

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia,
Held at the Novotel St Kilda Hotel, 16 The Esplanade, St Kilda VIC 3182
on Tuesday, 21 November 2006 at 3.35pm

1. Welcome

2. Roll call

Directors

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| President & Chairman | Rob Fides, OAM |
| Director | Matt Mahon |
| Director | Paul Kennedy |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Chief Executive Officer | Danny Corcoran |
|-------------------------|----------------|

Delegates

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Australian Capital Territory | Michael Thomson |
| New South Wales | John Patchett |
| Northern Territory | Ian Fullarton |
| Queensland | Sean Collins |
| South Australia | Michael Verwey |
| Tasmania | Brian Roe |
| Victoria | Anne Lord |
| Western Australia | Peter Bacich |

Observers

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Australian Capital Territory | Neil Boden |
| New South Wales | Grey Doyle |
| Northern Territory | Michael Outhred |
| Tasmania | Brendan Hanigan |
| Victoria | Nick Honey |
| Western Australia | Wayne Loxley |

Athletics Australia Staff

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Chief Financial Officer | Stephen Crook |
| Nat. Performance Manager | Max Binnington |
| Nat. Coaching Coordinator | Mick Poulton |
| Competitions Manager | David Gynther |
| Comm. Operations Manager | Luke Bould |
| PA to Chief Executive Officer | Janet Chitts |

Also present

David Grace Q.C.
Nick Moore
Tony Pifitto (Ernst & Young)
Alex Goh (Ernst & Young)
Greame Rose (Masters Athletics)
Tim Erickson (Race Walking Australia)
Paul Jenes (Life Member)
Justice Allan McDonald Q.C. (Life Member)
David Culbert (Jump Media)
Michele Cook (Jump Media)

3. Apologies

Bill Bailey (Director), Jane Hansen (Director), Eddie McGuire, AM (Director), Michael Smellie (Director), Ken Roche (Director), Clive Lee AM (Life Member), Noel Ruddock (Life Member), Denis Wilson AM (Life Member).

Brenda Pearl OAM (Life Member), Margaret Mahoney OAM (Life Member), Ronda Jenkins (Life Member), J Patching AO OBE (Merit Award Holder), Doug Carlson (President, QLD Athletics) and Tony Keynes (President, AthleticsA).

4. Obituaries

The meeting observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect for:

Michael Bucavic
 William Collier
 Brian Foley
 Alex Huft
 Jess Jarver (Athletics Australia Merit Award Holder)
 Frank Knight
 Lynne Mazey
 Fred Napier OAM (Athletics Australia Life Member)
 Len Horwood

5. Confirmation of the Minutes

Minutes of the 21st Athletics Australia Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2005 as tabled were taken as true and correct. Moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by John Patchett (NSW).

6. President and Chairman of the Board's address

Post the Commonwealth Games our focus immediately turned to the next challenge and in this case it was to continue to review and restructure the programs we conduct as we try and position our sport for ongoing success.

While all stakeholders should be proud of their contribution to our sport we are under no illusions as to the amount of work that must be done to meet the many challenges that confront us. I do not need to remind anyone involved in the sport that we have an enormous amount of work to do in order to ensure that our high performance programs are comparable with the best in the world, that our athletes and coaches are well supported, that our development programs are the envy of other nations and that our sport thrives at grassroots level.

Many sports in this country provide full time careers with significant salaries for talented athletes and their coaches. This is not the case in athletics and we are continually reminded of the need to provide more and more resources to keep pace with the rest of the world. For the talented athlete there are many sports that have lucrative career options competing for his/her talent. We must now recognise this and put in place programs to identify talent and support those athletes with the potential to represent their country by providing clear pathways to achieve this. This also includes recognising the athletic talent within our indigenous community and creating programs to enable us to find the next Catherine Freeman.

As we at Athletics Australia address the challenges that lie ahead it is appropriate to record the key outcomes from the past year in this year's Annual Report.

The strategic direction of Athletics Australia -

During the past year, we continued to work on our 2004-2009 Strategic Plan. As a result, we have continued to focus on our five key pillars that underpin our direction as we continue to implement the recommendations of the Athletics Australia/Australian Sports Commission Review.

The five key pillars are:

1. Financial Stability

We must ensure that Athletics Australia is capable of fulfilling its responsibilities over the long term.

