



Athletics Australia
ABN 72 006 447 294

Minutes of 35th Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 25 October 2019, at Athletics House, Catherine Freeman Room, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park Victoria

Ordinary Business

1. Apologies and obituaries

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.33am and welcomed Directors, Delegates, Life Governors, Life Members and observers.

Present

Mark Arbib
Jan Swinhoe
Anne Lord
Peter Bromley
Geoff Nicholson
Chris Wardlaw

Position

President and Chair, Athletics Australia
Vice President, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia

Jane Flemming
Jeff Cook

Incoming Director, Athletics Australia
Incoming Director, Athletics Australia

Darren Gocher
Ana Croger

Chief Executive Officer
Company Secretary, Athletics Australia

Members, Delegates

Neil Boden
Peter Higgins
Desmond Johnston
Jane Russo
Shelley Miller
Allison Robison
Tim Lyons

President, Athletics Australian Capital Territory
President, Athletics New South Wales
President, Queensland Athletics
President, Athletics South Australia
President, Athletics Tasmania
President, Athletics Victoria
Chairman, Athletics Western Australia

Members, Executives

David Gynther
James Kaan
Shane Fuller
Vince Del Prete
Wayne Loxley

CEO, Queensland Athletics
CEO, Athletics Australian Capital Territory
CEO, Athletics South Australia
CEO, Athletics Western Australia
Executive Officer, Athletics Western Australia

Other attendees

Margaret Mahony OAM
Brian Roe OAM
Lorraine Morgan AM
Craig Hilliard
David Tarbotton
Martin Stillman

Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Member and Head Coach, Athletics Australia
Life Member
CEO, Little Athletics Australia

Phil Urquhart	Australian Masters Athletics
Judy Farrell McIntosh	Little Athletics Victoria
Julie Green	Little Athletics Victoria

Anna Fitzgerald	Executive, Athletics Australia
Andrew Faichney	Executive, Athletics Australia
Adam Bishop	Executive, Athletics Australia
Christian Malcolm	Executive, Athletics Australia
Rob Ewart	Executive, Athletics Australia
Bashir Riachi	Executive, Athletics Australia
Annie Gallacher	Staff, Athletics Australia
Blair Taylor	Staff, Athletics Australia
Paul Pascoe	Staff, Athletics Australia
Miles Thompson	Staff, Athletics Australia
Craig Pickering	Staff, Athletics Australia
Steve Caddy	Staff, Athletics Australia
John Steffenson	Staff, Athletics Australia
Rob Cumbrae-Stewart	Staff, Athletics Australia
Michael Angus	Staff, Athletics Australia
Carolina Diaz	Staff, Athletics Australia

External Auditors

Adam Pitts	Grant Thornton Audit
Crystel Gangemi	Grant Thornton Audit

Apologies

Brenda La Porte	David Prince	Andrew Salter
Gerard Ryan	Ian Boswell	Kevin Thompson
Trish Kinnane	Wayne Fletcher	Bennett King
Dave Cundy	Clive Lee	Kate Palmer
Trevor Vincent	Brenda Pearl	Leanne Chin
Tony Rice	James Sheridan	Ian Jones
Yvonne Mullins	Tony Keynes	Carol Grant
Bob Cruise	Ken Roche	Paul Jenes
Jill Huxley	Denis Wilson	Diane Lowden
Jeanette Robertson	Rob Fildes	Ian Jones
Helen Lee	David Grace	

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave an Acknowledgement of country paying respect to the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which the meeting was being held.

The obituaries were noted by the Chair.

Brian Roe read out the obituaries of the Athletics Australia representatives who had passed away since 1 July 2018 (Attached). A moment of silence was observed in memory of those who had passed.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting

The minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 26 October 2018 were adopted unanimously as a true and correct record of that meeting.

3. President's Report

The President's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled. The Chair provided the meeting with the following highlights and acknowledgments.

