

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DON CHADDERTON

I am very pleased to be able to help spread the news that **Don Chadderton** has been awarded a Life Membership of Athletics New Zealand. Don has a long and proud association with racewalking, including

- IAAF Race Walking Committee 1991-1995 and 2003-2007
- IAAF International Race Walking judge
- Judge at World Championships in Edmonton 2001 and Paris 2003
- Judge at World Cup Beijing 1995
- Judge at 6 Commonwealth Games
- IAAF Lecturers panel 2009
- IAAF Examiner 2010 Paris
- Oceania Walks lecturer and examiner



*2004 IAAF Race Walking Challenge, Kunshan City, China - judges Wang Yang (China), Don Chadderton (NZ), Vegi Malayasa, Jean Dahm (France), Bob Cruise (Aust), Yan Shange (China) and Jose Dias (Portugul) – photo from Bob Cruise*

The following snippets are taken from the Athletics NZ Life Membership Nomination Document

**He competed in a variety of sports:** rugby, boxing, hockey, basketball, volleyball, handball, tramping & bowls apart from his extensive career in athletics where he won titles & represented Canterbury and also set provincial records. In the 1950s, as a teacher at Winton Primary School he coached many athletes at the local athletics club, then passed Phys Ed examinations and took up a post at Ashburton High School.

**As a Coach,** he was the youngest to obtain the NZAAA Coaching Diploma in 1960 and went on to coach athletes across all athletics disciplines to achieve club, inter School, Centre & national titles, also Southland & Canterbury Development Squads. Nationally: first coach for Race Walking, then Manager NZ Junior Development (Chelsea) Squad 1992-96. As an Administrator he held many leading roles in both Southland & Canterbury Centres, then at major national Championships, also 1974 Commonwealth Games, 1981 World Veteran Games, 1989 World Games for the Deaf and 1999 & 2003 World Wheelchair Games.

**NZ Secondary Schools Athletic Association:** After coming to Christchurch and Burnside High School – one of the largest in NZ, he became hugely instrumental in promoting athletics there and found the existing inter-school competition disadvantaged athletes. There were separate sessions: girls in the morning, boys in the afternoon and scheduling of events precluded athletes “doubling up”. He had to overcome the resistance of some “traditional” schools and their Principals. With a few like-minded school colleagues they established a new inter secondary school competition, which led to being the catalyst to the formation of the NZSSAA.

As teachers, few had any experience of athletics competition and it mostly fell to Don for the success of their competitions, especially their innovative, rational programme – evolved without computers! Letters were sent to every secondary school in NZ, again met with resistance from some Principals. The attachments to the NZSSAA nomination track this incredible journey to create their ground breaking combined male & female National Championships, both

summer & winter – one of the biggest on the AthNZ annual programme. Often these are the first appearances of future National Champions and NZ Representatives.

He was a founding member of the NZSSAA Executive in 1973, their 2nd Chair & President 1980-87 and many times Meeting Manager, Selector, and Manager of teams to Nationals and against Australia.

**Athletics NZ:** All his NZSSAA activity overlapped into every aspect of Athletics NZ, being Official Walks Coach, he conducted many Race Walking Seminars throughout NZ, Manager of National Chelsea Junior Development Squad, Administrator, organizing and/or managing major Championships, and Manager of NZ Teams to IAAF World Juniors 1988, IAAF World Race Walk Cup 2002 & 2006, also Oceania Team to World Cup 1992 & 1994. This service was recognized with our Merit Award in 2003 and President in 2004-5.

**Internationally:** 1973: First Kiwi appointed to the IAAF Race Walking Judges Panel - retired 2006. He officiated at six Commonwealth Games and many other major international events worldwide. He was elected as Oceania Representative on the IAAF Race Walking Committee for several terms until 2007 and conducted Seminars in Thailand, France & Italy also assisted with IAAF examinations of Walk Officials in Paris. He conducted Seminars, plus examinations and IAAF Regional Development Courses throughout Oceania, including Australia, continuing after 2007. This was recognized with the Oceania Merit Award, IAAF Diploma and the prestigious IAAF Veteran Pin.

Rarely has our Awards Committee had a Nomination for Life Membership with such extensive and impressive credentials over so many aspects of our sport – not only domestically but internationally. His ownership of the creation of the NZ Secondary Schools Athletic Association will alone stand as a lasting legacy to his lifetime of service.

Well done Don on the recognition of your wonderful life of service to our wonderful sport of athletics.

Tim Erickson  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020