



**Athletics Australia**  
**ABN 72 006 447 294**

**Minutes of 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 26 October 2018, at Athletics House, Catherine Freeman Room, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park Victoria**

**Ordinary Business**

**1. Apologies and obituaries**

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.31am and welcomed Directors, Delegates, Life Governors, Life Members and observers.

**Present**

Mark Arbib  
Jan Swinhoe  
Brenda LaPorte  
Peter Bromley  
Geoff Nicholson  
Sally Pearson  
Ben Sellenger  
Chris Wardlaw

**Position**

President and Chair, Athletics Australia  
Vice President, Athletics Australia  
Vice President, Athletics Australia  
Director, Athletics Australia  
Director, Athletics Australia  
Director, Athletics Australia  
Director, Athletics Australia  
Director, Athletics Australia  
CEO, Athletics Australia  
Company Secretary, Athletics Australia

Darren Gocher  
Darren Boyd

Members, Delegates

Neil Boden  
Peter Higgins  
Kevin Mulvahil  
Desmond Johnston  
Jane Russo  
Shelley Miller  
Jamie Strudley  
Tim Lyons

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

Members, Executives

David Gynther  
Glenn Turnor

CEO, Queensland Athletics  
CEO, Athletics Victoria (for Heather Ridley)

Other attendees

Margaret Mahony OAM  
Brian Roe OAM  
Roy Boyd OAM  
Michael Thomson  
Simon Baker  
Bev Boyd  
Martin Stillman  
Michael Hall  
Adam Bishop  
Andrew Faichney  
David King

Life Governor  
Life Governor  
Life Governor  
Life Member  
CEO, Little Athletics Australia  
Executive, Athletics Australia  
Executive, Athletics Australia  
Executive, Athletics Australia  
Executive, Athletics Australia

Alison Campbell	Executive, Athletics Australia
Rob Ewart	Executive, Athletics Australia
Michelle James	Executive, Athletics Australia
James Selby	Executive, Athletics Australia

#### External Auditors

Tony Rose	Director, Lachlan Nielson Partners
Adam Pitts	Grant Thornton Audit
Crystel Gangemi	Grant Thornton Audit

### **Apologies**

Anne Lord	Director, Athletics Australia
Craig Hilliard	Life Member and Head Coach, Athletics Australia
John Bailey AM	Life Governor
Ian Boswell	Life Governor
Pat Clohessy AM	Life Governor
Rob Fildes OAM	Life Governor
Peter Hamilton	Life Governor
Jill Huxley	Life Governor
Ronda Jenkins OAM	Life Governor
Paul Jenes OAM	Life Governor
Clive Lee AM	Life Governor
Margaret Mahony OAM	Life Governor
Lorraine Morgan AM	Life Governor
Brenda Pearl OAM	Life Governor
David Prince OAM	Life Governor
Denis Wilson AM	Life Governor
Yvonne Mullins	Executive Director, Oceania Athletics Association
Geoff Gardner	President, Oceania Athletics Association

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 2017 (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 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 27 October 2017 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:
  - Stellar results at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games where Australia led the medal tally for athletics. The Chair paid credit to the team management and co-captains Sally Person and Kurt Fearnley in particular for fostering a wonderful team culture.
  - The team that went to the World U20 Championship and produced the best medal result and team performance since 1996; finishing seventh on the medal table and with a high proportion of personal best performances.
  - The Diamond League results across the board, but in particular Brandon Starc becoming only the fourth Australian to win a Diamond League trophy.
  - All medal winners at other major events, including the Commonwealth Half Marathon Championships (Jack Rayner, gold, and Celia Sullohern, silver), and record-setters – including both world and Australian record breakers.
  - The Youth Olympic Games team to Buenos Aires who secured five medals and finished fifth on the medal tally.
  
- The Chair noted some of the opportunities and challenges ahead.
  - One of the major issues is the IAAF ranking systems which is proposed to be introduced for World Championship and Olympic qualification. Athletics Australia supports the principle but has concerns that the system will harm Australian athletes, so it is working to ensure that our athletes are not disadvantaged.
  - Coaching reform and improvement remain at the forefront of the Board's agenda. The Board considers that we have an excellent group of people involved in AA's high-performance team and coaching our athletes, however we acknowledge that there is further work to be done to improve the structures and framework around coaching. AA has established a "Coaches Commission" to assess this issue.
  - The Board noted that there are challenges with how the Federal government will be funding sport going forward. Accordingly, the AA Foundation was re-established (with the assistance of the Australian Sports Foundation) to seek fundraising from the corporate and philanthropic sector. The intent is that all funds raised will be provided directly to athletes, coaches and officials through scholarships. The chair of that group is Sydney-based businessman, Andrew Salter.
  - On Nitro Athletics, the Board and Management had worked hard to secure the right partners but had so far been unable to bring Nitro back to the level it was in 2017. Accordingly, the focus had shifted to developing the product at grassroots level with potential for a major Nitro event in 2020 during the anniversary of the Sydney Olympics.
  - AA's broader commercial strategy has evolved to explore and initiate recreational running events. The Chair specifically noted the joint venture partnership between AA and Athletics NSW on RunWest and noted AA's desire to explore partnerships with all Member Associations on a commercial basis.

