



Gold medal athlete is a rising star

Brigitte Hicks is a gold medal athlete, a rising star who is talented in multiple disciplines. The 16 year old ex-Pukekohe East Primary and Pukekohe Intermediate student is on her way to Brisbane in September with the New Zealand Triathlon team to compete in the World Age Group Triathlon Championships, after qualifying at the nationals at Karapiro.

Triathlon is just one of Brigitte's sports. She travelled to Adelaide with St Kentigern's premier netball team at Easter – winning the Quadrangular Tournament, won gold in the 3000m at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletic Championship, followed by 2nd place in the 1500m. During the week of the championships, she also placed 2nd at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon and recently won the Auckland Intermediate Girls Duathlon, St Kentigern's Intermediate Girls Cross Country and Auckland Intermediate Girls Cross Country. At this event, Brigitte won an individual gold and golds with the 3 man team and 6 man team. Her school successes include winning the 3000m, 1500m, 800m, 400m 200m and long jump at the school athletics and qualifying for the senior girls' cycling team. She was also selected for this year's New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Nationals. A member of Pukekohe Swimming Club, Auckland Athletic Club and Pukekohe Netball Association (playing for the Maramarua Club), Brigitte is clearly an all-round top athlete, but it wasn't always the case.

"I felt uncoordinated when I was a child. I wasn't a natural sportswoman. I was happy to participate and wasn't striving to win. But now sports are a big part of my life. I really enjoy it and strive to be the best I possibly can. "My favourite discipline is cycling, as it can be an individual or a team sport. I enjoy the team camaraderie and group trainings, as well as pushing myself to the limit and testing myself. My short term goals were to achieve national titles and to represent New Zealand, which I've achieved. Long term, my goal is to finish school with good qualifications and keep representing the school in all my sports. I have to be well organized and focused to keep up with my school work while I'm training. I definitely want a career in sports, either as a professional or sports presenting."