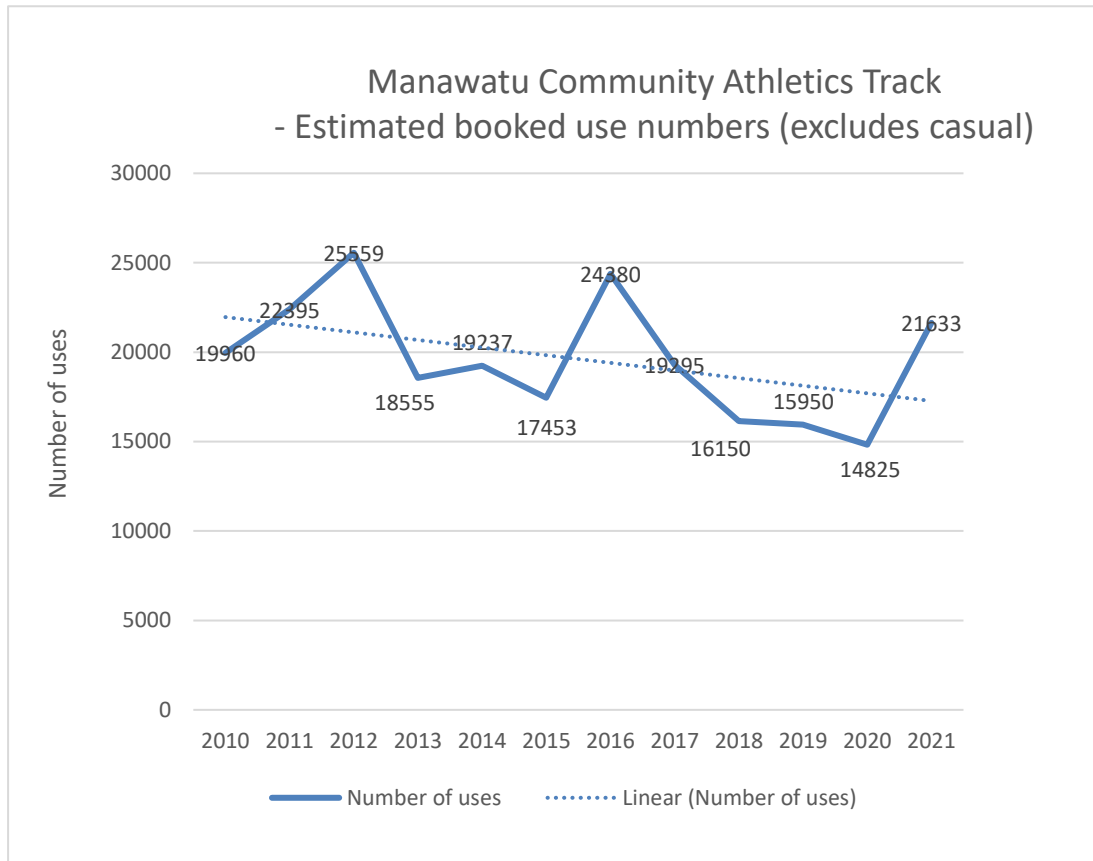


Figure One: Estimated use numbers

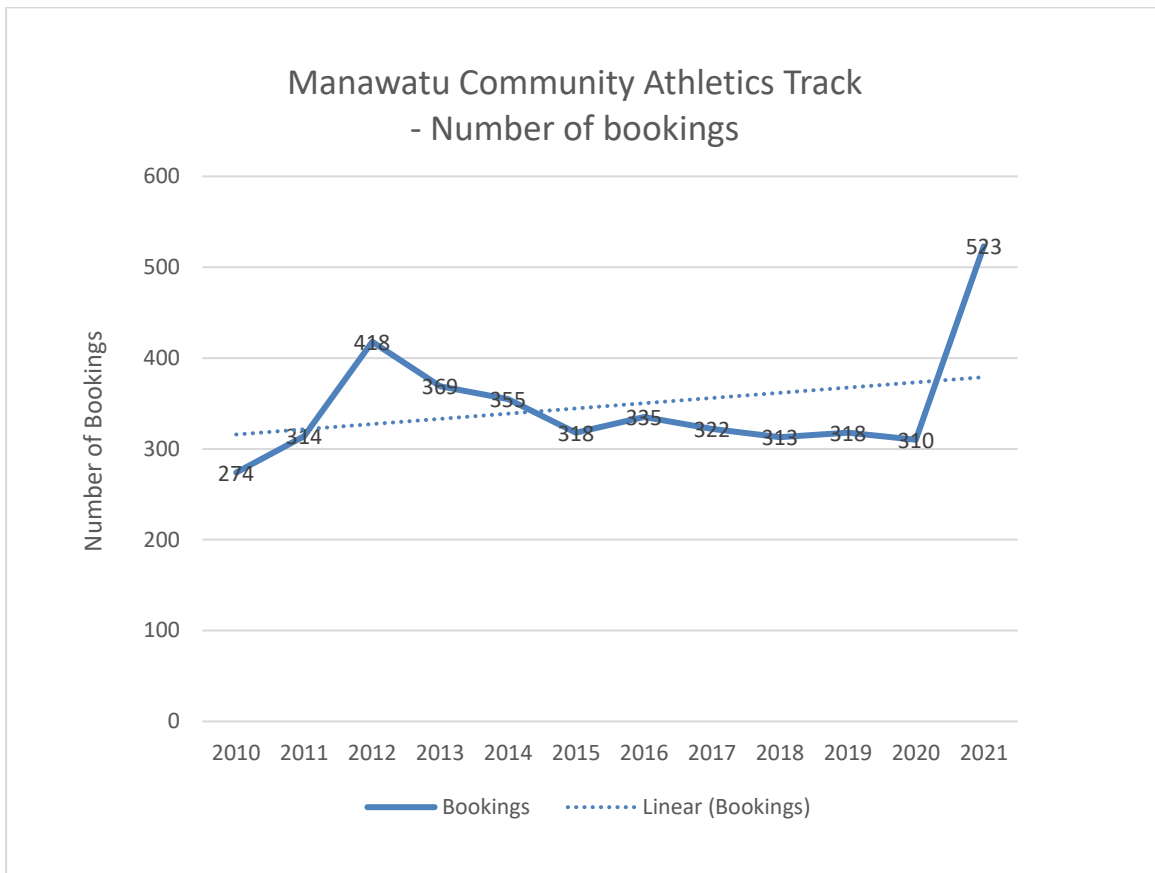


Figure Two: Booking numbers

8. The booking officers advise that a large portion of the 2021 increase in booking and use numbers is a result of drainage improvement to the central field area. The drainage improvements have enabled significant football use for training in the central field area – up to four evenings a week.
9. PNA&HC membership<sup>1</sup> has increased from 190 members in 2019/20 to 321 in the 2020/21 season which will have also resulted in an increase in regular uses.
10. No statistics are available on casual community use.
11. While not covered in the report it is noteworthy that Massey University have been successful in securing the Manawatu Community Athletics Track as the venue for the January 2023 Colgate Games. The Colgate Games are the largest athletics event in New Zealand for tamariki aged 7 to 14 years old.

<sup>1</sup> As per draft Sport Manawatu 6 month report.

12. The ongoing commitment of key athletics club volunteers is noted by Council Officers. Their care and passion for the club and the facilities is fundamental to the high standards and community use experienced at the Track.



**Aaron Phillips**  
**Activities Manager - Parks**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Manawatu Community Athletics Track - Annual Report 2021  

# MANAWATU COMMUNITY ATHLETICS TRACK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Prepared by the  
**Manawatu Community Athletics Track Advisory Committee**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> annual report provided by the Manawatu Community Athletics Track (MCAT) Advisory Committee to the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) and Massey University (Massey). Provision of this report is part of the requirement of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Advisory Committee to formally report to both the PNCC and Massey.

