



Athletics Australia

ABN 72 006 447 294

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 22 October 2021 via videoconference only

Ordinary Business

1. Apologies and obituaries

The Company Secretary confirmed a quorum was present and the Chair opened the meeting at 10.05am and welcomed Directors, Delegates, Life Governors, Life Members and guests.

Present

Jan Swinhoe
Geoff Nicholson
Mark Arbib
Jeff Cook
Jill Davies
Megan Dwyer
Jane Flemming
Brian Miller
Chris Wardlaw

Position

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

Peter Bromley
Darren Boyd

Chief Executive Officer
Company Secretary

Members, Delegates

Neil Boden
Matthew Whitbread
Shane Wylie
Yvonne Mullins
Jane Russo
Damon Thomas
Rob Wendel
Tim Lyons

President, Athletics ACT
President, Athletics New South Wales
Director, Athletics Northern Territory
President, Queensland Athletics
President, Athletics South Australia
President, Athletics Tasmania
Vice President, Athletics Victoria
Chair, Athletics West

Members, Executives

Edward Wilson
Kirin Lindop
Leanne Chin
David Gynther
Shane Fuller
Glenn Turnor
Vince Del Prete

Executive Officer, Athletics ACT
CEO, Athletics New South Wales
Executive Officer, Athletics Northern Territory
CEO, Queensland Athletics
CEO, Athletics South Australia
CEO, Athletics Victoria and Athletics Tasmania
CEO, Athletics West

Other attendees

Teresa Blackman
Peter Hamilton
Paul Jenes OAM
Lorraine Morgan AM
Brian Roe OAM
Kirsteen Farrance

Deputy Chair, Athletics West
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Member

David Grace AM QC	Life Member
Craig Hilliard	Life Member
Ian Jones	Life Member
Richard Lawysz	Life Member
Heather Mitchell	Life Member
Peter Reynolds	Life Member
Joe Stevens	Life Member
David Tarbotton	Life Member
Phillip Urquhart	Australian Masters Athletics
Judy Farrell	Australian Masters Athletics
Jayne Hardy	Australian Masters Athletics
Thomas O'Shaughnessy	Oceania Athletics
Matt Mahon	Oceania Athletics
Kate Palmer	CEO, One Athletics
Dr Peter Brukner OAM	Life Member elect
Lynda Gusbeth	Life Member elect
Des Johnston	Life Member elect
Nick Moore	Life Member elect
Marian O'Shaughnessy	Life Member elect
Tim O'Shaughnessy	Life Member elect
Adam Bishop	Executive, Athletics Australia
Andrew Faichney	Executive, Athletics Australia
Cara Honeychurch	Executive, Athletics Australia
Michelle James	Executive, Athletics Australia
Michael Angus	Staff, Athletics Australia
Nic Bideau	Staff, Athletics Australia
Steve Caddy	Staff, Athletics Australia
Emily Calwell	Staff, Athletics Australia
Jemma Caon	Staff, Athletics Australia
Anthony Curry	Staff, Athletics Australia
Kirsty Delaney	Staff, Athletics Australia
Adam Didyk	Staff, Athletics Australia
Megan Ellis	Staff, Athletics Australia
Olivia Flynn	Staff, Athletics Australia
Jo Hyland	Staff, Athletics Australia
Craig Pickering	Staff, Athletics Australia
Sascha Ryner	Staff, Athletics Australia
Nathan Sims	Staff, Athletics Australia
Nicole Tumblety	Staff, Athletics Australia
<u>External Auditors</u>	
Crystel Gangemi	Grant Thornton Audit
Hannah Hollingworth	Grant Thornton Audit

Apologies

Lynne Jackson (President, Athletics NT)
Allison Robison (President, Athletics Vic)

Anne Lord OAM (Life Member elect)
Dr Dick Telford AM (Life Member elect)

Life Governors

Ian Boswell OAM
Ronda Jenkins OAM
Brenda Pearl OAM
David Prince OAM

Life Members

Rob Blackadder
Jackie Byrnes OAM
Bob Cruise
Dave Cundy
Carol Grant
Susan Hobson
Tony Keynes OAM
Diane Lowden
Betty Moore
Tony Rice
Jeanette Robertson OAM
Gerard Ryan
Trevor Vincent OAM

Commencing the meeting and welcoming all members and guests, the Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of all lands on which Athletics Australia (**AA**) walks, runs, jumps, throws, rolls, meets and does business, and confirmed that AA pays its respects to their elders, past and present. AA acknowledges the important contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make in creating a strong and vibrant Australian society.

