

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

FROM: AARON PHILLIPS – SENIOR PARKS PLANNER

SUBJECT: MANAWATU COMMUNITY ATHLETICS TRACK
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: 18 FEBRUARY 2021

CC: EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

FILE NO:
OASIS 14967168

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 operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was formed in 2000. The MOU has been reviewed in 2020 and a replacement MOU is being reported to the Finance and Audit Committee on 24 February 2021.
3. Under the 2000 MOU an Advisory Committee oversees the track governance with appointments from Massey University, Palmerston North City Council, Manawatu District Council, Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club, and Sport Manawatu.
4. Councillor Bruno Petrenas and Senior Parks Planner Aaron Phillips represent Palmerston North City Council on the Advisory Committee.
5. The Council contributes up to \$50,000 + GST per year towards both the maintenance and renewals of the track under the 2000 MOU. Massey University provides day-to-day facility administration, management, maintenance and security services, as well as sharing in maintenance and renewal costs. The user group provides track and field equipment and support various events and school bookings.

6. The 2020 Annual Report (Attachment One) shows:

- a. The Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club notes the successes of athletes using the track and acknowledges the work of volunteer coaches, officials and their committee.
- b. Continued use of numerous schools and Massey University Clubs.
- c. The various maintenance works carried out. The drainage of the infield has improved use for both athletics and as a sportsfield. Carparking view spots for those with mobility issues were added.
- d. 310 bookings were made with an estimated 14,825 estimated uses of the track, excluding casual use.

