

John Clark - AMA President



Currently, I hold the position of Secretary, New South Wales Masters Athletics. In 2020 and 2022, I was awarded the NSW Masters Athletics President's award for outstanding service.

For over 26 years, I have been involved in athletics and have experienced the thrill and joy of coaching Australian track and field athletes.

My involvement in athletics began in the 1990s when my daughter Edwina was recognised by her school as a gifted track and field athlete and encouraged Edwina to join a local athletics club – Balmain Little Athletics Centre. Edwina excelled at the Balmain Centre in the 100 and 200 metre sprints, hurdles, and long jump. When I could not find a track and field coach for Edwina, this prompted me to become a coach and coach Edwina.

I began coaching Edwina for sprints, hurdles, and long jump. Edwina competed in numerous New South Wales State Little Athletics finals in track and field, represented New South Wales Little Athletics in the Trans-Tasman Challenge and Pacific Schools Games and competed and medalled at State and Australian National All Schools Championships. In addition, Edwina represented Australia at two Youth Olympic Festivals, winning a gold medal in the Australian 4 x 100m women's relay team.

At Balmain Little Athletics, I coached athletes aged 10 to 15 years old. The young athletes I coached at Balmain Little Athletics Centre won medals at New South Wales State Little Athletics, represented New South Wales in the Trans-Tasman Challenge, won medals at State and Australian National All Schools competitions, represented Australia at Youth Olympic Festivals, and still, today hold some of the event records at the Balmain Centre.

In addition to my coaching at Balmain, I served as the President and Secretary and for several years as a member of the Balmain Little Athletics Committee.

Since 1995 I have been a member of the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association (AFTCA). Today I hold coaching accreditation with Athletics Australia, am a senior International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Coach Level 4 - Throws and am an accredited/qualified Australian Specialist Coach Level 4. My AFTCA coaching accreditation is at an elite performance level with qualifications in coaching young athletes' level 4 and level 2 for throws, jumps, sprints, hurdles and relays, and endurance (middle to long-distance running and race walking).



Left:

Gabrielle Watts

Right:

Jill Taylor



The athletes I coach have achieved remarkable results at state, national and international levels. They come from many and varied socio-economic backgrounds, both male and female, with different degrees of ability (from beginner to advanced athletes), aged from 10 to 70+ years old, and located in various and widespread communities in and around Sydney.

These days I have the great privilege of coaching some of the very best Australian masters athletes in the throws events - Gabrielle Watts, Jill Taylor, Robert Clark to name a few - who between them hold World Masters Athletics Championships, World Masters Games, Oceania, Australian National and New South Wales state medals and records.

My overall coaching philosophy is based on:

- Maximising the potential of each athlete to achieve their best performance possible.
- Maintaining and enhancing each athlete's self-esteem and self-belief in who they are, and what they can achieve.
- A clear commitment to always act in the best interest of each of my athletes.

In 2004, I was awarded the United States Track Coaches Association Track Coaches Program Diploma.

In 2005 I was awarded a Master of Education – Coach Education (with Merit), Sydney University, and in 2007 was a presenter and tutor at the Sydney University Faculty of Education, Master of Education Coach Education Course.

Outside of athletics, I am a chartered accountant and chartered company secretary with over 40 years of experience in business. The positions I have held include Chief Financial Officer, Company Secretary and Chief Operating Officer in organisations in the private sector and Chief Financial Officer in the state government sector.