- The Chair confirmed Athletics Australia's mission to be the largest participation sport in the country and allowing our athletes to succeed on the global stage and noted that he felt that AA had taken great steps this year. In particular he noted:
 - The recent MOU signed with Little Athletics Australia to undertake a proposal to merge which will result in the biggest change to Athletics in Australia. The Chair affirmed consultation with all members starts now. The Chair confirmed that at the next AGM it is Athletics Australia's intention to propose constitutional changes for a new organisation and members will be asked to vote on that merger. The Chair acknowledged the work of the State MA Presidents and CEOs in leading the way to OneAthletics.
 - The Chair noted the significance of bringing World Cross Country to Bathurst in 2021 and thanked World Athletics and the NSW Government for their support.
 - The Chair outlined the Athletics Australia media strategy and the investment into high quality and content livestream.
 - The Chair acknowledged the important work of the Athletics Australia Foundation in growing our resources and funding.
 - The Chair highlighted the incredible performance of Kelsey Barber, Australia's ninth world champion in history.

The Chair acknowledged Peter Bromley for his service to athletics as the term of his Directorship came to an end. Peter Bromley was the President of Athletics New South Wales before joining the Athletics Australia Board of Directors nine years ago. Peter has over 30 years' experience in senior management roles in banking, real estate, mortgage brokering and data/analytics. Peter was a past President Ku Ring Gai Little Athletics and founding member Gosford Athletics Club as well as a former State Champion in the 1500 metres.

Finally, the Chair thanked the athletics community for its commitment to the sport.

4. CEO's Report

The CEO's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled. The CEO provided the meeting with the following highlights and acknowledgments.

- The CEO noted the announcement of the merger with Little Athletics Australia. Athletics Australia and Little Athletics Australia share a vision to transform athletics into the biggest participation sport in Australia with a clear and logical pathway for athletes, coaches and officials throughout their life in the sport. The process of creating One Athletics has just started and there is significant work to go, but the outcome will ensure the benefits of the sport for the long term.
- The recent World Championships in Doha produced some great results and gave AA confidence in where the athletes are heading for Tokyo and Paris. The highlight from Doha was Kelsey Barber's gold medal, but there were other outstanding results:
 - 21 top 16 results. Best depth since 1999
 - 62% of athletes placed above their entry ranking
 - 9 PB's
 - 6 qualifiers for Tokyo 2020
 - 7 athletes on debut finished top 16
- Our athletes performed incredibly at both the World Junior Championship and Youth Olympics. At World Juniors, Athletics Australia achieved our second best result ever, with 2 gold and 3 silver medals (Gold to Ashley Moloney, decathlon, and Nash Lewis,

javelin) - ahead of countries including Japan, Germany, China, France. Athletics Australia also broke 3 Australian records (Moloney, Declan Tingay (10k walk) and W 4x100m relay). At the Youth Olympics, Athletics Australia also picked up 5 medals from a team of 13, to finish 7th on the medal tally. Keely Small won gold.

