

Athletics Tasmania Media Release: National Record for Tasmania's McConnell

Richard Welsh <richard@tasathletics.org.au>
To: Richard Welsh <richard@tasathletics.org.au>

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Feast of Field & Track Action

This weekend is a monster weekend of athletics, in more ways than one.

Launceston's St Leonards Athletics Centre will play host to three competitions over Saturday and Sunday, with the highlight being the biggest men in track & field from around Australia attending for the IGA Hammerfest;

- Tasmanian Combined Events Championships – Saturday and Sunday
- Athletics South Interclub Competition – Saturday afternoon
- IGA Hammerfest – Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Tasmania's recent success in Hammer has sparked national interest and as such, the IGA Hammerfest has attracted the nation's top hammer throwers, for a weekend of clinics, competition and discussions.

Australian record holder and Commonwealth Champion Stuart Rendell will be on hand to guide the future generation through talks, in conjunction with the TIS, Athletics Australia, ATFCA and Athletics Tasmania.

The weekend will feature two main qualification permit competitions, where Australia's best hammer throwers will all be attempting to reach Commonwealth Games qualification standard. Competition times are;

- 6:15pm Saturday 23rd for qualification

- 6:15pm Sunday 24th – FINAL

Senior men competing:

- Simon Wardhaugh (qld) 2009 PB 70.23 (Commonwealth Games A qualifier is 70m)
- Daren Billett (SA) 2009 PB 67.34m (Commonwealth Games B qualifier is 67m)
- Tim Driesen (ACT)
- Locals Ricard Meiring, Chris Edwards and Stuart Morse
- 19 year old Matt Stopel from Queensland.

Under 20 athletes

- Nigel Skurrie (Vic)
- Huw Peacock (Tas)
- Danielle McConnell (Tas)

All three junior athletes will be vying for a World Junior qualifier.

Event organizer, Peter Fortune from the TIS said that “the closure of the Domain Athletics Centre at very short notice right in the middle of the season, led to some considerable organizational difficulties but Launceston has stepped up to the plate admirably to allow this exciting event to proceed. Athletics Tasmania and particularly the Northern Branch have been very helpful, ensuring that we have access to facilities appropriate for a national event of this type. We are also very appreciative of the support coming from naming rights sponsor IGA.”

The Tasmanian Combined Events Championships begin at 1:30pm on Saturday with Interclub being held in conjunction. The Tasmanian Combined Events Championships continue on Sunday at 1pm and conclude at 6:35pm.

More information, over the weekend, please contact Peter Fortune on 0418 137 534.

End of Release

For media enquires or to arrange interviews please contact Athletics Tasmania:

Peter Fortune

TIS Track & Field Performance Coordinator

0418 137 534



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www.tasathletics.org.au



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