

THE TI RAKAU PARK YEARS

When club nights began on the 23rd of November 1967 for Children's Track & Field, they were held, for that first year, on a Thursday evening starting at 6.00pm. In those days, the club had very little money to buy equipment. It is noted in the minutes for November 8th 1967 that "Mr. Selkirk kindly offered to purchase from Wisemans in Panmure a starting pistol and ammunition at a cost of \$14. Mr. Selkirk to be reimbursed at a later date."

Over the next 2 years, equipment was acquired as follows:

Howick Jaycees donated \$40 worth of sports equipment and 2 cups, to be known as the Aggregate Points' Cups.

Sir Woolf Fisher was elected Patron and made a generous donation of \$16.

Mr. Morrow from Riverhills Avenue donated some rubber practice discus.

Mr Ray Morrissey (President) made a judges' stand, 60 flags for the track and donated 2 cups to be known as the President's Cups.

Place discs for 1st 2nd and 3rd were made using the lids off tins. The place number was painted on the lid.

A working bee was held to make a long jump cover at Mr. Kerry Franklin's panel shop.

Jack Millett made a banner and a judges' stand.

Funds were raised by holding raffles on club nights and sausage sizzles.

For the 1968/69 season (second year) club nights moved to a Wednesday and because of ground work being done on Ti Rakau Park, they were held at Edgewater College. PYE New Zealand donated a sound system comprising 2 cone speakers, an amplifier and a hand microphone. While it remained the property of the club, it was shared with the College.

In 1969 the club moved back to Ti Rakau Park and subscriptions were set at \$1 per child, \$1.50 for 2, with a \$2 maximum per family.

A favourite outing during the season was the Paeroa Children's Day where a large contingent of members travelled down for this popular picnic meeting each year.

Right: BBQ tea in the Karangahake Gorge on the way back to Auckland.



In 1970 we had our first success at Auckland Children's Championships held at Sturgess Park, with the following results: Donna Franklin 1st in the 9 year Girls 50 yards, Peter Corlett 2nd in the 9 year Boys 50 yards and Susan Hargraves 3rd in the 11 year Girls 75 yards.

Left: Marc Gimblett, Donna Franklin and Peter Corlett.

Looking through the Minute book of those early years, one could be reading minutes from today's meetings - making new covers for the long jump pits, asking council for help with marking the grounds, lack of parent help etc.

In 1980, grounds at the still developing Lloyd Elsmore Park were made available to us by Manukau Council. We moved up the highway to a fine 10 lane grass track, leaving Ti Rakau Park which had served us well for 13 years.

What a huge debt we owe to those parents and athletes who worked tirelessly to establish our club. Today we have a third generation of athletes competing and using equipment that those committee members from 50 years ago could not imagine - photo timers, electronic time clocks, digital stop watches, a vehicle to assist with setting out the gear, not to mention our own clubrooms and a fine all weather track.

Thank you for setting the ground work for what has become one of New Zealand's largest Athletic Clubs.

HISTORIC PHOTOS FROM THE EARLY YEARS AT TI RAKAU PARK



First club night on the 23rd November 1967. Audrey Draper taking registrations and a race finish.

Kerry Franklin, who was President from 1971 to 1974, is on the right of the registration photo.



1969 Prize Giving – George Ewan in white coat.



1978 Pre School Champions.

Pre School Champions – from left, Jeremy Sargent 2nd, Cameron Mitchell 1st, Clinton Wright 3rd.