7. The trend in number of bookings since 2010 is fairly static, as shown in Figure One.

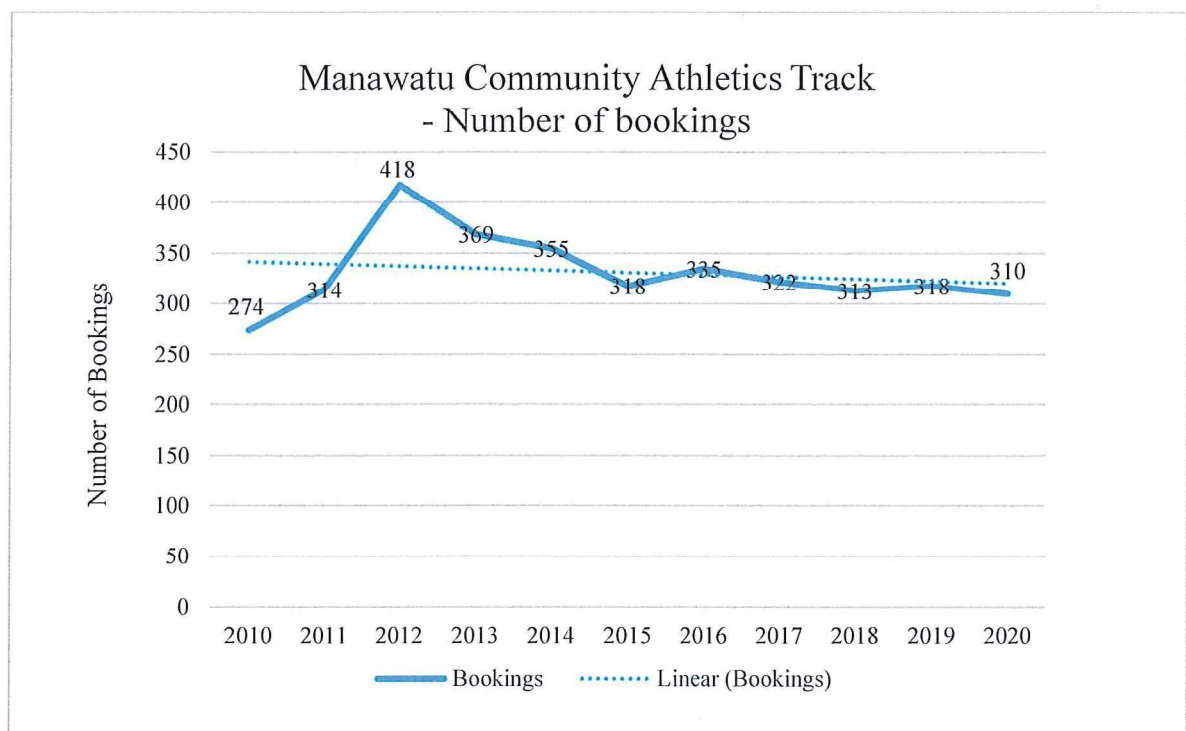


Figure One: Number of track bookings

8. There is a downward trend in booked use numbers as shown in Figure Two. The numbers exclude casual use. The downward trend may have been improved were it not for the Covid 19 lockdown period.

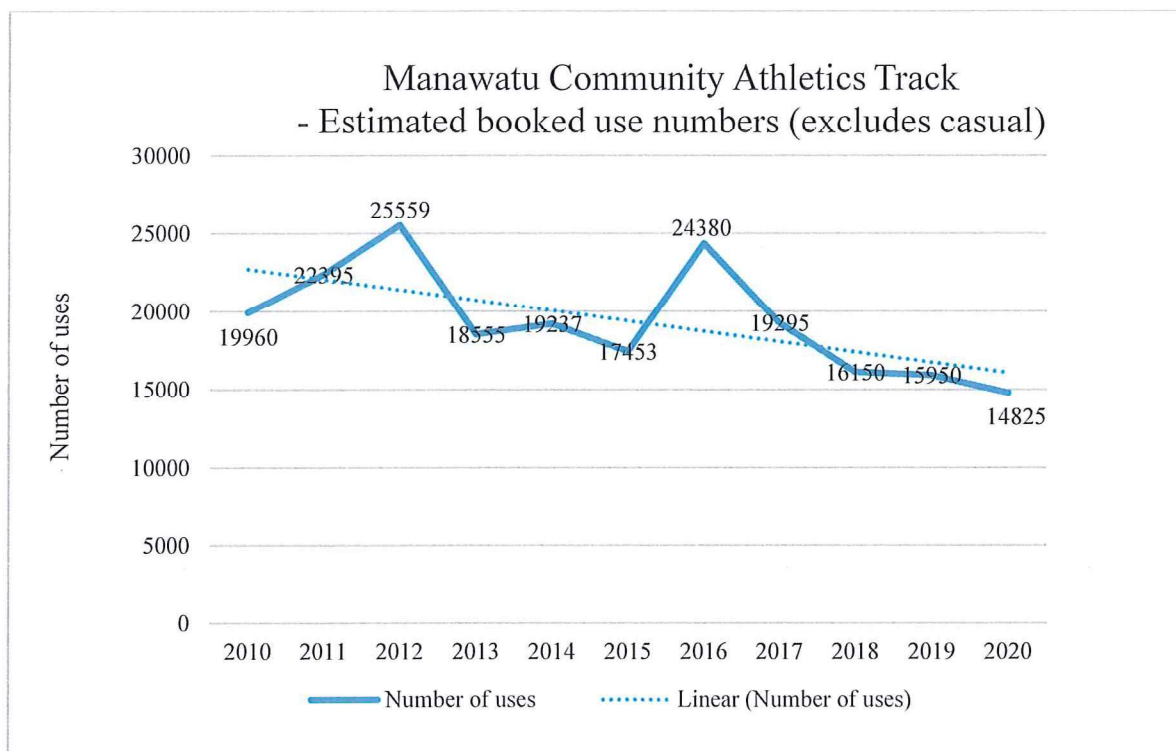


Figure Two: Estimated book use numbers

9. 2020 was the first year under new Chair Jacob Oram. Former Chair Gary Mack is acknowledged for his 13 years of service to the Advisory Committee and in caring for the track. He continues on as an Advisory Committee general member.
10. As with previous years Council staff wish to again acknowledge the key role of a core of experienced and dedicated Athletics Club volunteers play in providing equipment and support to the various users of the track and guardianship of this community asset.