The financial result for Athletics Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2006 is a \$678,742 profit. The net asset position of the organisation has grown from \$413,196 at 30 June 2004 to \$1,458,160 at 30 June 2006. The Board and Management of Athletics Australia firmly believe that we must protect the organisation from any future financial instability and be able to continue to run our programs. This strategy is consistent with the recommendations of the AA/ASC Review where it was recommended that Athletics Australia builds a sufficient reserve to protect the organisation from the loss of a major sponsor.

As you will note from the financial summary, one of the major expense savings has been the amount recorded as expenses to the State Institutes and Academies as part of the High Performance plan. This was significantly lower than budgeted. This occurred largely as a result of the deferral of the implementation of the High Performance plan leading up to and including the Commonwealth Games with much of the High Performance staff's time being involved in selection, appeals and other High Performance issues surrounding the Games. During this time Athletics Australia also managed to receive income from activities that revolved around the hosting of the Commonwealth Games that was unbudgeted and non-recurring.

2. High Performance

Determine how Athletics Australia will contribute to superior performances at major championships and the programs required to achieve.

A key plank in the High Performance plan has been the establishment of discipline focused National High Performance Centres.

The multi discipline nature of the sport of athletics required a new approach towards the management of the High Performance program.

Athletics Australia has already implemented several of these event focused National High Performance Centres with specialist National Event Coordinators to manage and coordinate the various disciplines nationally.

I am pleased to report we have established High Performance centres at the following institutions:

1. AIS – walks, jumps, 400m/400m hurdles programmes
2. VIS/Victoria – national distance programme
3. NSW/NSWIS – national sprints, hurdles & relays programmes

We still need to increase the funding support for the programs at the VIS and NSWIS but they are now well positioned to grow as centres of excellence.

It is disappointing that due to a lack of resources we have been unable to commence a throws program or a multi events program. We must achieve this in the near future.

3. Development

Provide the road map as to how we as a sport will foster participation and interest in athletics.

Whilst the Member Associations administer the sport at club level Athletics Australia is very much involved in working with the Development Officers in each State and of particular interest is the establishment of school – club links for the talented school athlete. We have increased the distribution of the Athletics Australia STAR program to schools across Australia to provide curriculum resources for teachers. We have also commenced a National Indigenous program designed to encourage and develop the wonderful talent contained within our Indigenous community.

Athletics Australia with the assistance of the International Management Group's (IMG) eCommerce Department led the development of the Clubs Online program. This included the development of new websites for all Member Associations and the ability to rapidly communicate with all clubs and their members. Functions of the new website included on line entry to events, sending newsletters to clubs and members via an aggregated database and an eCommerce function to enable the selling of merchandise. This project should be complete by the end of 2006.

4. Brand

Define what athletics & Athletics Australia stands for, and determine how best to communicate via a redefined corporate image.

To signify a new beginning Athletics Australia embarked on a re-branding exercise to establish a new logo and corporate look. This exercise also included our Member Associations in a re-branding program to establish a new look and feel that was consistent with that of Athletics Australia. Our aim is to enable our sport to be readily identifiable as one brand across the various States. We believe we are in the process of achieving this.

5. Governance and Structure

Outline how AA will be structured, what capabilities it requires, and how it will interact with other athletics bodies.

To achieve this we have restructured the internal management of the organisation by establishing senior management positions for Finance, High Performance, Coaching, Development, Commercial Operations and Competitions. We have continued with our plan to rebuild the confidence and trust of many within athletics, in particular with other athletics bodies such as Little Athletics.

We commenced a redevelopment plan for our website and are currently in the final phase of this redevelopment. The current website although functional is now five years old and does not have the capabilities that we as an organisation will require for the next five years. The website of course is our main communication tool to inform the fraternity and we look forward to the launch of the new version in November 2006.

It is worth noting several other key outcomes for the 2005–2006 year as some of these achievements were record breaking and significant for our sport.

1. The Athletics contingent of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games Team numbered 122 athletes (123 with Justin Anlezark who was a late withdrawal) – this represented the largest Australian Track and Field team ever and the average age of the team was 25. Notably the team included 10 teenagers and 62 members of the whole team were under 25 years of age.

2. The medal tally was our greatest in Commonwealth Games competition with 16 Gold, 12 Silver, 13 Bronze - 41 in total. Australia's previous best performance was 37 at the Empire Games in Perth in 1962 and 34 in Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

3. Australia was ranked number one in athletics with 41 medals, second was Jamaica with 22 medals and third was Kenya with 15 (one more silver medal than England). England with 18 was next followed by South Africa with 14 medals. History will record this as an outstanding achievement by Australia.

