

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia
held at the Novotel The Esplanade St Kilda on Thursday, 28 November at 2:00 pm.
2002

1. Roll Call

Officers:

Acting Chairman	R. Scrimshaw
Board Member	E. Canty
Board Member	W. Bailey
Board Member	P. Kennedy

Chief Executive Officer	S. Allatson
Company Secretary	J. Hamilton

Delegates:

Australian Capital Territory	O. Heness	
New South Wales	R. Doubell	G. Doyle
Northern Territory	I. Fullarton	
Queensland	D. Carlson	S. Pitt
South Australia	T. Keynes	B. Cruise
Tasmania	T. Mahoney	
Victoria	M. Binnington	D. Blyth
Western Australia	S. McMahon	W. Loxley

Also Present

S. Perkins	Australian Masters Athletics
R. Austin	Australian Athletic Confederation
S. Kalend	School Sport Australia
P. Bowman	AT&FCA
H. Summers	Australian Federation of Race Walking Clubs
I. Cornelius	Australian Ultra Runners Association
M. Mahony	

Life Members

Staff Present:

J. Hellwig	H. Soulsby
D. Gynther	K. Hodge
J. Tyrrell	K. Periac
K. Connor	B. Roe

2. Apologies

Athletics Australia Board Members

A. Forrest (Overseas)
K. Roche (Family bereavement)

Member Associations

M. Scholes, Athletics Victoria

Life Members

Justice AW Mc Donald QC

G. Chester

P. Jenes

C. Lee AM

D. Wilson

Associate and AAF Members

T. Rice AT&FCA

Auditors

T. Pittito Ernst & Young

3. Reading of Notice Convening Meeting

The Chairman read the notice of meeting.

4. Obituaries

The meeting observed one minutes silence as a mark of respect for

Graeme Briggs AM

Doris Magee (nee Lee) MBE, AM

Amy Bremer

Owen Davies

Denis Gray

Trevor Huxley

Ray Kenny

Joseph Francis (Frank) McCaffrey

John McNamara

Keith Pardon

Myer Rosenblum

Richard A Turner

Chairman's Address

The chairman delivered his address to the members. A copy is attached to the minutes.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes

It was moved M Binnigton and seconded T Keynes that the Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting as tabled be taken as true and correct.

7. Presentation of Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2001, Reports of Member Associations, Institutes, Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions.

It was moved by T Keynes and seconded by R Doubell that the report of the Chairman, the Directors' Report and the audited Financial Statements as presented be accepted. It was resolved that the Directors' Report and the audited Financial Statements as presented be accepted.

It was moved by T Keynes and seconded by R Doubell that the following reports of State Associations, Institutes and Committees as presented be accepted. It was resolved that the following reports of State Associations, Institutes and Committees as presented be accepted.

Reports of Member Associations

ACT Athletics
Northern Territory Athletic Association
Athletics New South Wales
Queensland Athletic
Athletics South Australia
Athletics Tasmania
Athletics Victoria
AthleticA (Western Australia)

Institute Reports

ACTAS
AIS
NSWIS
QAS
SASI
TIS
VIS
WAIS

Reports of Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions

Anti-Doping Commission
Athletes Commission
Athletes Participation Committee
Coaching Commission
Facilities & Equipment Commission
High Performance Commission
Officials Commission
Out of Stadium Committee
Schools Commission
Selection Committee
Statisticians Report
Track and Field Commission
Tribunals

8. Life Memberships And Merit Award Nominations

Honorary Life Members

In accordance with clause 7.7 of the Constitution the Directors submitted their nomination of Ronda Jenkins for honorary life membership. The Chief Executive Officer read out an extensive biography of Ronda Jenkins' distinguished service to the Company over a significant time period and highly commended this nomination from Athletics Victoria.

M Binnington endorsed Ronda Jenkins outstanding contribution and commitment to the sport and highly commended this nomination.

It was moved by M Binnington seconded by S McMahon that the Company confer honorary life membership on Ronda Jenkins.

It was resolved that the Company confer honorary life membership on Ronda Jenkins.

Merit Awards

In accordance with clause 10.1 of the By Laws the Directors submitted their nomination of Lorraine Morgan for a Merit Award. The Chief Executive Officer read out an extensive biography of Lorraine Morgans' distinguished service to the Company over a significant time period and highly commended this nomination from Athletics Victoria. M Binnington endorsed Lorraine Morgan's outstanding contribution and commitment to the sport nationally and at club level and highly commended this nomination.

It was moved by M Binnington seconded by T Mahoney that the Company confer Merit Award on Lorraine Morgan.

It was resolved that the Company confer a Merit Award Lorraine Morgan.

9. Special Resolutions

Consent to short notice to pass two special resolutions was read.

It was confirmed all members gave consent.

O Hennes moved and R Doubell seconded a motion to accept the Short Notice for the Special Resolutions. It was resolved that the Short Notice for the Special Resolutions be accepted.

Constitution Amendment Regarding Use of Proxies

The following resolution was tabled:

That Athletics Australia effect a change to the Constitution at clause 24.2 by changing the following wording:

*'The form may provide that if the Member leaves it blank as to the **Member** appointed as proxy or if the **Member** appointed as proxy fails or fail to attend, the chairperson of the meeting is appointed proxy.'* to

*'The form may provide that if the member leaves it blank as to the **person** appointed as proxy or if the **person** appointed as proxy fails or fail to attend, the chairperson of the meeting is appointed proxy.'*

Following discussion of the wording of the clause, R Doubell moved and I Fullarton seconded the motion that the special resolution on use of proxies be adopted together with the deletion of the words 'or fail' subject to confirming the necessity of the words 'or fail' with Browne & Co.