- The Chair noted that a goal of Athletics Australia was to bid for a major IAAF championship. Discussions had commenced with the IAAF and State governments regarding both the 2021 IAAF World Cross Country Championships and the 2025 IAAF World Championships.
- The Chair was thrilled to acknowledge the establishment of the Peter Norman Humanitarian Award and the commissioning of a statue which would stand at Lakeside Stadium in Melbourne. The Chair noted that Peter represented the values that Athletics Australia hopes that its athletes and members will exhibit. Eloise Wellings was the initial recipient of the Peter Norman Humanitarian Award.
- 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 that the President had given a comprehensive description of the major achievements throughout the athletics community during the year and he added his congratulations and thanks to all. Regarding the Commonwealth Games team, the CEO paid particular tribute to our three women in the 10,000m – Eloise Wellings, Celia Sullohern and Madeline Hills – who demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship and were nominated for a Laureas World Sport Award.
- Athletics Australia released a new strategic plan and value statement during the year. This was the product of broad consultation with members and drew upon previous research and engagement with other partners in the community. The CEO and Board are confident that this sets AA's course appropriately for the next three years.
- One Sport is one of the pillars of the strategic plan and there is significant engagement between AA and Little Athletics Australia and their respective members. There was a joint position statement on junior sport released earlier in 2018 which was a powerful development, and other initiatives will follow.
- Financially, Athletics Australia remains in a strong position. Investment decisions will be made in accordance with the strategic plan.
- The commercial strategy and diversification of revenue streams continues to develop. In the financial year, AA was able to secure the landmark deal with Coles (in partnership with Little Athletics Australia) and a significant deal with a new apparel partner – BLK.
- The CEO added a further congratulations to Kurt Fearnley for winning the coveted "Don Award" at the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.
- 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 2018 were tabled.

## 6. Election/Ratification of Directors

Vice President, Jan Swinhoe took the Chair of the meeting.

The Chair reported that Mark Arbib, Geoff Nicholson, Ben Sellenger and Chris Wardlaw, being eligible, had offered themselves for election as directors of Athletics Australia for a further term in accordance with clause 28.3 of the Constitution.

The Chair noted that under clause 25.1 of the Constitution, it had been unanimously agreed by the Members. That Mark Arbib, Geoff Nicholson, Ben Sellenger and Chris Wardlaw be re-elected as directors.

The Chair congratulated the directors on their appointment.

## 7. Election of Auditors

Mark Arbib resumed the Chair of the meeting.

The Board of Athletics Australia has endorsed the appointment of a new auditor for Athletics Australia following a tender process.

The Chair reported that, under clause 25.1 of the Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed:

*That Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd be appointed as auditor of the Company, subject to receiving Australian Securities and Investment Commission consent to the resignation of the current auditor, LNP Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd.*

## 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 Graham Dwight, David Grace QC, Charlene Rendina, Peter Reynolds, Gerard Ryan and Ted Simmons OAM.*

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

## 9. Constitution

This item included a series of special resolutions to amend the Company's Constitution. The proposed special resolutions were put to the Members after being endorsed by the Board.

The Chair reported that, under clause 25.1 of the Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed to all nine special resolutions, which were as follows.

- i. That clause 27.1 of the Company's constitution be amended to state that the maximum number of Directors is ten, excluding any Director holding office ex officio as an IAAF Council member under clause 28.7 (who would, if required, be an additional Director).

- ii. That the Company's constitution be amended by deleting the reference in clause 27.1 to the "Chairperson of the Athletics Australia Athletes Commission" and replacing it with reference to the "Athletes' Commission Representative", then adding the following definitions to clause 2.1.

*"'Athletes' Commission' means a group which may be constituted under a charter approved by either the Board or CEO from time to time to represent athletes and inform the Board or CEO (as the case may be) about their concerns, interests or needs. For the avoidance of doubt, the Board or CEO may designate that the Athletes' Commission operates under another name."*

*"'Athletes' Commission Representative' means a Director that has been nominated by the Athletes' Commission and approved by the Nominations Committee from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt, their rights, obligations and term limits will be as for any other Director."*

*"'Nominations Committee' means the group constituted under clause 28.1."*

- iii. That the Company's constitution be amended by adding the following as a new clause 27.3.