- At the World Cross Country Championship in Aarhus, Denmark our team again performed admirably, with the Open Women's team coming home in 5th place. Lauren Carey in the U20's and Melissa Duncan in the open women were both the highest placings by Australians in over 10 years in their respective events.
- At the IAAF World Relays, Athletics Australia had 2 teams qualify for the World Championships with the Women's 4x100m and the Men's 4x400m and a silver medal in the inaugural 2x2x4 Mixed relay to Catriona Bisset and Josh Ralph.
- In addition, Brandon Starc was the Diamond League Champion in the High Jump and Henry Frayne 3rd in the long jump.
- Our para athletes continued their amazing run of performances. Michael Roeger now holds world records from the 1500m to the marathon and other world records to Jarryd Clifford, Corey Anderson, Rheed McCracken and Vanessa Low. Michael Roeger won the WPA World Marathon Championship, with Madison De Rozario picking up a bronze medal. Our team of 35 athletes' team is heading away next week to the World Para Championships in Dubai. Athletics Australia wish them all the best.
- During the year, Athletics Australia were awarded the rights to host the 2021 World Athletics Cross Country. It is the first World Championship held in this country for 25 years and provides a great opportunity to present and promote our sport and leave a lasting legacy for Cross Country.
- In March 2019, the inaugural NAB RunWest event was held in Western Sydney. The event is a partnership between Athletics Australia and Athletics NSW. The event attracted over 7,000 participants and Athletics Australia were able to secure significant corporate and Government support, from the likes of NAB, West HQ, Sydney University, Project Clothing, Blacktown Council and the NSW Office of Sport.
- The Athletics Australia Foundation was launched in 2018. The Foundation has now held 2 events and raised funding to distribute to athletes and coaches. The first lot of grants of this funding was made in July 2019, with more to come.
- The CEO outlined a number of other significant milestones for the sport, that require some recognition.
 - Our Reconciliation Action Plan was launched earlier in the year, providing a framework for how the sport engages with the Indigenous community.
 - Our Sporting Schools program reached over 110,000 school children this year, an increase of 7%, with athletics remaining the most-requested sport in this Federal Government-run program.
 - The Blackmores Sydney running Festival is delivering record numbers every year. With over 40,000 competing in 2019, it is an increase of over 8,000 from 5 years ago and more than double the number of participants from 10 years ago, highlighting the continued momentum in recreational running.
 - The recognition of Peter Norman with the statue at Lakeside Stadium was well deserved and long overdue.
- The financial statements report a profit this year, underpinned by a strong balance sheet and net asset position ensuring that Athletics Australia is in a secure position for the foreseeable future.
- Commercially, Athletics Australia is continuing the momentum. Coles remains a valued partner and is delivering fantastic value for the sport. BLK has been a great partner in the apparel space. Athletics Australia also brought on new partners in Accor and ReHydr8, with whom Athletics Australia hope to establish a positive, long term relationship. The CEO thanked these partners for their continued support.
- In addition, the backing received from CGA, in the year following a successful home Commonwealth Games, has ensured Athletics Australia is in a good place to support our athletes and coaches into the next Games and beyond.
- Thank you to CEO, Craig Phillips and his team. To Peter Conde and his team at the AIS, Athletics Australia appreciate the funding, but also the incredible support Athletics

Australia receive. Sport Australia has played a major part in some of the initiatives mentioned earlier, so to Kate Palmer and her team, thank you. With Paralympics Australia, the AOC, IAAF and a strengthening of the relationship with Oceania Athletics, our organization has the support to deliver some great outcomes.

- Finally, the CEO thanked all of the participants in the sport (including athletes, coaches and officials), plus AA's members and partners for supporting the aims and contributing significantly to the growth and success of the sport.

5. Financial Statements and Reports

The financial statements of the Company and its controlled entities and the reports of the directors and auditor for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 were tabled.

6. Election/Ratification of Directors

The term of director Peter Bromley end at the conclusion of this AGM. The Chair thanked Peter for his service to our Board and Athletics and wish him all the best.

Peter Bromley, Director addressed the meeting.

The proposed resolutions were set out in the notice of meeting. The member associations were asked on the basis on the Nominations Committee endorsement to formally consider electing Jane Flemming, Jeff Cook and Eugenie Buckley as Directors of the Company in accordance with Clause 28.3 of the Constitution.

The Chair declared the resolutions carried unanimously.

The Chair congratulated the new directors on their appointment.

Jeff Cook, Director elect, and Jane Flemming, Director elect, each addressed the meeting.

7. Election of Auditors

The Chair reported that, under clause 59 of the Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed that Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd be appointed as auditor of the Company.

8. Special Awards

Nominations made by the Special Awards Committee under clause 11.2.1(a) of the Company's By-laws were noted. Pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution it was unanimously agreed that:

Life Membership pursuant to Clause 7.7 of the Athletics Australia Constitution be conferred upon Joe Stevens, Heather Mitchell, Rob Blackadder, Bruce Wilson, Kirsteen Farrance, Sharon Hannan and Gary McBroom

The Chair congratulated all Life Members on their awards and thanked them for their contribution.

9. Other Business

Life Governor, Margaret Mahony, addressed the meeting on the following issues.