For the second year in a row, 2021 was heavily influenced by restrictions, postponements, cancellations and general disruptions that were an unfortunate (but understandable) by-product of the COVID pandemic. With New Zealand moving to alert level 4 in mid-August, the MCAT was unavailable for use through to early September when Manawatū's alert level was reduced to level 2. While this period of non-use affected bookings and events, there were also flow on effects throughout the rest of the year as gathering restrictions limited the ability for large events to take place. For the events and competitions that did take place, the implementation of procedures and protocols (social distancing, cleaning etc.), as well as the construction of a new information board complete with QR codes, ensured the safety and wellbeing of athletes and other users.

Even though COVID disrupted scheduled events in 2021, particularly school athletics days in Term 4, there were still a number of highlights from the MCAT. In April, Palmerston North hosted the Grade 12/13 Interprovincial Teams Event, which saw 450 athletes participate across 3 days of competition, and in November the MCAT hosted the Central Teams Competition which operated within COVID restrictions and protocols to produce a successful event for all. Looking ahead to 2022, a feature of the calendar is undoubtedly the North Island Secondary School Track and Field Championships which will be held in April 2022.

From a MCAT Advisory Committee perspective, 2021 was notable for the execution of the MOU renewal between the Palmerston North City Council, Massey University, and the User Group. The development of a strategic plan for asset management, providing the necessary information required for renewal purposes and insurance, was a further noteworthy committee action from 2021.