*"27.3 The Company aims to ensure that no one gender is to constitute less than 40% of the total number of Directors at any one time."*

- iv. That the Company's constitution be amended by deleting the current clause 28.7 and replacing it with the following:

*Subject to this clause remaining a requirement of the IAAF constitution, any Australian citizen and resident that is a member of the IAAF Council from time to time may elect to also be a Director of the Company. If that person so elects, they will be a Director ex officio, without the need for election, and their rights and obligations will be as for any other Director.*

- v. That clauses 28.1 to 28.5 be deleted and replaced with the provisions set out below, and to incorporate the relevant definitions into clause 2.1:

*"28.1 A Nominations Committee will be formed with the principal purpose of ensuring that candidates for positions as Elected Directors possess skills, qualifications and experience to contribute to the Board and the sport. The Nominations Committee will comprise two Directors (appointed by the Board from time to time), two Member Association Representatives and one independent member. The Member Association Representatives will rotate annually amongst the Members on a four-year cycle. The Nominations Committee shall have a charter approved by the Board.*

*28.2 The Nominations Committee will call for nominations for positions as Elected Directors through a Notice in Writing to each Member's president / chair and chief executive officer, and in any other manner it deems appropriate. Whilst the Nominations Committee is entitled to set its own timeline in accordance with its charter, at a minimum this Notice in Writing must have been delivered by 30 June in each year and the nominations period must remain open for 28 days. The accidental omission to give notice to, or the non-receipt*

of the notice by, any person entitled to receive notice under this clause does not invalidate the process.

28.3 The Nominations Committee may endorse nominated candidates, or not, in its discretion. All nominations endorsed by the Nominations Committee will be submitted to a general meeting of the Company for election. Only people endorsed by the Nominations Committee may be put to the members for election as an Elected Director. For the avoidance of the doubt, there is no minimum or maximum number of candidates the Nominations Committee may endorse in any year.

28.4 Election of Elected Directors will be determined by an exhaustive ballot in accordance with the procedure described in the By-Laws from time to time.

28.5 Subject to this Constitution and the Law, Elected Directors will hold office for a term of three years. Elected Directors whose term has concluded and that are seeking re-election will require a renewed endorsement from the Nominations Committee.

28.6 No Director shall hold office for a continuous period of more than nine years from the time they are first elected or appointed to the Board."

Additional definitions for clause 2.1:

"'Elected Directors' means a Director elected by the Members at a General Meeting following endorsement by the Nominations Committee."

"'Member Association Representative' means a current president / chair of a Member, or an alternative person nominated by the board / committee of a Member from time to time.

"'Nominations Committee' means the group constituted under clause 28.1."

vi. That clauses 32 to 36 be deleted and replaced with the provision set out below:

"32. Directors are not entitled to appoint an alternate director."

vii. That the current clause 50 be deleted and replaced with the following:

"50. A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by email, facsimile, online portal or other form of visible or other electronic communication by all the Directors will be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of Directors duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed or assented to by one or more of the Directors. The resolution is passed on the date and at the time when the last Director signs or assents and must as soon as practicable be entered in the minutes of the next Board meeting."

viii. That a new clause 54.4 be added that reads as follows:

"54.4 Where a Director has disclosed an interest under this clause they will, unless otherwise determined by the Board, absent themselves from discussion of such matter and shall not be entitled to vote in respect of such matter. In the event of any uncertainty as to whether it is necessary for a Director to absent

*themselves from discussions and refrain from voting, the issue should be immediately determined by vote of the Board, or if this is not possible, the matter shall be adjourned or deferred. The Company Secretary will maintain a register of declared interests."*

- ix. That the Company's constitution be amended with such consequential amendments as are required to ensure that special resolutions adopted above (if any) results in a constitution that is clear, complete and with accurate cross-references.

## 10. Other Business

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

- Ms Mahony noted that in the annual report of Athletics Australia, the overall registration number is not split between men and women; could this be amended?
- Ms Mahony queried what the Board and Management were doing to drive people to participate and become members of Athletics Australia and its members. Ms Mahony noted that women, in particular, have provided the sport with some of its most successful moments and yet there was significantly more competition between participation sports now.
- Ms Mahony commended AA and Little Athletics Australia for continuing to work together and asked who was on the "working group" between the two bodies?
- Ms Mahony noted that AA had been without a permanent High-Performance Director for over two years and enquired who was leading that team and what the plan were for the future.
- Ms Mahony enquired about how Athletics Australia was treating young people and ensuring that programs were age appropriate?
- Ms Mahony commended Athletics Australia for the work it was doing with indigenous youth, but also asked if similar programs could be targeted towards youth from other communities – particularly those with economic disadvantage?
- Lastly, Ms Mahony asked the Board and Management for further information and better communication about what is happening at that level – how is this being disseminated?

