SAINTS ATHLETICS CLUB

THE CHANI VAN DER MERWE PERPETUALTROPHY FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE JUNIOR ATHLETE at Saints Athletics Club.

Chani was St Peters' Club first official female athlete, joining the Club in 2002.

Athletics made up a significant part of the late Chani's life. She started running when she was only 6 and not only did she possess a very competitive spirit, but also a love for the sport and the people associated with it. In her later life was Athletics Captain of Walford Anglican School.

Chani first held a National Title in South Africa when she won the U/11 Long Jump title with a jump of 4.99m. She migrated to Australia in July 1999.

She first gained National selection in 2000 as a member of the Australian Pacific Games Team competing against athletes of 34 counties at the newly constructed Homebush Stadium in Sydney.

In 2002 Chani competed at the Australian National Youth Games and became national U/16 champion in the 100m (12.33 sec) and 200m (25.31 sec). In the same year Chani was selected to represent Australia in the Down Under Games (Australia vs. USA/Canada). On this occasion she won Gold in the 100m and Silver in the 200m sprints. In the same year she won the U/16 South Australian Athlete of the Year award.

One of the highlights of Chani's athletics career was when she was invited to compete as a member of the 4 x 100m relay team at the Telstra A series at Santos Stadium in Adelaide. In this race her relay team competed against her idols Cathy Freeman and Lauren Hewitt as members of a 4 x 100m relay team.

Athletics played a major part in Chani's life and we fondly remember Chani for her contribution to Saints Athletics Club. May this trophy represent the values that Chani so actively promoted as an athlete:
1. Passion for Athletics
2. Will to win
3. To put in the hard work and to strive to be the very best one can be
4. Love of the people associated with this sport
5. Mentoring and cultivating the love for athletics with younger and newcomers to athletics