

Cross Country 2025

The 2024 season began with a joint initiative with Port Hills in an attempt to grow numbers & to provide more options for athletes in the area to train in their somewhat busy sporting schedules that they have these days. Sumner continued to provide training on Tuesdays at Ferrymead with Monday's & Thursday's at Hansens Park with Port Hills. Numbers, however, remained small but we had a steady, consistent group of about 6-8 who came on a regular basis. We were fortunate to have again, Juliet Freeman (yr 13) helping with the training. Sadly, for us, it is her last year as she heads to Dunedin for university next season.

Most of our runners who came to training did not complete in the weekend fixtures. However other juniors & youth did– Fred Fitch, Millie Junge, Kate Sharpe & Alex Brown were regular competitors with many notable results. Standouts were Millie Junge (U18) & Alex Brown (U10) who had excellent seasons. Millie finish first in the Daniel Reese, Friday Night Lights & Long Course & 2nd in the Bottle Lake Hill Assault. Her 1st place in the XC long course saw her awarded the Palmero U18 trophy. Alex had an excellent season too, winning the Kennett Cup, Time Trial & Road Champs. He also finished second in the long course & Port Hill races & third in the Friday Night Lights, Lakeside relay. Fred achieved individual 2nd placings in the Daniel Reese Relay & time trial.

In August we saw Christchurch host the NZ XC champs in Hagley Park. Both Millie Junge & Kate Sharpe completed in the U18 categories with Millie being the first Cantabrian home in the relay race & helping to win a 2nd place in the team's event. Alex Brown competed in the U10 Mixed non-championship event and finished 3rd.

As always, we rounded off the season with the popular 1km time trials at Brookhaven with the results being revealed at our pizza breakup at Heathcote Domain.

Athletics 2025-2026

Unfortunately, the weather did not “play ball” at the start of the season with our first few Tuesday training sessions having to be cancelled due to a very soggy track. Luckily, conditions always righted themselves for the weekend competition to go ahead.

Tuesday training again this year was broken into two sessions – the first session involved Rachel running her very successful Run Jump Throw programme for our very young athletes whilst Richie & Mark ran a programme for the 7 – 10 year olds with a number of them going on to compete on Saturdays. The second session was for the 11+ athletes with more specialized & focused training with Richie, Robin, Hinewai & Ben.

For the older athletes & those competing on Saturdays, further specialized training also operated on Wednesdays with Richie, Robin, Hinewai, Jay & Ben. This has been a great asset to our athletes with many of them increasing their personal best by noticeable amounts as seen by the number of club records that have been broken this season.

During the first half of Saturday Competition there were two Quadrathon events and the following gained placings:

22/11: Neve G14 1st / Sam B11 2nd / Teana G10 3rd

14/12: Neve G14 1st / Lyla G13 1st / Sam B11 1st / Jack B11 2nd.

January 2026 saw a good size contingent head to Nelson for the South Island Colgate games managed by Richie. Day one saw gold won by Sam Freeman in the boys 11 800m & bronze by Teana Panapa in the girls 10 800m & Lyla Lawry in the girls 13 long jump. Days two & three continued with more success as all four relay teams featured on the podium. The boys 11 4 x 100m relay (Lachie Say, Sam Freeman, Joe

Dimbleby, Jack Smitherim) won gold, 11 years mixed medley relay (Joe Dimbleby, Sam Freeman, Jack Smitheram, Scarlett Liddell, Teana Panapa) silver in a record breaking time, as well as the 9 yr old girls 4 x 100m team. The 14 years girls 4 x 100m relay (Scarlett Liddell, Indie Clark, Lyla Lawry, Neve Majendie) collected a bronze. Further individual medals were won by Sam Freeman (2nd Boys 11 1500m) & Lyla Lawry (3rd girls 13 high jump). For Neve Majendie & Eli Dimbleby, it was their final Colgate Games as they progress through to youth & senior age groups. A point to note -Nelson seems to be a “happy hunting ground” for Sumner – in 2016 the Sumner team also had a very successful Colgates too.

Barely six weeks later we had the Canterbury Children’s Championships, March 14-15th. A long weekend where the athletes can attempt up to 8 individual events plus a relay. Numerous top 8 placings were achieved which counted towards the championship. At the end of the weekend Teana emerged as the Grade 10 Girls champion with Lyla in girls grade 13 3rd place recipient. At the end of the championships Sumner was awarded, though delayed, the Hooper Trophy for the most points accumulated by a club with less than 25 competing athletes. This was a fantastic achievement & a credit to all the hard work done by Richie & the team of coaches & the parents. At the end of the championship’s we sadly say goodbye to Neve & Eli from the Childrens’ who have been members for a number of seasons. To Neve, we look forward to seeing her move through the youth grades & to Eli, all the best on his new chapter of track cycling.

Immediately after the Canterbury Children’s Championships Indie, Sienna, Lyla & Neve competed in the Canterbury Secondary Schools. Sienna & Indie placed 3rd in the U15 4 x 100m relay, Lyla, also U15, placed 1st in high jump & 3rd in long jump. Neve, who was injured, switched to throws and placed in the U16 1st in javelin, 2nd in discus & 3rd in shot put.

At the end of March, these athletes competed in the South Island Secondary Schools which was held at Nga Puna Wai this year. Indie & Sienna placed 2nd in the 4 x 100m U15 relay while Lyla placed 2nd in high jump & 3rd in long jump. Neve in the U16 placed 2nd in 400m & 3rd in javelin.

This year’s NZT&F championships were held in Auckland with a huge contingent of Cantabrians of which Neve & Jonah were a part of. Neve won gold in the U16 4 x 100m relay - the team achieving the 8th fastest time in NZ for 2026. She also qualified for the 100m & 200m U16 finals. Jonah competed in the Senior Mens 3000m & 10,000m race walk in which he won gold achieving a new NZ record in the latter. He currently holds the NZ records for the senior men’s 3000m, 5000m & 10,000m race walk. He is currently competing in Brazil in the World Teams Race Walking Championships.

Continued support to children’s & senior Saturday athletics is also giving by a number of officials affiliated to Sumner. Nathan Crop, Beth Hunter, Ann Wells & Brian Theobald are there most weekends “flying the Sumner flag”.

As always, things don’t happen without the help and dedication of people. The success of our athletics has been due to everyone – the coaches Robin, Hinewai, Mark Ben, Jay, Rachel & parents for helping at training & Saturdays, Ben for being our manager when Richie wasn’t there & Rebecca & Kath our link with the committee. However, our biggest thanks goes to Richie for his enthusiasm, passion and commitment to see our athletes strive for improvement, have fun & learn new skills. His dedication & time given to organizing the training, the Saturday competition, Colgates, has just been outstanding – thank you Richie for all that you have done & do for the Juniors.

Ann Wells