The Chair then moved to an acknowledgment that the pandemic had made it an extremely challenging year for everyone, so she thanked the members, staff and partners for their leadership and support of the entire athletics community.

As in 2020, the Chair noted that, in accordance with the Company's constitution and the *Corporations Act*, the Board determined that a remote meeting was necessary and appropriate for the Meeting. The Meeting was facilitated through a company named Azeus Convene and accessed at the following temporary website:
<https://conveneagm.com/au/athleticsaustraliaagm2021>

The Company Secretary performed a roll call of attendees for the benefit of all attendees as, whilst attendees could communicate with the Chair and Company Secretary through the videoconference platform, they were not able to see all participants.

The Chair introduced all Directors and noted that Athletics Australia's auditors were also present.

During the meeting, the Chair invited AA Life Governor, Brian Roe, to read out the names of the members of the athletics family who had passed away since 1 July 2020 (Attached).

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting

The minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 30 October 2020 were adopted 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 noted that Director, Mark Arbib, had been President until 7 September 2021. Mr Arbib resigned as President and the Chair, director Jan Swinhoe, was appointed President by the Board. Ms Swinhoe addressed the Meeting first, providing the following highlights and acknowledgments.

Summary

- Just like last year, 2021 delivered Athletics Australia many obstacles. The organisation was tested in different ways, but despite this, our collective endeavours saw our athletes compete successfully at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the organisation remained financially strong, and positioned itself for the unification of the sport, ahead of the proposed One Athletics merger with Little Athletics Australia.

High Performance

- In a year with few international competition opportunities, our domestic season became a highlight for many. Many records were broken in both Australia and overseas, including:
 - Nicola McDermott became the first Australian woman to clear 2.00m in the high jump at the Australian Track and Field Championships on her way to winning a silver medal at the Olympic Games;
 - Ash Moloney made his mark on senior competition in the decathlon, breaking the Oceania record, before later winning a bronze medal at the Olympic Games;
 - Nina Kennedy became an Australian record holder for the first time with a 4.82m pole vault jump at the Sydney Track Classic;
 - Stewart McSweyn, Patrick Tiernan, Jessica Hull and Linden Hall all breaking Australian records in their respective events too, highlighting the resurgence of Australian middle distance running;
 - Jaryd Clifford broke multiple world records in the 1500m T12 and the marathon, and then went on to win three Paralympic medals in Tokyo;
 - Vanessa Low bettered her own world record in the long jump T61; and
 - Michael Roeger also broke his own world record in the 5000m T46 at the Sydney Track Classic.
- Unfortunately, the World Under 20 Championship team was not able to compete in Kenya this year, but their talent shone when many of them were able to don the green and gold at high performance meets on the Gold Coast, hosted by Oceania Athletics.
- The success of our athletes would not have been possible without the work of the Athletics Australia High Performance team led by Andrew Faichney, Alison Campbell and Craig Hilliard, as well as AA's excellent Event Group Leads and personal coaches.

One Athletics

- This year the work towards the unification of our sport with Little Athletics Australia continued, with a vision for Australian Athletics to provide a clear and logical pathway for athletes, coaches and officials throughout their life in the sport. We made strong headways towards the merger and we are well positioned to deliver on the goal in the next few months. This year, Kate Palmer joined our sport as the OneAthletics CEO, and launched the "Australian Athletics" brand. She and her team built a prospective platform that has the potential to inspire every Australian to participate in Athletics.

World Athletics Cross Country Championships

- Once again, COVID-19 forced the postponement of the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Bathurst, which was a real disappointment. However, with the support of World Athletics, the NSW Government and the City of Bathurst, we are now looking forward to holding this iconic event in 2023.

Governance

- Amongst of all this, AA was pleased to welcome three new Directors to Board: Jill Davies, Megan Dwyer and Brian Miller. The President noted her pride at the work that the Board has done together over the past year, and considers it one of the strongest boards that Athletics Australia has assembled.

