

The 2012 Waikato Body Building Championships were an unqualified success, from both an organisers and competitor's point of view. With 64 competitors hitting the stage at Whangamata in 22 classes, the risk of moving the Championships from Hamilton to Whangamata was more than justified.

A sold out evening session, smiling faces all through the township and sponsors Soul Burger and Lorenzo's opening late to cater for hungry bellies, small town hospitality was to the fore.

The contest itself, Shape was the biggest individual class, with nine competitors strutting their stuff across the boards. With the wide variety of physiques and excellent routines, the judges certainly earned their lollies in this class. Jess Coate once again set the bench mark, with her well defined physique and polished routine taking out the Waikato Shape title. In what must have been a tight tussle for the top three placing, Pichuda Copeland and Tara Campbell rounded out the place getters.

Teenage Men saw the complete package and well developed muscularity of Daniel Roodt take out the class. Daniel's well developed and lean legs were a class above the rest, his condition something the other youngsters should aim for. Nathaniel Ogilvy in second place was also in top condition, but just lacked the muscle mass of Daniel, third place went to the promising Dave Gaylard. With six competing in the teenage men category, it looks like it could be a good category in the years to come.

Then came the first of the Figure classes, the Figure classes in the 2012 season, right across the board have been fantastic at regional level, and the Waikato show proved no different.

The Figure 40+ saw two superbly condition athletes clash, Lynn Wright pipping Lisa Horn for the trophy.

Junior Men were next to grace the stage, another good class with five battling it out for the title. Again it was the conditioning of the lower body that was the winning and the losing of the title. Richard Aholeli's well defined legs, coupled with the pleasing lines and symmetry of his upper torso saw him hold off the challenges of Brendon O'Byrne and Lucas Rahmati, also in good nick, but lacking the definition in their legs that saw Richard take the title.

Senior Figure 50+ was another tight tussle. Lynn Marinas taking out the gong with Maureen Thomas and Carol Robson rounding out the placings. Again a tightly contested class, with all three competitors in fantastic condition.

The Novice Athletic classes were next up, Adrian Kilpatrick holding up the short end of the bargain and winning the title in a walkover. Adrian was in good condition and a deserving winner, just a pity there were no other shorts to challenge him! The Novice Athletic tall saw the well polished Mark Cook take honours, his total package being too much for Harandan Singh in second place and Aaron Greensill. Again like in earlier classes, the major point of difference being Mark's legs, which have improved vastly since the Counties Manukau and Auckland shows, showing much more definition.

The exciting Fitness Model class carried on 'business as usual' with the high flying all action routine of Bronte Coluccio taking honours again. It was great to see the return of the newly married Stella Jenkins, with a class change from shape to fitness model. Both Stella and Ashleigh McCaw putting in a good performance but the gymnastics background of Bronte gives her a routine that is proving hard to beat.

The Physique Women's classes were well populated at Waikato, with first on stage being the Novice, 40+ and 50+. Barbara Moyes edged out Lynette Burgess, Carol Doyle took the title over Sharon Edmonds, and Gill McCann won the 50+ title ahead of Naera Komene.

The Novice Figure girls were next on stage, three in the Short class and three in the tall. So it was six trim taught and terrific figures battling it out in front of the judges for their respective titles.

The Short trophy was awarded to Toni Williams, who added the Waikato Novice Short title to her Counties Manukau and Auckland wins. She was pushed all the way by Stacey Handley and Janelle Burnside. All three ladies were in amazing condition, making the life of a judge a nightmare!

Novice tall was also hotly contested, Kerry Ratcliffe doing enough to pip Tonya Fines and Miriam Johnstone. All three athletes again in wonderful condition, Kerry perhaps being a little leaner than her rivals being the difference.

The Open Athletic and Masters Athletic were next up, a disappointing turn out again for Open, with just two on show, Jason Bartley and Victor Sharp. Jason came in leaner than his last show and proved too much for Victor, who had to settle for second spot. The legs of Jason Bartley proving hard to beat. The Masters 40+ title was taken by Matt Hura over Allan Dunn, both in their first shows with NABBA. Matt had competed in the INBA show a few weeks ago and came in leaner and more defined this time round.

The Open Physique Women was an excellent class, with the quality figure of Sesa Tomuli gracing the NABBA stage for the first time in over two years. She was joined on stage by the always sharp Julie Kingi, Rachel Jarvis and Anj Winterbourne. A top class in itself, but when you add in Helen Aloiai, it became a battle royale! Sesa's conditioning and overall muscularity saw her take the Open title over Julie, and the leaner Rachel taking third ahead of the bulkier physique of Anj. Helen being the sole occupant of the International Physique took the title there!

Laurie Hamilton and Willie Walker were supposed to compete in the Masters 50+ class, but unfortunately Willie was missing in action, so this went to Laurie. It's certainly hard to place or win anything when you don't take the stage, a lesson to be learned by all competitors.

The Novice Physique Men was a quality field, Patrick Petelo, the massive Jason Wainwright and Josh Reid flexing it out for honours. Patrick took line honours thanks to better conditioning and lean-ness. Big Jason came in a little soft, but still did enough to carry the day and the silver medal over the smaller Josh. Pat's symmetry and definition, along with a very polished posing routine made him a real crowd pleaser, and saw him awarded the Muscle Imaging best male routine prize again.

The next classes on stage were the highlight of the show, five superbly conditioned Open Figure athletes. The Short class saw Janine Haywood in a head to head duel with Sue Betteridge again. Both athletes were in fine form on stage, and the judges were made to work hard before awarding the win to Janine.

The tall class was even tougher on the judging panel. Donelle Petello, Jayne Dowling and Kiriana Clarke we're all looking sharp. Donelle came in looking even leaner than she did a few weeks ago at the Auckland INBA show, but it was not

enough to hold out the hometown lass Jayne. It could have gone either way with no complaints from anyone, it was that close a call. Kiriana in third place was also looking stunning, a class of three that was worth the price of admission by itself!

The Open Physique classes had the ever classy Rota Elliot as the only competitor in short, winning by walkover, and Sifa Mafi clashing with big Talia Vaka. Sifa's leaner condition saw him beat the bigger Talia and set up a battle in overalls with Rota.

The overall titles were hotly contested across the board. The Figure class came down to a clash between Janine and Jayne. Both in top condition, the extra depth and muscle maturity of Janine saw her deservedly take the title.

The Woman's Physique was another classy head to head battle between Helen and Sesa. Both again in good condition, but Sesa perhaps a bit leaner and this saw her get the nod for the overall title.

The Athletic class saw the muscle maturity of Jason Bartley keep the new boys Matt and Mark at bay. All three looking lean and well muscled, Jason just having that little bit extra.

The Men's Physique was a three way clash, Rota, Pat and Sifa again making the judges work hard. All three were in great nick, but at the end of the day the extra size, in proportion, of Sifa gave him the title over the two smaller competitors. All three looked amazing and would have been deserving winners, but there can be only one! They boys certainly had to work hard for this one.

The Mooloo Bell top gym trophy was won in quite amazing fashion by Tarren McCall's Champion Nutrition team. Nine athletes entered from her 'stable', to take nine class wins and an Overall title.

Jason & Vanessa Bartley  
NABBA Waikato Area Reps