Finally, I'd like to thank the MCAT Advisory Committee for their time, commitment, and communication through what has been another challenging 12 months. The ongoing efforts of this group ensures that the MCAT continues to operate at a consistently high standard for the benefit of Manawatū athletes. Additionally, I must also thank the wider community and other stakeholders for their continued support, which simply confirms that the MCAT remains an integral recreation facility here in the Manawatū.

### **Jacob Oram**

*Massey University – Sport Advancement Manager*

*Manawatu Community Athletics Track Advisory Committee – Chairperson*





## PALMERSTON NORTH ATHLETIC AND HARRIER CLUB REPORT

Yet another season affected by the global Covid pandemic. We managed to get through much of the season but National Track and Field became a Senior and U20 event only with our under 18 athletes focusing on the North Island Secondary School Championship which were the region's best games ever. We also hosted the Colgate 12/13 Championship which was an outstanding success.

The winter season was also affected with many postponements and cancellations. We were able to hold both of the Palmerston North Winter Series events between shutdowns. We began this Track season under the covid 19 levels system. Initially our numbers were under 100 but as membership grew certain steps were taken. We limited club nights to members only then separated 6 and under and distance runners to remain well below 100. We required all coaches and officials to be fully vaccinated. We managed to hold the second round of the Central Teams Athletics by splitting the meet into 4. Throws in Wellington, distance in PN in the morning, Sprints and hurdles PN early afternoon and jumps PN in the late afternoon. We also deleted several events including relays.

With the advent of the traffic light system we required proof of full vaccination for all 12 years 3 months and older. We have created a database so we do not have to view certificates at every meeting.

We are in the very fortunate position of having the backing of the Massey University, Palmerston North City Council and the greater Manawatu community. We acknowledge the contribution of Massey University and the University staff for their positive contribution to the promotion of athletics on campus and for the city. Many thanks to Councillor Bruno Petrenas for his support.

The main business of an athletics club is to promote the sport and to create an environment where athletes can compete to the best of their potential. At national level Sam MacKinder took silver in the W20 heptathlon behind new club member Alice Taylor who was still competing for Waikato. Sam also took silver in the Long Jump and bronze in the Javelin. Jack Lewer took silver in the para shot. Kara Macdermind had a stellar season with bronze in the SW 1500m, silver in the Mile and gold in the 3000m.

The club was proud and pleased to see our former club member performing with distinction at the Olympic games and we look forward to watching Hamish Kerr's continued rise in the sport at the very highest level.

Primary schools have made a great deal of use of the track and there are few free days in term 4. High Schools dominate the scene in term one and our para-athletes now have a regular training block on Mondays as does the Special Olympics group.

A great deal of hard work was done by our coaching staff. Athletics is a coach driven sport so a big thank you to Brian Curry, Robin Doyle, Richard Drabczynski, Katrina Gemmell, Paul Macdermid, Callum McConachy, Chris Sanson, Tara Smith, Vanessa Story, Mal Thomas, Anne Thomson, Zac Topping, Jordan Peters and others.

In October 2020 we lost club stalwart John McDowell at just 75 years of age. John was an outstanding athlete and a club official who served the club until illness made that impossible. In addition, in July this year Malcolm Thomas unfortunately did not recover from heart surgery. He finished his life's race. A race well run. His contribution to the sport will be long

remembered.

Kia Tau te Rangimarie.

Thank you also to the committee, and the many hours of work they do behind the scenes and to our officials who we ask so much of. Again without the work done by officials we would have no club night, or the many events the club is involved in. Our officials travel to Regional and National events mostly at their own expense.

I am looking forward to a smooth running 12 months of athletics free from Covid 19.

**George McConachy**

*Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club*





## COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS REPORT

2021 started off well with most summer sport being able to run a full season compared to the year before. This meant there was a lot of use of the Athletics Track for many secondary schools in the Manawatū.

'Athletics week' is a week in March that takes place every year for the four big schools of Manawatū, Awatapu College, Freyberg High School, Palmerston North Boys' High School and Palmerston North Girls' High School to hold their athletics day on one of these days of the week at the track. The schools all have a roll size of between 900-1700 students, with the whole school attending the day out at the track. This then leads into the Manawatū Inter-Secondary School Athletics championships (MISSA) that take place in the third week of March.

The athletics track is a great facility with plenty of space to hold so many students in one area. The sunshades at the top of the hill help with providing extra protection from the sun which is important in March when it is only just starting to cool down. The equipment is well looked after and having the use of the technology in the Control Room is great for the schools who know how to use it and makes life a whole lot easier for officials at MISSA.

MISSA this year was hosted by St Peter's College and was a full intensive day of students performing to their full potential. Records were broken and athletes were recognised for the amount of training they put in. Over 400 students took part in that competition.

