

PRESS RELEASE

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FUTURE NEW ZEALAND ATHLETICS STARS TO SHINE IN INVERCARGILL

More than 350 of New Zealand's top age-group athletes will spend Easter in Invercargill representing their regions at the National Interprovincial Teams meeting.

The event brings the top 12 and 13 year old athletes from around the country to compete for national honours while representing their region. Officials, managers and parents will also be visiting the city for the two-day competition to be held on April 3 and 4.

Ten teams from the 11 centres will be represented.

For the past two years the New Zealand Athletics Inter-provincial meet has been without a major sponsor. Since then, it has been up to each hosting organisation to come up with the much-needed money to ensure the meet goes ahead.

The job of securing this money has been made easy for Southland, who is hosting this year's event, with a \$7000 grant from the ILT Foundation and \$1000 from the Invercargill Licensing Trust.

Southland Children's Athletics secretary Barbara Jenkins said the money would be used to pay for trophies, running costs, St John Ambulance and the accommodation and food for key officials.

"We are very lucky to have the ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust.

"If we weren't successful in getting this money we would have had to look elsewhere."

Now the attention can be solely given to ensuring the meet, which could include future Commonwealth and Olympic games representatives, runs smoothly.

Despite it being a regional meet, athletes will also be vying for the New Zealand Children's Athletics cups – awarded to the top male and female competitor in each age group. Southland's Commonwealth Games sprinter Jane Arnott was a previous recipient of this cup.

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said the meet was a fantastic arena where teams could represent provinces with great pride.

“It is also a vital meet where the country’s elite age-group athletes can pit themselves against their peers – creating an environment for excellence.”

RELEASE ENDS

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