4. The World Cross Country Championship Fukuoka, Japan in April 2006.

Australia won its first ever women's teams medal in the short course event with outstanding performances from a team consisting of:

Benita Johnson 4th
 Melissa Rollison 11th
 Anna Thompson 25th
 Donna Tyberek-MacFarlane 29th
 Victoria Mitchell (33)
 Eloise Wellings (39)

This was a stellar performance and congratulations to all team members.

5. World Race Walking Cup la Coruna, Spain in May 2006

Australia won the silver medal in the men's 20km team's event and again this was the first ever teams medal won by Australia. Our previous best was 4th in the 50km in 2002. Congratulations to those team members

Luke Adams (N)
 Nathan Deakes (V)
 Jared Tallent (V)
 Duane Cousins (V)
 Adam Rutter (N)

6. Attendances were extraordinary at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games with the athletics program at the MCG totalling 611,333 people. This did not include the tens of thousands of people who lined the courses for the marathons and walks.

Media Penetration: according to the Australian Broadcasting Commission the Commonwealth Games reached a total worldwide audience of over 1.5 billion.

As a result of these attendances, the media coverage and the proximity of our spectacular venues to the CBD, Melbourne once again proved it is one of the great sporting cities in the world.

7. 2006 European Season – excerpt from an article by Michelle Cook, Jump Media.

"With twenty-eight Australians currently ranked in the top twenty - ten who have reached the top ten, thirteen personal bests produced over the European season and three Australian records broken, World Cup wins to Craig Mottram and Steve Hooker, and a World Athletics Final victory to Paul Burgess the question beckons – is this the best European season by Australian athletes ever?

The manner and decisive nature of the Mottram win at the World Cup will remain in the memories of athletics fans for years to come. He created history by becoming the first Oceania athlete to defend a World Cup title, and in doing so produced the best 3000m run of his career to dethrone one of the best distance runners of all time – Ethiopian, Kenenisa Bekele. After breaking the 3000m Australian record in July at the Leige meet, 'Buster' repeated that form with a stand out performance and new Australian Record of 7:32.19.

Arch-rivalry, podium finishes, number one rankings, substantial prize money, missing poles and misleading heights summed up the seasons for pole vault champions Steve Hooker and Paul Burgess. The training partners from Western Australia cemented their reputations as two of the world's best with a stellar season in Europe.

After a win in Helsinki, Hooker produced a magnificent victory and personal best in the pole vault at the IAAF Golden League meeting in Berlin. His first time clearance at 5.96m not only set a new personal best, but in bizarre circumstances, Hooker, who used new poles that he had waited all season to arrive, actually thought he had cleared the magical six metre barrier. Hooker hit a speed bump at the World Athletics Final with a disappointing 5th place, however spurred on by Mottram's win and 'Land down under' playing in the background, Hooker responded with a 5.80m to triumph at the World Cup.

Burgess, an existing member of the six metre club, had a setback when his poles went missing after competing in Zurich in July. With wins in Osaka and Rome earlier in the season, 'Budgie' finished second in Berlin with 5.91m against a high quality field, and bounced back to take out the World Athletics Final, with a 5.82m leap.

After finishing second at the Commonwealth Games, Sarah Jamieson has produced a sensational season, twice beating her personal best, setting a new Australian record and consistently reaching the podium in the major European meets this summer.

At the World Athletics Final, Commonwealth Games champion Bronwyn Thompson pulled out an impressive 6.77 metres in the long jump to beat all but the redoubtable Russian circuit meet specialist, Tatiana Lebedeva who won with 6.92m. The 28-year-old Queenlander had a successful European campaign resulting in numerous podium finishes, and even with upper leg pain still managed a 4th place at the World Cup.

Eloise Wellings who fought her way back to personal best form over the last two years after a series of injuries threatened to prematurely end her promising junior career, has completed a sensational European season. The

Sydneysider, who is renowned for racing in a headband, was forced to take the role of pacemaker for many of her races yet still managed to break her personal best time on four occasions. After finishing third in Huelva, Spain in June, claiming her first personal best time of the season of 8:46.37 for the 3000m, the 23-year-old then went on to break her 5000m personal best in 14:54.11 in Zurich. Not satisfied with those achievements, Wellings then went on to break her 3000m best yet again producing 8:46.17 at the World Athletics Final and 8:41.78 at the World Cup.

