

## Great Start to 2015...

After a sorrowful second half of 2014 for the Flinders Athletics Club with the death of club founder and long time club coach Toby Schrier, the club has found its feet again and is enjoying some great results from its athletes on the track in 2015. With former flinders athletes, Peter Brett, Paul Sutcliffe and Brendan Hewitt taking on coaching roles the training environment is becoming somewhat comparable to that of the clubs golden era. A massive thankyou must be given to the committee and club president Leif Christensen for their hard work in keeping things on track during this tough period.

On the South Australian Athletic League scene, Lachlan Scott opened his 2015 campaign in the same fashion as he ended 2014, with a win in the Marion 2 mile event on January 11. In that race Lachlan edged out fellow flinders runners Shane Thiele and Robert Killmier whom are both showing no signs of slowing down having just become dads for the first time.

Next up was the first interclub of 2015, incorporating the state 5000m championships. Riley Cocks kicked off the twilight event taking out the mens 1500m on his way to breaking the 4-minute barrier for the first time. The winning style continued on throughout the night for Flinders with Matthew Ferber unleashing a big last lap to take out the state 5000m championships in 14.42.98 with Jacob Cocks in third. Back on the grass the next day Robert Killmier continued his string of podium finishes with a solid second placing in the open mile at the Hectorville carnival.

Wednesday night it was the Flinders juniors turn at their own state title this time over 3000m. They didn't disappoint either with Aidan Ross, Cam Clohesy, Charlotte Derbyshire and Fern Davies all claiming the state title in their respective age groups.

At the first of the Australian Athletics tour meets in Hobart. The sole flinders runner in this meet was Riley Cocks in the 5000m. Riley was able to hang on to a quality national and international field to record a significant improvement on his personal best running 14.13.88 to move himself into the top 20 all time on the South Australian rankings list.

Next stop on the Australian Athletics tour saw Jacob Cocks and Jordan Hewitt travelling to the Hunter Track classic to test themselves against Australia's best. First up on the night was Jacob who took out the Creighton-Manning 3000m steeplechase in windy conditions in his second best ever time of 9.09.89. Jordan Hewitt made the most of the ever-improving conditions throughout the night to lower his 1500m personal best to 3.47.85. An incredible run by Jordan who is still only 17 years of age. The second half of the SAAL season continued on the next day at the Camden Classic carnival. In the feature event of the day Robert Killmier just missed the final, settling for a solid second place in the consolation final. The winning run of the day came from Peter Hyde in the mens mile. Joining Peter on the podium was again Lachlan Scott who is enjoying some good form on the grass this season. Another notable mention goes to Jimmy Ashby who placed third in his first race on the South Australian Athletic League scene.

It was a quick turn around for the athletes who raced at Hunter and Camden with the Wednesday night playing host to the second of the South Australian Athletics Series meets. The new Flinders Sub 4 singlets were on show at the track in the best 1500m field for the year in South Australia so far. Fresh of his PB in the Hunter track classic Jordan Hewitt continued his great form taking out the race 3.51.10, with Flinders runners, Jacob Cocks, Riley Cocks and Robert killmier all dipping under the 4 minute barrier as well. In the B race flinders runners Tom Lancaster and Cam Clohesy had a tight battle down the home straight to finish 1-2.

Shortly after the race, Jordan was notified by his dad and coach Brendan of his selection in the 800m A race at the Canberra Track Classic, a great chance to run a PB. Jordan did not disappoint in that event running an outstanding time of 1.49.83 to crack the 1.50 barrier for the first time and round out a great week of racing.

As the training group continues to develop and grow under the watchful eye of our new coaches, the Flinders Athletics Club is sure to see many more great results from both our junior and senior athletes over the coming seasons! Next up is the Adelaide Track Classic, also hosting the state 3000m championships for open men and women.