- Ms Mahony shared her delight to read about the merger with Little Athletics
- Ms Mahony emphasised the commitment required to school sport and questioned the work being done in this area.

The Chair thanked Ms Mahony for her comments. The Chief Executive Officer outlined the work that that Athletics Australia is undertaking with the Sporting Schools Program and noted the growth in requests for Athletics from schools.

Peter Higgins President of Athletics NSW addressed the meeting to thank Peter Bromley for his service.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 12.03pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

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Chair

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Date

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA –
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018-2019

OBITUARIES

DURING 2018 – 2019 REPORT YEAR

Monica Baker (Vic) – Club Administrator and Official

Adrienne Beames (Vic) – Athlete

Bill Butchart (NSW) – Olympic Finalist at 800 metres

Garry Calvert (Vic) – National Javelin Champion, International Coach

Ron Carter (Vic) – AA Life Member, Athletics Journalist

Ron Crawford OAM (NSW) – Three-time Olympic Representative, AA Life Member

Vern Curnow (Vic) – National Technical Official

Dorothy Donald (Tas) - AT Merit Award Holder, Technical Official, Club Administrator

Kevin Dynan (Vic) – AV President, National Team Official

Bob Fossey (Vic) – National Technical Official

John Gilmour OAM (WA) – AWA Life Member, World Masters Champion

Bob Hussey OAM (SA) – National Technical Official, Life Member ASA

Hugh Jack (Vic) – Olympian, National Champion

Merv Lee-Archer OAM (NSW) – ANSW Life Member, Club Administrator

Patrick Leane Snr (Vic) – Olympian, National Champion

Neil Littlejohn (Tas) - AT Merit Award Holder, Technical Official

Victor Marshall (NSW) – National Technical Official

Yvonne Melene (NSW) – Coach

Russell Parsons OAM (Vic) – Coach, AA Staff Member

Alan Rider (Tas) – Ultra runner and event organiser

Roy Sandstrom (Vic) - Athlete

Warwick Selvey (Qld) – Commonwealth Discus Champion

Allan Stewart (Vic) – Technical Official

Barrie Tucker (SA) – National Championships medallist

Paul Tucker (Vic) – Athlete

John Vernon (Vic) – Olympian and National Champion in High Jump

Ted West (Tas) – National Technical Official, AT Merit Awardee

Ron White (NSW) – Coach, President ATFCA NSW Branch

SINCE 1 JULY 2019

Kylie Coombe (Vic) – National Champion

Norma Croker Fleming (Qld) – Olympic Gold Medallist

Jennifer Darvall (NSW) – Official and Club Administrator

Ronald Gray (NSW) – Olympian

Geoff Hook (Vic) - Road Race Course Measurer

Barry McLeod (Vic) - Stawell Gift Winner, Coach

John Higham (Vic) – AV President, Commonwealth Games Medallist

Charles Nolan (Vic) – AV Life Member

John Plummer (NSW) – Commonwealth Games representative

Stuart Robley (Vic) – Club Administrator and National Technical Official

Bruce Wallrodt OAM (WA) – Para World Champion, Four times Paralympic champion

Tony Williamson (SA) – National Team Official

Vale Ronald Richard “Curly” Carter (23 August 1932 to 19 August 2018), AA Life Member

Athletics Australia said farewell with sadness but many fond memories to its Life Member - Ron “Curly” Carter when he passed away on 19 August 2018.

When Ron and fellow athletics writer the late Judy Joy Davies were elected life members of the sport in 2010 they were trailblazers even then – as it had been an honour previously reserved for the likes of administrators, team and technical officials.

But in times of change, it was an easy and logical decision to recognise a quite different but very important and substantial contribution to the sport. It was clear Ron also thought it was a good idea and excitedly brought his family to the presentation at the old stadium at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

But Ron was breaking new ground much earlier. As a journalist at *The Argus* in the 1950s and then at *The Age*, Ron covered every Olympics and Commonwealth Games from 1952 till 1992, retiring from *The Age* in 1993. His coverage of athletics thus spanned a period of 40 years.