Sprinter Patrick Johnson managed to shave .14 from his lifetime best in the 200m at the MAI-Galan meeting in Malmo, Sweden. The World Championship 200m finalist produced a slick 20.35 seconds (+1.0mps) and moved from 14th to 6th on the Australian all-time list and is still in pursuit of Peter Norman's 37-year-old Australian record of 20.06 set at the Mexico Olympic Games in 1968.

For Commonwealth discus champion Scott Marlin, the World Athletics Final shot put competition was very much new territory. The lowest ranked of the eight finalists by some 50 centimetres and the least experienced at this level, Marlin produced a personal best of 20.38 metres first up, blowing away the more experienced Manuel Martinez (Spain), Tomasz Majewski (Poland) and Ralf Bartels (Germany). It was a great result for the 23 year old who ended up finishing 5th after sneaking into the Final. Representing Oceania, the Wodonga 'ballet dancer' capped off a great European season with a 4th place result in the shot put (20.25m) and 60.93m to finish 5th in the discus event at the World Cup.

After smashing her 3000m steeple personal best by nearly 10 seconds at the Commonwealth Games running 9:34.24, Victoria Mitchell claimed her first European victory in the 3000m steeplechase at the Josef Odlozil Memorial meeting in Prague. The 24 year old, who sports a bright red hairstyle when she competes, displayed outstanding form throughout the season which saw her ranked 7th in the world and also claimed a 4th place at the World Cup.

Tatiana Grigorieva, 30, proved that she's still got what it takes to compete on the international stage, equalling her five year old personal best of 4.56m at the IAAF Golden League meet in Brussels. This European season has proved to be one of revitalisation for Grigorieva. She has cast aside the technical hitches, which saw her miss critical first and second attempts during 2005, to find a consistency which has delivered first class results in 2006.

Fellow pole vaulter Kym Howe has been troubled by illness and injury in Europe and has struggled to find the scintillating form she displayed on the MCG in March when she set a personal best and new Commonwealth record of 4.62m. However she did reach respectable heights when she produced 4.51m to win the IAAF Grand Prix meet in Madrid and 4.50m at the World Athletics Final.

In a World Cup highlight, Sally McLellan, who commenced her European campaign late in the season, managed to pull out a personal best of 12.95 seconds in the 100m hurdles. Facing a slight headwind in Athens, the Queenslander eclipsed the magic 13 second barrier for the first time and just missed out on a place on the podium. She moved passed Jane Flemming to number two on the Australian all-time list and it seems only a matter of time before she claims the Australian record of 12.93 seconds set by Pam Ryan in 1972."

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Finally, in August the next generation of Australian stars shone at the World Junior Championships in Beijing – collecting two gold, a bronze and 14 personal bests.

Sydney teenager Dani Samuels produced a new personal best and beat a 16 year old Australian junior record in clinching the world junior championships discus title. The Commonwealth Games bronze medallist and world youth champion produced the longest throw by any Australian woman for three years, 60.63, to surpass the 16 year old record.

Samuels joined long jumper Robbie Crowther as world junior champion. The Craig Hilliard trained jumper leapt a personal best and new Australian junior record of 8.00m to claim the gold medal. It was the first time Australia had ever collected two golds to two different individual athletes at the world juniors.

Along with a bronze medal to Vicky Parnov in the women's pole vault, Australia finished 8th out of 179 countries on the medal tally, behind Kenya, China, Russia, Estonia (who were the surprise packet of the championships), USA, Jamaica and Ethiopia.

BOARD MEMBERS, MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

I warmly thank the Athletics Australia Board for their support and direction over the past year.

Special thanks to our two retiring Directors, Ken Roche and Paul Kennedy for their time and effort over eight years as Directors.

- Ken worked very hard as interim Chairman for 18 months since the critical review of our sport was released in 2004 and the precarious financial position at that time was recognised.. Our sincere thanks to you Ken.
- Paul has also been a Board member since 1999 and we thank you Paul for your contribution in your areas of expertise to Australian athletics over eight years.

To the conscientious and hard working staff, led by CEO Danny Corcoran, in the Athletics Australia office who work tirelessly, often under difficult conditions for the sport, I thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors.

I would like to thank the Australian Sports Commission for their ongoing support with special thanks to Mark Peters and the ASC team.