MANAWATU COMMUNITY ATHLETICS TRACK

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Prepared by the
Manawatu Community Athletics Track Advisory Committee



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the 19th 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.

Unfortunately, 2020 will be remembered for the disruptions that the COVID pandemic created globally. Due to the spread of the virus, there was a period of time (Alert Level 3 and 4 – late March through to early May) where the MCAT was closed to the community. Once New Zealand dropped to Alert Level 2 (mid-May), the MCAT was again open for use but there were a number of procedures put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of athletes and other users. Cleaning protocols, social distancing, and contact tracing became standard practise while NZ managed their way through the turbulent times.

While large events like the Manawatu Secondary Schools and North Island Secondary Schools were forced to cancel due to COVID, it is pleasing to note that the MCAT was still extensively used by regional primary, intermediate and secondary schools in Term 4. Other noteworthy highlights from 2020 included the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between Massey, PNCC and the User Group, drainage improvements (gravel banding) on the turf inside the athletics track, the development of additional carparking on site, and a change of MCAT Advisory Committee Chairperson.

After 13 years as Chair, Gary Mack (Massey) stood down from this role and handed the reigns over, which aligns nicely with my responsibility as Sport Advancement Manager at Massey. Gary is still on the Advisory Committee and, as Grounds Manager on the Manawatu campus, will continue to play a major part in maintaining the MCAT's high standards. On a personal note, Gary has been a huge help to me as the Chairperson role transitioned over, so I'd like to publicly thank him for his time and contribution.

Finally, I'd also like to thank not only the MCAT Advisory Committee for their support and commitment, but all other stakeholders and the general community for ensuring that the MCAT remains a world-class athletics track, and one of the most cost-effective recreation facilities in Palmerston North.

Jacob Oram

Massey University – Sport Advancement Manager

Manawatu Community Athletics Track Advisory Committee – Chairperson



PALMERSTON NORTH ATHLETIC AND HARRIER CLUB REPORT – 2020

Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club 2019/2020

Well what a year 2020 has turned out to be. The season began like any other but in late December the news of a virus in China and by late March we were in total lock down. We were forced to cancel our end of season club competition. Manawatu Secondary schools could not be held and North Island Secondary Schools also failed to happen. The harrier season saw event after event cancelled until the Athletics Manawatu Cross Country in Whanganui and the road championships run by Moa. Many thanks to the Whanganui and Feilding harrier groups who did a magnificent job. The Dunedin cross country Rotorua marathon finally saw competition at an almost national level. Three rounds of the Winter Series were possible and the Palmerston North round had record numbers.

We have noted a real bounce back this season culminating in 6 gold medals at the New Zealand Secondary Schools with a new group of younger athletes excelling at the North Island Colgate Games.

We did not suffer too much financially as decreased activity meant less expenditure. The postponement of the Olympics will affect us as history shows the Olympics always bring a membership boost.

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 increasingly 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 bronze in the W18 heptathlon, Jack Lewer gold in para shot, Liam Woolford silver in the 3000m stch Kara Macdermind silver in the 1500m and Monique Whiteman bronze in the 4x400m. 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.

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.

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

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS REPORT – 2020

2020 was an interesting year for all but with athletics being a summer sport for our schools there was a lot of use on the track before and after NZ was struck by Covid-19.

“Athletics week” is a week every year where the four big schools of Manawatu, Freyberg High School, Palmerston North Girls High School, Palmerston North Boys High School, and Awatapu College spend their athletics day at the track. The schools all have a roll size of between 900-1700 students, with most of those students participating in these athletics days.

The athletics track is an awesome facility with plenty of space to hold so many students all in one area, and well looked after equipment and technology which makes it easier for schools to run their events.