Ron was also chief football writer with *The Age* and covered swimming and other Olympic sports. Yet he demonstrated a special passion for athletics which so very fortunately for it, led to prominent coverage in the mainstream media for the sport, which is greatly envied today.

Australian athletics was very much richer for Ron’s contribution and commitment which extended from inter-club competition and state championships to national and international meets.

His time at the athletics desk covered the golden years of the sport in Australia but also some challenging and less-rewarding times. He always found something to write about – acknowledging a fine performance, highlighting the sacrifices many athletes had to make to remain in the sport or covering the bigger issues in track and field administration.

But he is especially remembered for the constant flow of those “good news” yarns about track and field athletes, both rising talent and the established stars – enabling them to become household names around the country both for their achievements and life stories.

Of course he didn’t miss the opportunity (and rightly so) to note a crazy decision by an athletics administrator or a perplexing call by a competition official. Ron had the trust of so many of the key players, he was rarely unaware of anything of the remotest relevance going on in the sport.

Ron thus played a respected role as the conscience of the sport and often carefully drove agendas for reform, especially advocating the “rights” of athletes in terms of selection. He readily gave sound advice to new administrators especially those who were fortunate to be employed within athletics.

But always his coverage was fair, balanced and in the interest of the sport. His body of work was immense - covering athletics at a time when the mainstream media were far more active in the sport than perhaps is the case today.

For most of his working career athletics in Australia was separated between the pros and the amateurs. Whilst administrators, officials and athletes could not, Ron as able and happy to cross the divide. He particularly enjoyed covering the Stawell Gift each Easter and had great respect for the talents of many of the “pros”.

He gave his seal of approval enthusiastically when the AA Board finally made the call to open the sport up from 1985 and was thrilled when John Dinan and Chris Perry were selected soon after for the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1986.

Ron developed great friendships in the sport. Athletes liked and respected him. There were few of their stories that he missed - covering the good and the bad.

As with all journalists there were the special moments. In 1952 Ron paid his own way to the Olympics. It was there that he saw gold medallist Shirley Strickland wandering alone out of the stadium after her victory and he offered her a lift back in his taxi. After she left he found her gold medal on the seat beside him and famously had to yell - *"hey Shirl, you've forgotten something"*.

Ron's wife Dorothy has no doubt that he loved the people involved with track and field and the sport itself.

"He never had the build to be an athlete but when he started reporting serious athletics he asked to train with Franz Stampfl's group for a story and Franz flatly refused. But Ron kept at him and finally Franz said to come along one evening.

"Of course Ron came far last in everything - but he trained and trained. After the third training night Franz said okay you can train with us. Ron would go out on long runs around the tan with the gods of running and arrive back when they were packing their bags to go home.

"But it all paid off. He discovered a love of running for himself and on Saturday mornings when he lived in Doncaster he would run the Dandenong Ranges. Sometimes 20 miles."

It was thus as a committed long distance jogger Ron devised the idea of tackling the 1972 Olympic marathon course. Derek Clayton was hot favourite and Ron wanted a different angle for his story. Luckily he took some money in his sock for after around 8 miles of the grand plan he decided to turn the 26 mile jog into a 5 hour plus beer garden crawl. It made the front page of *The Age*.

In 1990, at the Auckland Commonwealth Games he arrived early. He gave Debbie Flintoff-King a voltaren tablet to help settle an achilles problem, enabling her to train until the medical team arrived. It was not until his retirement that a relieved Ron was reassured it was not a banned substance.

While simple yarns like these span the 40 year career of Ron Carter they reflect the relationships that he was able to develop with the athletes and the sport.

Ron's contribution in showcasing our sport was special.

His devotion to family, his craft and to Australian sport was be remembered at a Memorial Service in The Long Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Vale Ron Crawford OAM (26 March 1936 to 8 August 2018), AA Life Member

The athletics community lost a giant in sport and sports administration when Ron Crawford passed away on 8 August 2018. Ron's significant contribution to the sport began as an athlete wearing the green and gold at three Olympics, before spending over five decades in the sport's administration.