The Chair thanked Ms Mahony for her comments and he and the CEO responded to the following matters.

- It was agreed that the participation data for men and women could be broken down further.
- It was noted that three years ago, AA's membership was approximately 22,000 people and it is now above 40,000. Several initiatives have driven this within various member associations; however, the Board and Management were continuing to work with the Members to innovate and engage with the community in more meaningful ways. It was acknowledged that the "traditional membership" model was not the only one.
- Regarding AA and LAA, it was noted that the working group included AA representatives Ben Sellenger, Chris Wardlaw and Anne Lord, plus LAA representatives Andrew Prior, Andrew Gosling and Donna Smith. Martin Stillman, CEO of LAA also addressed the meeting. He noted that he thought the relationship between the two bodies was the best it had been during his time in the role. He noted that there were



approximately 30 initiatives being worked upon between the parties at both state and national level.

- Regarding the AA HP team, the CEO noted that AA had made the decision to move away from one position of “High Performance Director” and so the HP team had a different leadership structure as a result. Currently, Andrew Faichney is leading the team as the Head of HP Systems, and a new role was created that had the title of “Head of Performance and Coaching”. When appointed, that person would work alongside Head Coach, Craig Hilliard, and the rest of the team to optimise performance.
- Regarding community programs and age-appropriate development, the CEO noted that AA has its Active Kids program which is performing very well in the school community, and Little Athletics Australia has its LAPS program which targets school-age children. Further, AA has appointed an inclusion and diversity manager whose role is specifically designed to target community groups that have significant barriers to participation and assist them to find opportunities within the sport.
- Finally, the CEO directed Ms Mahony and others towards AA's website which included Board summaries and other relevant information that was regularly updated.

Life Member Michael Thompson enquired about QRun's database and participation figures. The meeting heard that that program – which is exclusively Queensland based and targeting the recreational running market – was expanding.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.48am.

Signed as a true and correct record.

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**Chair**

.....  
**Date**

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA – SPECIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

OBITUARIES

**DURING 2017 – 2018 REPORT YEAR**

Bruce Ainslie (SA) – Club Administrator

Don Allen (NSW) – National Technical Official

Jarrold Bannister (Qld) – National Record Holder, Commonwealth Champion

Edwin Carr (NSW) – Commonwealth champion 440 yards; Olympian

Dennis Chugg (Tas) – Club Administrator

Wayne Clark (NSW) – Coach

Stephen Crook (Vic) – Finance Director, Athletics Australia

Betty Cuthbert (NSW) – Olympic Champion and Member of the IAAF Hall of Fame

John Daly OAM (SA) – AA Life Member, National Team Manager, Coach

Judy (Hart) (Tapfield) Daly (SA) – National Champion and Coach

Steven Downes (Vic) – National Technical Official

Fira Dvoskina (NSW) - Coach

Michael Foster (Tas) – Official and Club Administrator

Ken Hall (Vic) – National Technical Official

Peter Halson (Vic) – Athlete

Joyce Hanger (Green) (Vic) - National Champion at 880 yards

Bev Jaye (NSW) – National Technical Official

Joy Jarvis (SA) – ASA Life Member

RA (Tony) Lethbridge (Vic) – Coach and Club Administrator

Nikki Lopez (WA) – Official

Geoffrey Martin OAM (NSW) – AA Life Governor, International Starter, National Team Manager

Joan Morgan (Vic) - Official

Rex Morriss (Tas) – AT Life Member, Coach, Official

Fred O'Connor (NSW) – National Technical Official, Athlete, Coach

Colin Oliver (Tas) – National Representative 100km Road Challenge

Marion Patterson OAM (Vic) – AA Life Member, IAAF Race Walk Judge

Damien O'Shea (Vic) - Athlete

Michael Ryan (Vic) - 1964 Olympian and National Champion

Brenda Smith (NSW) – Coach, Club Administrator

Ray Weinberg AM (Vic) – AA Life Member, Olympian, National Team Manager

Brian Williams (Vic) – National Technical Official

Thea Welsby (NSW) – Athlete

Gavan Wood (Tas) – AT Merit Award Holder

### **SINCE 1 JULY 2018**

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

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

Bob Fossey (Vic) – National Technical Official

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

Patrick Leane Snr (Vic) – Dual Olympian, National Decathlon Champion

Warwick Selvey (Qld) – Commonwealth Discus Champion

Barrie Tucker (SA) – National Championships medallist in Discus Throw

Paul Tucker (Vic) - Athlete