Note of appreciation

- In particular, the Board acknowledges:
 - The support of the Australian Government and Federal Minister for Sport, Senator Richard Colbeck;
 - The Australian Sports Commission and Sport Australia, in particular Chair, Josephine Sukkar, and outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Peter Conde, for their support, along with the National Institute Network;
 - The wonderful contribution of the State Member Associations, with a special thanks to the Presidents, CEOs and their board members who have engaged so broadly with AA over the last year with a particular focus on One Athletics;
 - Little Athletics Australia for its work towards bringing One Athletics to life;
 - The Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympic Australia, who provided an extraordinary level of support for the Tokyo campaigns in the toughest of environments;
 - Commonwealth Games Australia for their assistance in funding some of our high performance programs, and we look forward to working with CGA in this next year as we all turn our attention to Birmingham 2022;
- The President recognised the work of AA's outgoing President, Mark Arbib, whose vision, work ethic and ability to inspire will leave a strong legacy.
- The staff of AA who have delivered consistently throughout another difficult year.
- Finally, the myriad volunteers, officials, coaches and athletes that are the lifeblood of the sport.

The Chair invited Director and former President, Mark Arbib to address the meeting. Mr Arbib noted that he was extremely proud to be succeeded as President by Ms Swinhoe, who he considers will be a great asset for the organisation. He thanked the volunteers, whether they are his fellow directors or the grass roots officials. He sincerely appreciates their love of athletics and the community.

Mr Arbib noted a number of highlights from his tenure as President, in particular launching Nitro Athletics and bringing Usain Bolt out to compete in Australia, and winning the right to host the World Cross Country Championships. He encouraged all in the athletics community to keep innovating, and to keep the best opportunities (including team-based athletics) to bring the sport to life.

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 he commenced in the role in April 2021, though was familiar with the organisation having previously been a Director and administrator. The CEO noted how impressed he was with how the organisation adapted to another year of managing COVID-related challenges. In particular, the AA staff remained focused and have shown true resilience, and he expressed his gratitude for their dedication.
- The CEO noted the incredible focus that was on the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The teams produced wonderful results, and from a broadcast and media perspective, the sport was at the highest levels of engagement with the Australian public. The CEO again thanked the Australian Government, Sport Australia, Commonwealth Games Australia, the AOC and Paralympics Australia.

- The CEO mentioned the immense work that was required to hold competitions in a COVID Safe environment, and thanked all of those who assisted in this regard, including AA and MA Staff and volunteers around the country, as well as the NSW Office of Sport, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre who all contributed greatly to the success of the Australian Track and Field Championships.
- Significant time has been invested by the CEO and AA staff leaders to develop a revised structure, improved outcomes for staff, record Sporting Schools program delivery and participation reach, progression with the Reconciliation Action Plan, and efforts in the LGBTQI space (which saw AA achieve its highest ever score in the annual Pride in Sport Index and bronze level recognition in the annual Pride in Sport Awards for the first time).
- In the Para space, AA developed an MOU with seven national sporting organisations with a disability, to form the Athletics Australia Disability Inclusion Group to harness the expertise of our partners and to enhance collaboration.
- The CEO noted the fantastic support from AA's principal partners: Coles, PUMA and The Athletes Foot.
- The CEO then thanked a number of individuals and groups:
 - Mark Arbib and the AA Board for their work;
 - Kate Palmer and her One Athletics project team;
 - Hundreds of technical officials, and volunteers, with special mention of Brian Roe, Helen Roberts, Janet Nixon, Zoe Bryant, Caroline Jackman and Peter Hamilton who were all recognised on World Athletics officiating panels or as part of the Tokyo Games;
 - Life Governors and Members, many of whom continue to make significant contributions in their time and in other ways to support our sport;
 - Finally – the athletes across Australia from the grassroots to the elite. Together with our coaches, officials, volunteers, they are the heart and soul 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 2021 were tabled.

No questions were received.

6. Election/Ratification of Directors

The term of director Mark Arbib ends at the conclusion of this AGM. The Chair again thanked Mr Arbib for his service to the Board and the sport of athletics.

Regarding the election of Directors, the proposed resolutions were set out in the notice of meeting. Following the endorsement of the Athletics Australia Nominations Committee, the Members were asked to consider:

- ratifying the appointments of Directors Jill Davies, Megan Dwyer and Brian Miller who had all been appointed as Directors by the Board under clause 29.1 of the Constitution since the last AGM; and
- re-electing Geoff Nicholson and Chris Wardlaw as Directors of the Company in accordance with Clause 28 of the Constitution.