### **Emma Carey**

*Sport Manawatu – Regional Sport Advisor (Secondary Schools)*



### **SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

"Using the MCAT facility for our athletics day was fantastic. The facilities were clean, and all equipment was up to a great working standard. Our staff really enjoyed their day".

"The booking system is efficient and easy to follow and the Bookings Officer responds quickly to questions and follows up with documentation. Liaison with George, Traffic and Grounds was excellent especially in relation to Covid restrictions this year. The equipment shed was really tidy and they had no problems with the sound system and the facility was clean and well kept".

"The high standard of the facility enables us to hold an event worthy of our talented athletes, as an all-weather surface is far superior to a grass track that schools usually use. The assistance and expertise of the Massey Staff contributes to the smooth running of our sports event".

"Once again the track facilities were well looked after and managed. The regular communication regarding the guidelines and changes due to the alert level changes was appreciated and the new equipment was also well received. The microphone upgrade worked well".

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Massey University Facilities Management Team manage the ongoing planned and response maintenance at the track. Much of the work continues to be planned / routine maintenance and scheduled programs with relatively few unplanned maintenance issues.

### Cleaning

Daily routine cleaning of facility as well as special cleans for large event with larger numbers.

### Grounds Maintenance

Mowing of Arena and spectator banking. Fertiliser program, weed control, top dressing, Verti draining, reseeding, motor blowing paths and hard surfaces, waste management. New supplies of long jump pit sand was purchased during the year with the surplus held in storage. Finally, wind break hedge trimming and shrubbery pruning was carried out.

The benefits of the gravel banding of central arena continues to make a difference to the drainage of the field allowing better access to the arena for sports usage and grounds maintenance operations. The winter of 2021 was the first year football was able to have use throughout their season not only for training but also games.

### Electrical Works

Portable Appliance on electrical equipment and fire extinguisher testing. Red and Green "Starting Lights" in the timing shed and toilet lamps replaced. The PA system was serviced with some outstanding services still to be undertaken.

### Plumbing and Irrigation works

On-going repairs and adjustment to the infield irrigation with the replacement of 15 sprinkler heads.

### Miscellaneous

During the year both the Shade Sail and Shade Structure suffered damage during the winter storms and repairs were undertaken. Work was also carried out on the bridge that provides access to the timing room.

### Gary Mack

*Facilities Management – Massey University*

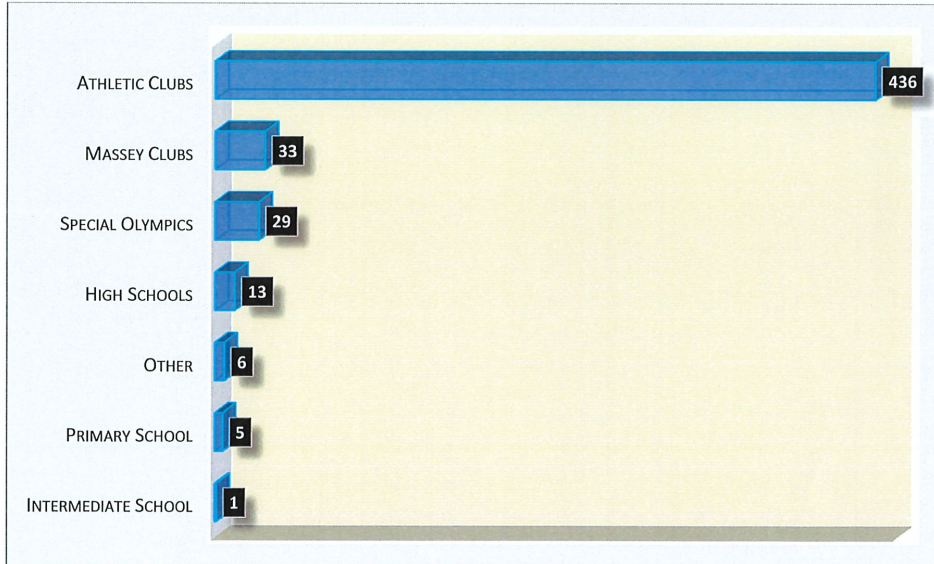


## BOOKINGS AND USER STATISTICS 2021

### Bookings per Month 2021

MONTH	BOOKINGS
Jan	52
Feb	55
Mar	62
Apr	0
May	46
Jun	45
Jul	46
Aug	24
Sep	31
Oct	53
Nov	59
Dec	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>

### Bookings by User Group 2021





**Users per Month 2021**

MONTH	USERS
Jan	1,100
Feb	1,190
Mar	8,453
Apr	1,925
May	1,195
Jun	1,175
Jul	1,205
Aug	570
Sep	675
Oct	1,125
Nov	1,820
Dec	1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,633</b>

**Participants per User Group 2021**

