



Australian Masters Athletics Inc.

Annual Report 2019



The Hotel Rendevous Melbourne – 2019 Venue of the AMA AGM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

The new Board met after the October 2018 AGM and set an ambitious agenda for the coming year.

With some changes in the environment within which we operate we felt it was important to carry out a new strategic review, and this work was led by Steve McGugan and Lisa Attenborough. We set a Terms of Reference for that review which was put on the website, and we sought comment both from State Committees and individuals. The resulting Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in April and put on the website. It sets our direction in three key areas:

1. Pursue a OneSport agenda with Athletics Australia that will provide significant and lasting benefits to masters athletes.
2. Make changes to our National Championships that allow well balanced programmes and participation where numbers may reach or even exceed 1000.
3. Utilise our funds in ways that give strong and lasting benefits to masters athletes.

In order to implement this Strategic Plan we will be asking for Council support for a number of motions at the 2019 AGM.

We determined that the high cost of retaining an office in Bribie Island could not be justified, so we needed to deal with the issues of documents, trophies and uniforms being stored in that office. Donna Hiscox took on an Archiving Project and has made huge strides. She has gone through all our documents, and discarded many that have no value to us. The remainder are now at her house, and we will proceed to scan what we need to keep so that AMA records become fully electronic.

I would like to pay tribute to Hazel McDonnell for her work on uniforms over many years. Lisa Attenborough has taken over that role and moved our stock to Adelaide. We do have a very large surplus of uniforms and Lisa has initiated an aggressive programme to move the stock, reducing sale prices to cost price. Our target is to reduce stock to low levels after Toronto and Edmonton such that we would then have an option to change the design and/or the fabric/cut.

We have addressed some Team Matters that were raised at the 2018 AGM. Steve has worked on the Team Manager document to better define how TM's are selected and supported by AMA, while Janet Naylon has produced a revision to our Relay Selection Procedures document, following a survey of athlete concerns in that area. The new procedures were tested in Torun. They generally worked well, but there is some further need for refinement.

Our Team for the World Indoors in Poland as usual performed well above would be expected. With Indoor Championships still new to Australia numerous records were set, and thanks go to Clyde Riddoch for processing these quickly and efficiently.

Considering the large numbers and the difficulty in event scheduling, the Melbourne LOC did a remarkable job in running this year's National Championships. The presentation of results was top notch, and the live streaming a great success. I hope that costs of this service will come down, and that it will be within the budget of future championships.

Thanks are due to Judy Farrell for her work on the website and her excellent newsletters.

The Board appointed Barbara Blurton as AMA registrar. Barbara has compiled a register of all members of Masters Clubs that will be made available to Judy Farrell for distribution of newsletters, Amanda Coombe for verification of International entries, and to compile statistics of masters athletics participation.

Finally the Board introduced a Conflict of Interest policy, not because we had any concerns, but because this is good practice for our sort of organisation. Wherever anyone on AMA business participates in a selection process then they must declare in writing their possible conflicts. Stuart Paterson keeps a Conflict of Interest register for Board members.

Richard Blurton - President

SECRETARY'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17/18 AUGUST 2019

It is with great pleasure that I provide my second Secretary's Report for Australian Masters Athletics Inc. for the 2018/19 season. My second term has been more settled and therefore organised, this has allowed me more time to concentrate on the duties of the AMA secretarial role.

This past 10 months has seen the Board knuckle down and work extremely hard as a group in a number of areas, each uniquely important as the next. As a team we succeeded in accomplishing a number of goals we set in October last year.

AMA BOARD MEETINGS

The AMA Board for the 2018/19 season consisted of:

Richard Blurton	President
Donna Hiscox	Secretary
Jim Langford	Treasurer
Steve McGugan	Vice President
Lisa Attenborough	Board Member
Judy Farrell	Board Member
Janet Naylor	Board Member
Stuart Paterson	Board Member

Newly elected President, Richard Blurton and Treasurer, Jim Langford have both embraced their roles with enthusiasm and commitment. While new Board members Lisa Attenborough and Janet Naylor's experience, enthusiasm and many years involvement in athletics has been extremely beneficial to the Board.

The AMA Board had two face to face meetings this year, first one in Wollongong and the second Melbourne. There were also one electronic video conference meeting in January.

ADMINISTRATION

This year saw the modernisation of the AMA administrative processes, through the final implementation of google G Suite, this transition to technology has been a huge step forward in the life of AMA. There is now a sustainable central online platform, where all documents can be filed and stored. Board members have embraced the use of the system and it is working seamlessly.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Foremost in the Boards priorities over the past 10 months, was the responsibility to undertake a complete review of AMA's Strategic Plan. Steve and Lisa were given the task for the review. After consultation with the States and Territories, individuals and board members, the Plan was refined to concentrate on three focus areas - OneSport, AMA Championships and Utilisation of Funds. The AMA Strategic Plan 2019 is now on the website.