By signed written resolutions completed by all Members prior to the Meeting (under clause 25 of the Constitution), the Members unanimously ratified the appointments of Directors Jill Davies, Megan Dwyer and Brian Miller, and re-elected Geoff Nicholson and Chris Wardlaw as Directors.

The Chair declared the resolutions carried unanimously and congratulated the Directors on their appointment. The Chair invited the Directors to address the meeting.

Director, Jill Davies, addressed the meeting. Ms Davies noted her delight at being appointed a Director of AA. Ms Davies discussed her 25-years' experience with major events, commencing as part of SOCOG ahead of Sydney 2000. Ms Davies is co-chair of the Local Organising Committee for the World Cross Country Championships and has joined the Board of RunWest.

Director, Megan Dwyer, addressed the meeting, also noting her appreciation for the appointment and the time she has spent on the Board since March. Ms Dwyer discussed her expertise in people and culture matters, and the work she had been doing with the Board and CEO to help drive the high performance culture throughout the organisation. Ms Dwyer has also joined the Board of RunWest.

Director, Brian Miller, also thanked for Board and Members for the opportunity to serve as a Director. Mr Miller noted that joining the Board in January deepened his long association with the sport which commenced as an athlete, and continued as a sports psychologist which included attending Olympic Games spanning 1984 with the British team through to 2016 with the Australian. Mr Miller is chair of AA's Ethics & Integrity Committee.

7. Election of Auditors

The Chair reported that, under clause 60 of the Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed that Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd be reappointed as auditor of the Company.

8. Special Awards

Under clause 25 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, the members unanimously agreed by written resolution that:

Under clause 7.7 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, Honorary Life Membership be conferred upon the following individuals that have been nominated by the Special Awards Committee and whose candidacy has been approved by the Board: Dr Peter Brukner OAM, Lynda Gusbeth, Des Johnston, Anne Lord OAM, Nick Moore, Marian O'Shaughnessy, Tim O'Shaughnessy, Dr Dick Telford.

Life Governor, Brian Roe, read citations describing the wonderful contributions that each of these individuals has made to the sport.

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

9. Other Business

No further business was raised by Members, Life Governors or Life Members.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.15am.

Signed as a true and correct record.


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Chair

30/8/22
.....
Date

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021

OBITUARIES

DURING 2020 – 2021 REPORT YEAR

Garry Adair (SA) ASA Life Member

Vesmonis 'Wes' Balodis

Matthew Barber

Dr Anthony 'Tony' Blue

Peter Bowman

Joy Bradbury (VIC) National Technical Official, Club Administrator

Don Bursill, Athlete

David Chisholm

Russell Dickenson (VIC) Athlete

Peter Fullager

Jean Irene (Alway) Gell OAM

Bill Halley (TAS) AT Merit Award Holder

Bev (Wilkins) Hayman

Douglas Henderson

Christine (Thompson) Hunt

Bill Jacobs (NSW) Coach

Clive Ditton Lee AM

Dr Nicholas Linthorne

Hans-Martin Lotz

Paul Malone (QLD) Athletics Writer

Richard Charles 'Rick' Mitchell

Gracie McDarra (NSW) ANSW Merit Award Holder

Jarmillia Murphy-Knight

Ian Raymund Pennafort White

Charles 'Chilla' Porter

William Prosser (TAS) AT Merit Award Holder

Ian Manley Reed

Neil Robbins

Geoff Seagrim (SA) Club Administrator and Life Member

June Seagrim (SA) Club Administrator and Life Member

Neville John Sillitoe OAM

Andy Stubbs (Qld) Athlete Representative

Marie Tillett (NSW) National Technical Official, ANSW Merit Award Holder

Bill Toohey (VIC) National Technical Official, AV Life Member

Robert 'Rob' Wallace, Athlete

Lloyd Way (QLD) Coach

Shirley (Ogle) Weinberg

Ann White (NSW) Technical Official, Volunteer

Douglas Frank Winston

John Zanfirache (QLD) National Coach, National Team Coach

SINCE 1 JULY 2021

Ricky Dunbar (VIC) Pro-runner

Patricia Hamilton (TAS) AT Life Member

Noel Ruddock AM (TAS) AA Life Governor, National Team Official

Clyde Spencer (TAS) AT Merit Award Holder

Geoff Walker (VIC) National Champion