Unfortunately, the Manawatu Inter-Secondary School Athletics could not take place in 2020 as it was planned for 3 days before NZ went into lockdown, but we are very excited to be running it again in March 2021 with St Peter’s College as the hosts.

Emma Carey

Sport Manawatu – Regional Sport Advisor (Secondary Schools)

2020 Saw 24 bookings by either primary, intermediate, or secondary schools from the Manawatu. While this number is less than previous years (influenced by a number of March 2020 school bookings cancelled through COVID disruptions), it is pleasing to note that the total number of participants remained fairly high.

Below is some feedback from schools who used the MCAT in 2020:

“We are annual users of the facility and appreciate its existence, the storage of the gear, and the guarantee of its availability when the facility is hired.”

“Thank you so much. We had a great day as it was the first time our school cluster had been together for an event due to COVID”.

“Appreciate the track and all that the organisation does.”

MCAT MAINTENANCE REPORT 2020

The Massey University Facilities Maintenance Operation manage the ongoing planned and response maintenance at the track. As previously noted, the majority of the work continues to be planned as 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 and topping up long jump pit sand.
- Wind break hedge trimming, tree branch removal next to the building and shrubbery pruning.

ELECTRICAL WORKS

- Portable Appliance on electrical equipment and fire extinguisher testing.
- Lights in the timing shed store and ladies toilet replaced.
- The PA system serviced.

PLUMBING AND IRRIGATION WORKS

- On-going repairs and adjustment to the infield irrigation.
- Drinking fountain at the top of the steps repaired.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Additional key cut for stakeholders.
- Creation of additional parking space with vantage point viewing for impaired persons from parking spots above the track.
- Gravel Banding Central Arena. This has made an incredible difference to the drainage of the field with Athletic season able to commence in September without the usual long wet grass underfoot. Likely also to improve the winter playable for other sports outside of the athletic season.

Gary Mack

Massey University – Grounds Manager (Facilities Management)