Another key areas of focus over the past 10 months was updating current policies and procedures. The Board has done an enormous amount of work in this area. There is now a very comprehensive Team Manager Policy and Procedures Document, Code of Conduct and Relay Selectors Policy and Procedures Document.

There is still work to be done on a number of other policy and procedure documents, and the Board is committed to working diligently over the next 12 months, in an effort to make sure these documents are updated in a timely manner.

COMPETITION

AMA NATIONALS

The AMA Championships were held in Melbourne in April 2019. Rob Mayston and his team delivered atrocious weather but a decent championships overall with a record number of competitors.

WORLD MASTERS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (WMAi) TORUN

The WMAi were held in Toruń, Poland from the 24 - 30 March 2019. Entry numbers were the largest ever at a WMAi with close to 5000 competitors. Wilma Perkins was a very popular choice as flag bearer for the opening ceremony. Australia's team of 63 athletes was ranked the 13th largest team and the second largest non-European Team, behind the USA. The team won 25 medals – 6 gold, 5 silver and 14 bronze, placing 20th overall on the medal tally. The M35 4 x 200m team broke the open national record and there were also 37 national indoor records broken. I was honoured to be the Team Manager of this successful team.

AMA BOARD

I would like to recognise the high-quality and professional input from all Board members in delivering and achieving across a diverse range of activities and projects over the past 10 months. I would like to highlight the following achievements:

ARCHIVING

All the documents in the Bribie Island office have been sorted. What was not needed has been discarded and what is needed has now been moved to Wollongong. Progress has been made with categorising and scanning....the archiving project is ongoing.

COMMUNICATIONS

AMA continue to communicate and cascade information to its members via facebook, enewsletters and the website. Judy has continued in this role over the past 10 months, maintaining and updating the FB page and website. She also puts together the enewsletters. which keeps our members informed and shares their achievements.

COMPETITION

Stuart has worked tirelessly updating the AMA Competition Manual to ensure everything was up to date. Along the way this has unearthed numerous challenges. Revealing a number of processes and procedures have never been documented over previous years. Stuart has started to document these, but it is a huge task and continues to be a work in progress.

MEDIA and MARKETING

Great progress was made during the past 10 months. Janet took on the media and marketing portfolio and wasted no time in establishing a good rapport with AA, resulting in a number of articles published in the AA enews, facebook page and website.

ONESPORT

One of the ongoing key projects in athletics is the development of OneSport, which will remain a priority for some time. Over the past year Richard met with AA a number of times, continuing to make gains with this project. It is envisaged this collaborative relationship will continue in the coming year, ensuring AMA have a voice in the OneSport Strategic Project.

UNIFORMS/TEAMWEAR

Lisa took on the unenviable role of uniform officer. All uniforms/teamwear have been moved from Bribie Island to a storage unit in Adelaide. This is not only more convenient for Lisa, but is a cost savings for AMA.

AMA in conjunction with Sub4, introduced three items of winter merchandise. A jacket, hoodie and long sleeved top were designed and made available for athletes travelling to Poland for the WMACi. Athletes were able to purchase these items directly through Sub4. There were no minimum orders and AMA had no involvement in the sales.

PETER DUNHAM UPDATE

This matter is now set down for Trial to commence on the 16 March 2020, in the District Criminal Court, Adelaide. Dunham has pleaded not guilty to:

Eight counts of Dishonestly Take Property without Consent;
Fifteen counts of Dishonestly Take Property without Consent;
Three counts of Deceive another to Benefit Self – Basic Offence; Eleven counts of Deceive another to Benefit Self - Aggravated Offence.

CONCLUSION

It's been a pleasure to serve with this Board over the last 10 months, we have worked cohesively toward the greater purpose and goals of Australian Masters Athletics. I would like to extend my thanks to each of them for their efforts and I look forward to the next 12 months.

Thank you *Donna Hiscox*

Donna Hiscox
Secretary
Australian Masters Athletics Inc.



AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS Inc.

ABN 68 538 433 213

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Link to Finance report

[AMA Financial Statements 2019](#)

STRATEGI C

15th August 2019

Attention: Jim Langford
Maple Falls Pty Ltd T/As Strategic Taxation
Services

ABN: 27 076 209 179

9 Peregrine Green High Wycombe 6057
P.o Box 2151 High Wycombe 6057
Office: 9454 3996
Fax: 9454 3996

E-mail: tms@iinet.net.au

To the members of the Australian Masters Athletics Inc

RE: INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

I have audited the representation by the Australian Masters Athletics Inc on their bank account, in respect of the year ending 30 June 2019, in order to express an opinion on its preparation and presentation.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Procedure included an examination, on a test basis, of the transactions of the bank account.