It was resolved that the special resolution on use of proxies be adopted together with the deletion of the words 'or fail' subject to confirming the necessity of the words 'or fail' with Browne & Co.

Constitutional Amendment Regarding Notice Period for Motions

O Heness moved and M Binnington seconded **that** the period of notice be reduced by amending clause 12 (4) of the constitution by deleting the words 'two months' and inserting the words 'forty-two days'.

Following discussion, the motion was defeated.

10. Ratification of Auditor

Following the resignation of Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young was appointed as the Company's auditor in accordance with clause 68 of the Athletics Australia Constitution.

D Carlson moved and M Binnington seconded that in accordance with Clause 66 Ernst & Young be ratified as the Company's auditor

It was resolved that that in accordance with Clause 66 Ernst & Young be ratified as the Company's auditor.

11. Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 3.15 pm

Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Ladies and gentlemen, as the annual report states, 2002 has been a year of consolidation and of building partnerships. On behalf of the board and staff, I wish to comment on a number of highlights achieved during the year.

1. Our athletes have continued to progress on the international stage as we aim for our target of a top five ranking at the Athens Olympics in 2004. Whilst the highlight during the year was obviously the gold medal performances of Dmitri, Louise, Amy and Neil at the World Championships in Edmonton last year, the performance of our commonwealth games team should also be acknowledged. The games are outside the period of review, but Edmonton and Manchester have demonstrated that a very solid platform for Paris and Athens has been established within our high performance program.
2. Keith Connor and his team recently held an Athens preparation camp in Sydney and the fact that we appear to have between 30-40 athletes capable of reaching at least the semi-finals in Athens (qualification: as at today), confirming that we will go into Athens with far greater team depth than we did in 2000, is cause for optimism.
The sport demonstrated, yet again, its ability to conduct outstanding events, highlighted by our hosting of the IAAF Grand Prix Final and associated functions in Melbourne last September. Securing international events will continue to be a major objective for Athletics Australia – as we saw in Melbourne, such events can not only provide opportunities for our athletes, they secure media space and can deliver a healthy financial result. We are indebted to our technical officials and volunteers for their untiring contribution to the sport's event program.
3. Pleasingly, as the registration data in the annual report indicates, we recorded an increase in traditional club memberships for the first time in several years. Continuing this turnaround will be a significant challenge for us all, as indeed it is for most, if not all, other sports. We wish to continue to work with our member associations to build our traditional base. At the same time, again as the data demonstrates, there are also gains to be made in community participation, through fun runs and school level athletics.
4. During the year, Athletics Australia became the first, and to date only, national sporting organisation admitted to full membership of the Australian Paralympic movement. Our efforts to fully integrate able and disabled athletes have been recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and the APC as leading the way for other sports to follow. We can all be justifiably proud of the sport's achievements in this area.
5. The government has also recognised our collective efforts to redefine our organisation, establish new and improved governance, the new constitution and the advent of the Australian Athletics Federation. The commission recently contracted an independent assessment of this process with a view to producing a model to assist other sports in their own endeavours to improve their structures and governance.
There is no doubt in the board's mind that the challenging process the sport went through in the past three years has positioned the organisation well for the future. The board has observed that relationships between the various parties have settled down considerably, and indeed improved markedly, compared to the environment during the negotiation process. We are committed to this continuing, as we are the delivery of the benefits that one collective approach can generate. I'm not just referring here to the \$600,000 in cash and kind support that was provided to the states last year (and this support is being continued in the current year), but to the efficiencies and synergies that we wish to drive throughout the sport as we move forward.

The board is delighted that the federation, for the most part, came to reality during the year. We share everyone's disappointment and frustration, however, that the little athletics movement chose not to join the federation at its inception. In an effort to break this impasse, Athletics Australia has committed to the federal government's offer to appoint an independent arbiter to negotiate an appropriate amalgamation between the federation and Australian Little Athletics. We will of course keep our members advised of how this unfolds.

6. Athletics Australia was very pleased with the establishment of two events, which we believe will become legacies, not only for the sport, but also for Australia as a whole. I am referring to the Flora Sydney Marathon and the Lest We Forget ANZAC run. Both these initiatives are reported on in the annual report and I would encourage all of you to put 27 April and 14 September 2003 into your diaries. We are very optimistic about the future of both these events and their ability to grow as major assets of this sport. The marathon recorded a 30% increase this year over last while lest we forget commenced with 50 runs in its inaugural year. We are aiming for 60 runs around the country next year.
7. Athletics Australia faced a difficult financial environment during the year – as indeed we all did. A break-even result was recorded which, whilst below the targeted surplus we were aiming for, was in fact a satisfactory result. Athletics Australia absorbed increased insurance premiums, made a substantial investment into the television coverage of the sport and managed through a contracting sponsorship market. Clearly, wider economic impacts will continue to affect the sport's financial performance. The board and management team are actively engaged in pursuing revenue opportunities and have set this as Athletics Australia's priority task for 2003.
8. This brings me to the future. Over the next 12-24 months, Athletics Australia wishes and intends to:
 - a. Continue to improve the organisation's financial position;
 - b. Progress the federation and the support we are able to provide to our members and federation partners;
 - c. Achieve resolution, if possible, with the little athletics movement;
 - d. Achieve strong international performances in Paris and Athens;
 - e. Cement team athletics in the primary schools system; and
 - f. Bid for, and hopefully secure, two IAAF events to be held in 2006 before and after the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your support of the organisation over the past year. The board hopes you share our confidence that the sport and the organisation has a strong future and that the efforts we are all making to progress our objects will continue to bear fruit.

Thank you.

Russell Scrimshaw
Acting Chairman
Athletics Australia