BOOKINGS AND USER STATISTICS 2020

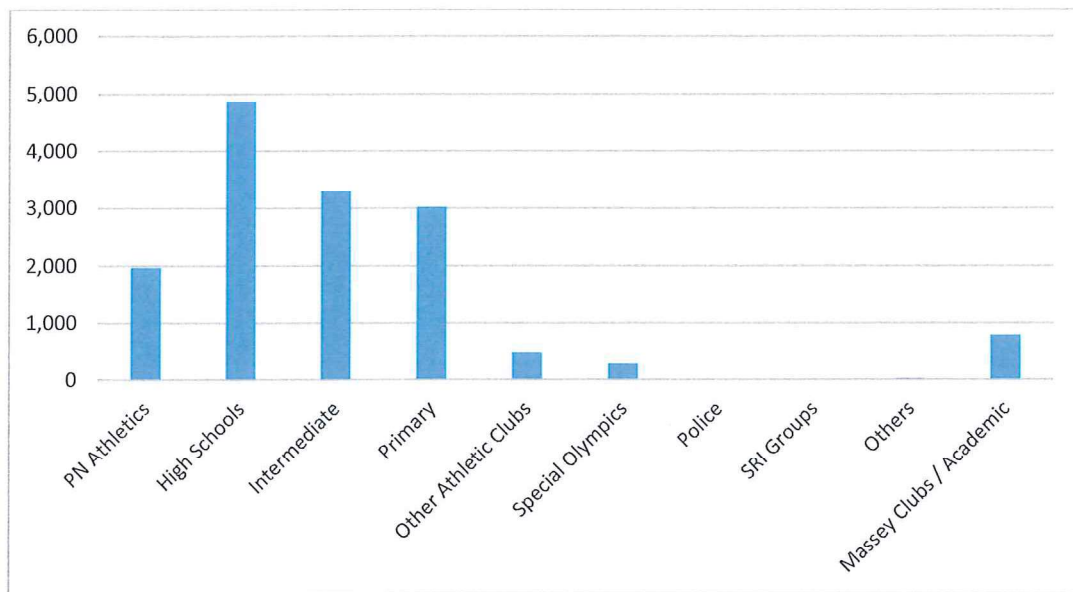
2020 MCAT Number of Bookings by Month

	PN Ath Club	High Schools	Intermediate	Primary	Other Athletic Clubs	Special Olympics	Police	SRI Groups	Others	Massey Clubs / Academic	Total
Jan	25				4						29
Feb	24	1			4	1				6	30
Mar	26	5			5	1				8	37
Apr										8	0
May	12									8	12
June	12									8	12
July	12								1	8	13
Aug	12									8	12
Sep	12									4	12
Oct	24		3	2	4						33
Nov	24		1	12	4						41
Dec	24				4	1					29
Total	207	6	4	14	25	3			1	58	310

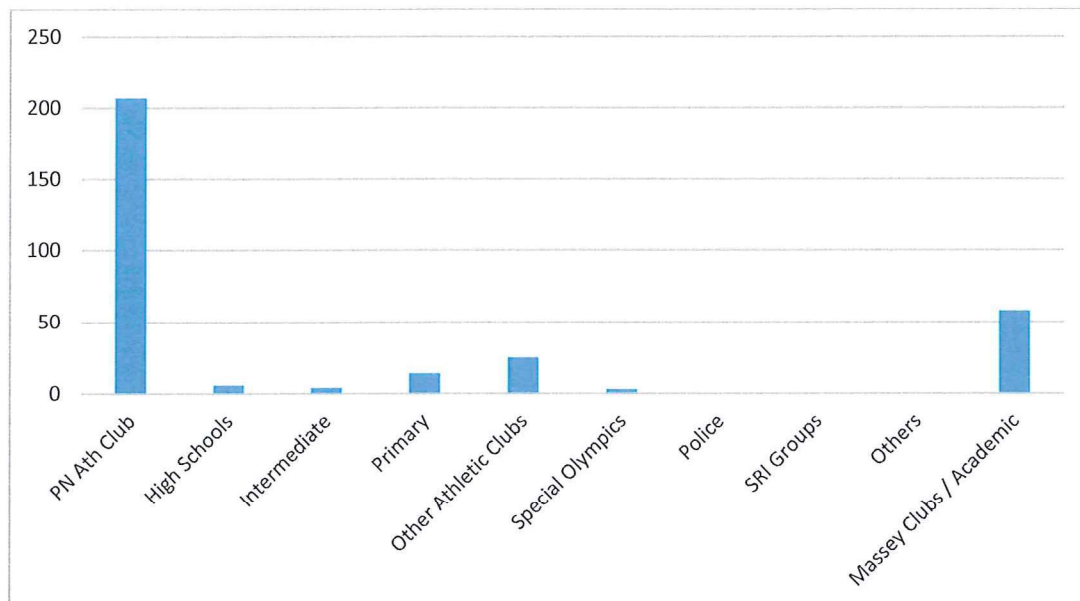
2020 MCAT Number of Users by Month

	PN Athletics	High Schools	Intermediate	Primary	Other Athletic Clubs	Special Olympics	Police	SRI Groups	Others	Massey Clubs / Academic	Total
Jan	350				80						430
Feb	200	230			80	60				96	570
Mar	330	4,650			100	150				128	5,230
Apr										128	0
May	100									128	100
Jun	100									128	100
Jul	100								30	128	130
Aug	100									64	100
Sep	100				0						100
Oct	200		2,600	510	80						3,390
Nov	200		700	2,515	80						3,495
Dec	200				80	100					380
Total	1,980	4,880	3,300	3,025	500	310	0	0	30	800	14,825

2020 MCAT Number of Users



2020 MCAT Number of Bookings



ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

For a complete list of equipment provided by the Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club, please contact MCAT Committee Chairperson Jacob Oram (j.oram@massey.ac.nz).