These procedures have been undertaken with the express purpose of forming an opinion as to whether, in all material aspects, the representation made by the Australian Masters Athletics Inc with respect to the bank accounts, is fairly stated.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, by the Australian Masters Athletics Inc have properly accounted for transactions for the year ending 30th June 2019.

Dated 15th August 2019

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Howard." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Maple Falls Pty Ltd T/As
Strategic Taxation Services
Mark Howard
Managing Director

Competition Director's Report

Events

Events already held this year were the Multi-events in Bendigo, the National Track and Field Championships in Melbourne, the Half Marathon in Canberra and the Marathon on the Gold Coast. Yet to come this year will be the 20km Walks in Adelaide and the Winter Throws in Wollongong. Next year will be the same hosts except for the Nationals, which will be in Brisbane and the Half Marathon, which will be in Perth. The following year (2021, the final year of the triennial) the hosts other than Nationals will be the same as this year. Please refer to LOC event reports for further detail. The Marathon is run by the Gold Coast Marathon and we dovetail in with them and have done for quite a few years now. When we got the list of entries there were 10 people not on the AMA list of registered members. On checking with their states most were in fact registered (new lists were not yet with AMA) and a couple of runners registered quickly that week so as to be eligible.

Survey

After Melbourne a survey went out to all competitors with a whole series of questions to find out what people really want. There were over 400 responses, which is a massive result for a survey. It is now up to the competition sub-committee (myself, Viddy Jermacans, Jayne Hardy and Barbara Blurton) to analyse the results and make recommendations to the board. The important thing here is that it is not for any individual or group of individuals to decide what shape our competitions should take but rather to let our collective athlete community tell us what they would like. It is then up to the sub-committee to enact that as far as is practical.

Documentation

Whilst I have been periodically updating the AMA competition Manual I have discovered a large number of procedures/processes that do not appear to have ever been documented. This has come to light as the new triennium for AMA competitions has seen new hosts for some of our events and also several changes to the composition of the board in the last couple of years or so. Whilst everything was being done properly the requirements were in people's heads not on paper. Hence there is a sizeable job ahead to document everything to do with our various championships (not so much the 4 day Nationals).

Participation

The Nationals in Melbourne had an awesome participation result. Many people put that down to not clashing with Stawell Gift and Easter. That may or may not flow through to other states. Whilst it was very pleasing to see those numbers in Melbourne it does hide the fact that our registrations are gradually falling. The state that holds Nationals usually gets a boost in registrations for that year but outside of that there is a general decline. We are down about 15% on 4 years ago. The challenge is to come up with competition that will entice people to register and compete with us rather than not register and compete at our competitor's events (such as Masters Games and Park Run). This is work in progress.

Stuart Paterson – AMA Competition Director

Merchandise Report 2018-2019

I would like to thank Hazel McDonnell for her assistance in the transition to my taking over the role of Merchandise Officer and Ernie Leseberg in guiding me through the use and set up of the online shop.

In March we moved the stock from Bribie Island to Adelaide. Due to the quantity of stock it is currently located at a storage facility which is accessed, as needed to process orders. Once stock levels reduce, the storage facility will not be necessary.

At the end of April, the price of all products was discounted to cost price in a bid to reduce stock levels.

A selection of merchandise and uniforms were available at the Australian Championships and proved popular. This gave athletes a chance to check out the uniform and purchase on the day or place orders.

Once current stock is exhausted, we will be changing suppliers and all stock will be purchased based on pre-orders or directly with the supplier by members. This means we will not have to hold large quantities of stock in anticipation of what people might need. There will be a two-year changeover period when the new supplier is introduced.

This year we introduced some new winter items to the range and after ratifying the speed suit trialled in Malaga in 2018, it was available for purchase as well. These items were available for order by members directly through the supplier, and had to be placed by set cut off dates. The new items are available through Sub4 Clothing and consist of:

- Hoodies;
- Jackets;
- Long sleeved top; and ☑ The speed suits.

In line with the 'One Sport' principle we are currently discussing with Athletics Australia the potential for us to have the same uniform and teamwear options as the Open National Teams.

