

## **2020 Australian Masters Athletics Winter Throws Championships adds in a Virtual Competition October 3-5, Wollongong NSW**

The **Australian Masters Athletics Winter Throws Championships** is the premier annual throwing event for masters age athletes in Australia. Held in October each year, it is 3 days of throwing, where entrants can compete in the Throws Pentathlon, Heavy Weight Pentathlon, all individual throws events, 56 and 100lb heavy weights, Weight for Distance (a highland games based event throwing a weight one handed like a discus), and the Super Weights.

In its 25<sup>th</sup> competition year, it had been run by the ACT association for 20 years, and shifted to being hosted by our NSW state in 2016. But in 2020, the global pandemic which has wrought so much havoc in our world, had other ideas for our annual event. With multiple state border closures, the number able to attend in Wollongong were looking at being well down on the usual. So, in the spirit of the new buzz word 'pivoted, we set up a **Virtual Competition** to run alongside the main event, to stay connected with some of the athletes who couldn't attend in person.

Whilst the main championship in Wollongong with our 31 attending athletes was its usual enjoyable event, the standout success has been our **Virtual competition**. With 65 athletes, from every state and territory around our country, some doing their first ever masters events, and competing from as far afield as Bundaberg, Mackay and Brisbane in QLD/Bunbury, WA/Darwin, NT/Hobart, TAS/Adelaide, SA/Melbourne and Bendigo in VIC/Canberra, ACT, and Sydney, NSW.

We were all kept very entertained with the constant facebook group posts and photos over the 3 day timeframe, as our virtual competitors threw from wherever they could, in groups where possible, or solo if necessary. Or with the occasional duck, or covid19 safe spectators!

### **Results:**

**Championships event:** [https://67a8b5d8-704e-47d0-80ee-761ae29401c6.filesusr.com/ugd/b88fb5\\_df1888033c3a4ca8bbff09c27970af84.pdf](https://67a8b5d8-704e-47d0-80ee-761ae29401c6.filesusr.com/ugd/b88fb5_df1888033c3a4ca8bbff09c27970af84.pdf)

**Virtual Competition:** [https://67a8b5d8-704e-47d0-80ee-761ae29401c6.filesusr.com/ugd/b88fb5\\_b2219cf2995046e786784d6312d8cf65.pdf](https://67a8b5d8-704e-47d0-80ee-761ae29401c6.filesusr.com/ugd/b88fb5_b2219cf2995046e786784d6312d8cf65.pdf)

Blown away by our virtual competition success, we definitely see a place for more virtual events for the future, even if we do get back to a post pandemic world.  
And next year we're hoping to make it a global virtual event! So watch this space.....

**Jill Taylor**  
**Convenor, Local Organising Committee**

## AMA Winter Throws Championships



*Spectators! I would like to thank Ken and Barbie for cheering us on and getting into the spirit of it all. Melbourne didn't disappoint and raised mercury levels to 29 degrees, and in true fashion expecting 14 tomorrow. Thanks for the inspiration AMA WTC. Great to see all the participants around Australia posting.* - **Angela Edw, Ringwood**

*Thank you for allowing us throwers who are not able to travel interstate a chance to compete, virtually. Thanks [Craig](#) and [Olivia](#) for spotting the falls and watching the feet. Not allowed to throw at the aths track if someone is on the back straight so we had to use the old cricket pitch we use for training – **Sharon Barr, Bendigo***



*Thanks Jill, it was such a thrill to be able to compete despite having a 12 week old son which would have meant travelling interstate for it wasn't an option even without covid restrictions. A lot of other virtual covid events have been disappointing and unengaging, but it was great to see all on the posts on here and imagining them all throwing against me in a different place at the same time. Really appreciate your efforts and those of your helpers and the competitors that bought in to the idea and participated* - **Michael Higgs, Hobart**



*Saturday night session in Darwin - individual throws incorporating the throws pentathlon, plus weight for distance to finish off. Past bedtime for many but a tea break and a snack of mini sausage rolls kept everyone going! Thanks to Jill Taylor and the rest of the NSWMA crew for putting on the virtual comp. It was a great day of throwing up here in the NT. **Joanna Bailey, Darwin***