Also thanks to our Member Associations for their tremendous commitment to athletics at grassroots level. Athletics Australia wishes to work more closely with our six states and two territories. We recognise that communication from Athletics Australia in recent years to our MA's could have been much better.

Special thanks to our State Institutes of Sport/Academy of Sport partners who have supported our High Performance plans and who have been instrumental in their early implementation.

I would like to sincerely thank our coaches, officials and volunteers for the countless hours they give to assist in the running and growth of our sport. Without your support we could not effectively run the sport as a whole and in particular conduct world-class major events. Thank you.

We are continuing to engage and work in tandem with Australian Little Athletics and we welcome the opportunity in the future to unify the sport, bringing the athletics family together under the one umbrella. We held a joint workshop in early November to explore ways of working together and tomorrow the CEO's of both organisations will meet to make this more of a reality.

Thank you to all our sponsors, especially our principal sponsor Telstra who has supported athletics for many years and continues to be a fantastic supporter of sport in Australia. Thanks also to our new footwear and apparel sponsor, Asics, and other supporters including Accor and Musashi.

In closing, I remind the athletics fraternity that Athletics Australia and the City of Brisbane via the Queensland Events Corporation are bidding for the 2011 World Championships in Athletics. I have just returned from the IAAF World Athletics Gala Dinner and Council meetings held in Monaco last week. I'm pleased to report we have an excellent Bid and are considered to be one of the favourites. The Bid will be officially launched in Brisbane in co-ordination with our 2006/07 seasons launch on 30 November.

The winning city will be decided at the IAAF Council meeting at the 2007 World Cross Country Championships in Mombasa, Kenya, on 25 March. This is a prestigious world event and the IAAF Marketing Division points out that only the Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup are bigger in terms of global reach and impact.

If Brisbane wins it will give enormous impetus to our sport up to 2011 and beyond.

Finally, I'd like to say how much I have enjoyed the challenge in my first 12 months as President and Chairman of the Board of trying to improve our wonderful sport.

Thank you again to all who love athletics.

7. Presentation of the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2006, including:

7.1 The audited accounts comprising Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to Financial Statements;

The Finance reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

7.2 Reports of the Member Associations;

The Member Association Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

7.3 Reports of the Institutes and Academies of Sport; and

The Institutes and Academies of Sport Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

7.4 Reports of Athletics Australia's Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions.

The Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

The Annual Report and its contents were taken as read and confirmed.

Agenda items 7.1-7.4 were moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by Peter Bacich (WA).

8. Board of Directors

8.1 Retiring Directors, Paul Kennedy and Ken Roche AO

The meeting was informed that Directors, Paul Kennedy and Ken Roche AO would be retiring at the conclusion of the 2006 AGM.

8.2 Ratification of Board Members

In February 2006 Messrs Matthew Mahon & Michael Smellie filled vacancies on the Board left by the retirement of Herb Elliott AC, MBE and resignation of Russell Scrimshaw in November 2005.

Under the terms of The Company's Constitution, these appointments required the confirmation of the Members. Moved by Peter Bacich (WA) and seconded by Michael Verwey (SA). The appointments were confirmed.

8.3 Election of Board Directors

The non-retiring Directors of The Company nominated Messrs David Grace Q.C and Nicholas Moore to fill the vacancies on the board. The Members received curriculum vitae's of both nominations prior to the meeting.

The appointments were moved by Peter Bacich (WA) and Michael Verwey (SA), a vote was cast with all members in favour, and the appointments of Messrs Grace and Moore are therefore accepted.

9. Life Membership & Merit Awards

In accordance with clause 7.7 of the Constitution the Directors submitted two nominations for honorary life membership, David Prince OAM and Ken Roche AO. The members had received information outlining Messrs Prince and Roche's distinguished service to the Company over a significant time period.

The members deferred Life Membership decisions of both nominations until a Special General meeting which is to take place on Saturday, 3 March where a more comprehensive nomination criteria and process will be established.

The Board endorsed the four nominations that had been received for Athletics Australia Merit Awards, being David Culbert (nominated by AA), Wayne Fletcher (TAS), Maurie Plant (AA) and Chris Wilson (TAS). The Merit Award was then conferred to the four worthy recipients.

10. General Business

Peter Bacich (WA) requested The Company consider holding future AGM's on the first Wednesday of November.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.10pm.

Taken as a true and correct record

Rob Fildes, OAM - President

Date