Lisa Attenborough - AMA Merchandise

AMA AGM 2019: Director's Report – Janet Naylor

AMA Awards

- Sub-committee is made up of Richard Blurton, Wilma Perkins and Janet Naylor
- All member organisations with the exception of NT submitted nominations for the Annual AMA awards.
- List of nominations was circulated to all member organisations plus the Melbourne LOC, placed on AMA Facebook and website for promotion leading up to the awards dinner.
- Liaised with the LOC regarding awards dinner and ensuring award winners would be present.
- Liaised with Peter Lyden regarding Hall of Fame presentation.
- Two inductees to the AMA Hall of Fame – Mary Thomas and Lynne Schickert.

Media and Marketing

- The following items have been included in the AA e-news direct email and/or website
 - o 12 February – WMA Athletes of the Year item. Images of Lyn Ventris and David Carr with a short paragraph and link to WMA website with full list of award winners.
 - o 19 March – Torun (World Indoors) pre-departure story. Image of Andrew Wilcox and link to full story on the AA website.
 - o 16 April – Torun results. Compilation image of medallists and link to Torun website with results. Disappointing that AA did not include the athletes names!
 - o 24 April – Melbourne Nationals pre-competition story with link to AA website. This story was shared to the AMA and Melbourne Facebook pages and also picked up by WMA and MastersRankings.com.
 - o 9 July – Article with closing date for Oceania entries and link to Mackay event website.
- ABC 7.30 Report agreed to profile Mary Thomas at Nationals and Hall of Fame induction – unfortunately this fell through at the last moment.
- Article previously published on the AMA website with regard to preparing for World Championships was de-Australianised and included on the WMA website at their request.
- Torun results story submitted to NZ Masters Vetline magazine.

Work is in progress to have AMA/OMA/WMA events listed in the AA website calendar and our logo included as a partner.

Relay Management

- A survey of relay participants and recent relay selectors was conducted with results being used to guide the updating of the AMA Relay Policy and Procedures.
- The Torun Relay Selection Panel provided feedback on the updated policy and procedures after the World Indoor Championships.
- Following various discussions, the AMA Relay Policy and Procedures has been finalised.

Other

- Assisted with the updating of the AMA Team Management Policy and Procedures
- Set up and promoted the competition survey after 2019 Melbourne Nationals.
Provided data reports to the competition sub-committee.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS - STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	ACT	WA	VIC	SA	NSW	QLD	TAS	NT	all AUS
2018/2019									
Date	08/07/2019	30/06/2019	30/06/2019	28/06/2019	25/06/2019	07/07/2019	01/07/2019	10/07/2019	
WOMEN									
W30		7	14		6	11	1	2	41
W35	6	14	15	4	18	15	9	1	82
W40	9	23	34	4	15	23	3	1	112
W45	8	31	38	4	9	28	8	1	127
W50	17	40	31	5	14	24	12	2	145
W55	18	34	44	10	23	11	11	1	152
W60	10	20	34	7	13	14	7	2	107
W65	18	24	23	12	13	16	3	1	110
W70	21	16	24	6	2	6	5		80
W75	8	13	24	4	4	7	4		64
W80	7	6	15	1	1	1		1	32
W85	2	2	2			1			7
W90	1		1		1				3
W95			1						1
W100+									0
TOTAL	125	230	300	57	119	157	63	12	1063
MEN									
M30	2	6	13	3	3	12	1		40
M35	13	11	19		5	22	5	1	76
M40	10	24	51	1	15	34	11	2	148
M45	15	32	63	5	17	38	7	2	179
M50	15	49	77	7	20	35	16	1	220
M55	25	50	71	6	24	34	14	3	227
M60	18	41	75	14	22	33	9		212
M65	23	48	83	15	18	28	11	4	230
M70	26	40	60	10	16	27	12	1	192
M75	20	29	63	7	13	16	5		153
M80	15	15	34	9	8	13	3		97
M85	4	9	19	4	6	5			47
M90	3	3	8	1	1	3			19
M95									0
M100+									0
	189	357	636	82	168	300	94	14	1840
UNKNOWN									
								0	
TOTAL	314	587	936	139	287	457	157	26	2903

AMA Report 2019

AMA website has not experienced any downtime or security issues over the past 12 months, all information and competition results published on the website are up to date

This year I've introduced to the website an AMA Youtube Channel and AMA Flickr Photo Albums

Digital Pacific AMA's hosting company continues to be very helpful and prompt in dealing with any issues that may arise

Facebook continues to be a good tool to inform members of any upcoming competition last minute information, also competition results and photos The AMA Facebook page now has well over 1100 members this has increased from 300 when I first took it on as admin 2 years ago

The AMA Enewsletter has continued to be distributed quarterly over the past year, with many some States including interesting articles on their respective upcoming events, there were no issues with distribution

Coaching grants - only one request in 2019 from WA , hopefully more States will apply in 2020

Judy Farrell - AMA Enews, AMA Webmasters