As a child Ron was already obsessed with athletics. He had his own jumping pit, built his own high-jump stands and had a shot putt area in the paddock next door.

He played cricket, soccer and rugby league at school but was always interested in athletics. With the then rule that one could not belong to an athletic club until the age of 14, he waited impatiently for his 14th birthday and immediately became a member of the Randwick Kensington Athletic Club.

His uncle, Merv Wood, had won a gold medal in rowing at the 1948 London Olympics and Ron slowly formed a desire to achieve such a distinction himself. He ran 800s and 1500s and won state hammer throwing competitions.

But it was in another event that he would make his mark. A fellow club member, Ken Keogh, mentioned that while Ron could beat him at most events he would not be able to do so in the walks and a malted milkshake bet was made. So, Ron began an involvement in race-walking that was to last for the next 60 plus years.

He won or was placed in over fifty New South Wales and Australian championships and represented Australia in both the 20 and 50km walks at three Olympic Games – in 1956 in Melbourne, in 1960 in Rome and 1964 in Tokyo. Marching around the cricket ground in Melbourne was particularly exciting for Ron with Uncle Merv as the Australian Team flag bearer.

In this often very controversial athletic event Ron was disqualified only twice in his career – the most disappointing occasion being when he and the other leading competitors in the 50km race in Rome were pulled out by a British chief judge, the consequence being that a British walker went on to win. Rules were changed after this event.

Many people well known to Australians were among Ron's Olympic teammates and it was always a pleasure for him to maintain contact with a number of them and particularly exciting in more recent years to attend 50th and 60th celebrations of those Games.

Ron became an athletic administrator in the late 1950s and continued to be active in a variety of administrative roles. He was on the Board of Athletics Australia for three years from 1996 to 1999, and had two stints as Director of Athletics New South Wales from 1977-1981 and then again during a difficult period from 1997 to 2004. In 1997, with the association on the brink of receivership and with the position of chief executive officer vacant, Ron acted in this role as a volunteer.

He was President of Randwick Botany Harriers from 1991 to 2008 and secretary for twelve years prior to that. A qualified race-walking judge, he held the position of President of the NSW Race Walking Club for 19 years from 1975 and then became President of the Regal Race Walkers.

Ron administered many NSW championships from the late 1970s to the early 1990s and managed a variety of teams at Australian championships. He was a director of the Botany Bay Gift and managed other road running events and marathons.

For around 35 years Ron along with his family were involved in the City2Surf as volunteers. For many years he was in charge of the timing and finish control of both City2Surf and the Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon

finally retiring in 2013. He was a Life Member of Athletics Australia and Athletics New South Wales along with a number of other sporting organisations

For his service to sport he was honoured in 1999 with the Medal of the Order of Australia and a year later the Australian Sports Medal. In January of 2000, Ron along with Nova Peris, was asked to help launch the Olympic Torch in a local Botany park. Two days before the Games began with many family and friends watching, he was one of the torchbearers as the torch passed through Pagewood.

During the Sydney Olympics Ron, along with 1964 gold medallist and journalist Kevin Berry, was in charge of the Olympians Reunion Centre at the Customs House - a most exciting, interesting and rewarding role.

Ron was a man of many and diverse interests and abilities. He was mechanical and practical. He designed and built and renovated. He was a man of many ideas – some of which became a reality. He was focussed and determined, even stubborn when necessary, but was also an easy going and happy individual – reliable and generous.

In August of 2017 Ron was unexpectedly diagnosed with MDS - a bone marrow disorder. Treatment began and he responded extremely well though knowing that it would be a temporary respite.

From when he was a young schoolboy, poetry fascinated him. He memorised many extracts and quotations and would often repeat them in appropriate situations. There are two by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that were amongst his favourites:

“Heights by great men reached and kept were not obtained by sudden flight but, while their companions slept, they were toiling upward in the night.”

*“Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime,
And, departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.”*