

NAC Universe Report 2013

It's a long trek to the other side of the world but as all the athletes said it was well worth the experience. New Zealand sent the largest team they have ever sent to the Universe this year. The team of 10 athletes all joined together, supporting each other through the days before the show, show day and after the show. There were great friendships formed and there was a great bond between the team.

NAC delivered a well run show which ran through very quickly as they tried out a new comparison and call out format this kept us on our toes as it nearly caught a few out the start of the show. The Shape class gave the organizers something to think about as they had 30 competitors in this class. At congress it was decided to trial splitting this class into two age groups as this would give an even split rather than height which was going to give an uneven split of 5 and 25. The split was under 30 years of age and 30 years and over. The split class seemed to work well but no overall shape title was given out this time.

Both of the new Zealand Shape athletes competed in the under 30 years of age shape class. Rebecca Nisbett placed 7th and Susan Baxter 3rd in this class. Donna Randell placed 6th in the figure 40+ class, Janine Haywood placed 8th in the figure class. Shane Berland(Athletic Tall) Bjorn Constable(Athletic Short) Andrew Murray (Athletic Short) Cassie Chow (Figure) Shenae Barker (Ms. Physique) and Nigel Randell (Masters 40+) all placed outside the top ten. Congratulations to all the athletes on your individual achievements you all should be proud. Also congratulations on being a great team, you all represent New Zealand to highest level I was honoured to be a part of the team.

This year the New Zealand team got to stay in a hotel that was just 3 minutes drive away from the venue. The hotel showed amazing hospitality, they were very helpful letting the athletes cook in their rooms and letting them use the microwave in hotels kitchen. They also had a car available for the guest to be taken to places, our athletes appreciated this immensely.

The athletes appreciated the preparation which was done by Marianne letting them know exactly how they could plan and organised their training and nutritional needs while they were in Germany.

Yours in Sport

Rachel Murray