

2012 Manawatu  
New Zealand International Heritage Championships

After the success of our 2011 Manawatu Show, celebrating Colleen's 100<sup>th</sup> NABBA Show, we once again had a very successful show in Palmerston North.

The show was run on an *International Heritage* theme this year. In recognition of the cultural diversity in NZ, athletes have had the option to represent their International Heritage, by nominating their country of birth, their family blood lines, or the birth country of their parents or grandparents.

We had athletes and judges representing twelve different countries with pride! Samoa, Poland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Scotland, England, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Japan. And a standout themed performance from Maureen! "In all my years of bodybuilding I have never seen anyone pose to bagpipes" *Peter Hardwick*. We will be running the Manawatu show to the same theme next year, so you've got a bit of time to get a bit creative! We look forward to an exhibition of culture with muscle.

A full house at the Spiers Centre was well entertained by a wide variety of athletes. The trend throughout NZ has seen many new people having a go at bodybuilding, and many of these people with good potential. The Manawatu Show was no exception.

Sixteen Manawatu athletes competed against athletes from Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wanganui and Wellington.

With thirty two athletes competing in total, not a big show, but many of the classes had great quality, and were very competitive, making the job of judging not an easy task.

In Novice Figure, Jackie Small, and last year's Ms. Manawatu, came up against Tania Carter doing her first figure competition, but with experience on her side, Jackie took a close win on this occasion.

In the Open Figure Sue Bettridge, who usually competes in Senior Figure, stepped up to take on Janine Haywood from Auckland. These two have very different looks, but Sue won the battle this time. Also in the mix was Nici Scott-Savage, taking her first steps into Open. She did very well in a top quality class.

Open Physique Men was a competition of the three boys from Hawkes Bay. Andrew Murray stepping into the Physique Class from athletic, Kenneth Clayton with his leanness and outstanding symmetry, and Aaron Vaisigano with some serious muscle, on his tall frame.

The women's physique classes were well represented with seven women across four classes. Senior 40+, Senior 50+, one Open competitor Julie Wordsworth from Palmerston North, with her great symmetry and stage presence. The three Novice ladies with very different shapes all did very well, with Nedine Greyling from New Plymouth taking the novice title. We look forward to seeing these ladies up there promoting the class through the year.

Local teenage man Aaron Mitchell, was the only teenager but up on the stage with the four Junior men, he gave them a good nudge. A high quality class of five contested well with the Junior Man, James Walters, from Waikato, taking the title with exceptional leanness and great legs for his 21 years.

The Athletic Class, though light in numbers, was still a quality line up, with three in the Novice Athletic lineup with Mike Smith (Waikato) taking the title over the two palmy boys, and Masters

Athletic 50+ Phil Wysocki (Wellington) mixing it up with the lads at least 20years his junior, ...what? Who could tell!!

Novice physique men saw us with Marton man Ben Coll stepping out in great condition ready for a competition...but where were his contenders?...come on guys don't be shy, get up there! Ben stepped up with the Masters 40+ class of two Manawatu men, and 50+ Masters man Lionel Berry from Palmerston North, giving them all a good push, you wouldn't pick he's in his 60s!

The Senior Figure 50+ class saw a tight competition between the sassy and confident Lynette Burgess and Maureen Thomas, from Wanganui. These two are exceptional and both just into their second year of competing, Maureen took it with some good muscle gains since we last saw her on stage to help her win this class! We look forward to seeing these two come up again!

The standard of presentation was very high across the show, with some top quality routines coming through, it was hard to pick the best Male and Female Performance awards, that went to the confident and flamboyant Jackie Small and the funky junior man Ivan Toopi.

With so many gyms in Palmerston North, it is really positive to see a more athletes coming out of the various gyms now. Great to see more people giving the sport a go! With a team of nine competing, the Top Gym Challenge 2012 went to Human Movements Fitness Centre, Palmerston North.

The Overalls made the Judges stop and think, with the prestigious overall titles being well contested for the Overall and Mr. and Ms. Manawatu Titles:

Overall Figure & Ms Manawatu	Sue Bettridge (Manawatu)
Overall Athletic & Mr Manawatu	Mike Smith (Waikato)
Overall Physique & Ms Manawatu	Ali Richards (Manawatu)
Overall Physique & Mr Manawatu	Kenneth Clayton (Hawkes Bay)

And the final word, a huge thank you the many show supporters; The Judges, volunteers, the audience, and of course our sponsors. We received great sponsorship support, with those businesses that have supported bodybuilding in Palmerston North for years and also a handful of new ones coming on board this year. So support the sponsors. These guys support you, support them to!