



Athletics Australia
ABN 72 006 447 294

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 21 October 2022 (2.00pm) at Athletics House, (Catherine Freeman Room) ground floor, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park VIC 3206.

Ordinary Business

1. Welcome, apologies and obituaries

Jan Swinhoe, Chair of Athletics Australia welcomed Members, Directors, Life Governors, Life Members, Athletics Australia staff and invited guests to the Annual General Meeting. The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country:

Athletics Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we walk, run, jump, throw and roll. We pay our deepest respects to Indigenous elders throughout Australia, both past and present.'

The Chair introduced the directors of the Company, confirmed a quorum was present and opened the meeting at 2.05pm.

The Company Secretary also welcomed those present at the AGM and performed a roll call of the following apologies:

Apologies	Position
Ronda Jenkins OAM	Life Governor
Peter Hamilton	Life Governor
Brenda Pearl OAM	Life Governor
David Prince OAM	Life Governor
Jill Huxley	Life Governor
Dennis Wilson AM	Life Governor
Ian Boswell OAM	Life Governor
Paul Jenes OAM	Life Governor
Trevor Vincent OAM	Life Member
Glynis Nunn OAM	Life Member
Tony Keynes OAM	Life Member
Peter Duras	Life Member
Desmond Johnston	Life Member
Rob Blackadder	Life Member
Susan Hobson	Life Member
Janelle Eldridge OAM	Life Member
Dave Cundy	Life Member
Peter Donovan	Life Member
Pam Ryan AM MBE	Life Member
Jeanette Robertson OAM	Life Member
Gerard Ryan	Life Member
Tony Rice	Life Member
Nick Moore	Life Member
Kirsten Farrance	Life Member
Carol Grant	Life Member
Joe Stevens OAM	Life Member
Heather Mitchell OAM	Life Member
David Tarbotton	Life Member
Alessandro Bisetto	Life Member

Khan Sharp	Life Member
Richard Lawysysz	Life Member
Diane Lowden	Life Member

Other Apologies

Jeff Cook	AA Director
Matt Gridley	President, Athletics NT
Mackenzie Little	Athlete Advisory Committee Member
Geoff Nicholson	St Kilda Road Trust Committee
Stuart Corbishly	Ethics & Integrity Committee
Shane Fuller	CEO Athletics South Australia
Tom O'Shaughnessy	Oceania Athletics
Crystel Gangemi	Grant Thornton (Auditor)
Jemima Montag	Australian Athlete

Present

Position

Company Directors

Jan Swinhoe	President and Chair, Athletics Australia
Jill Davies	Vice President, Athletics Australia
Jane Flemming	Vice President, Athletics Australia
Steve Moneghetti	Director, Athletics Australia
Megan Dwyer	Director, Athletics Australia
Merrick Howes	Director, Athletics Australia
Brian Miller	Director, Athletics Australia
Ben Sellenger	Director, Athletics Australia

Members, Delegates

Neil Boden	President, Athletics ACT
Matthew Whitbread	President, Athletics New South Wales
Sean Goff	Director, Athletics Northern Territory
Yvonne Mullins	President, Queensland Athletics
Jane Russo	President, Athletics South Australia
Damon Thomas	President, Athletics Tasmania
Rob Wendel	President, Athletics Victoria
Tim Lyons	Chair, Athletics West

Members, Executives

Glen Taylor	Executive Officer, Athletics ACT
Christian Renford	CEO, Athletics New South Wales
Leanne Chin	Executive Officer, Athletics Northern Territory
David Gynther	CEO, Queensland Athletics
Matthew Duck	CEO, Athletics Victoria
Vince Del Prete	CEO, Athletics West
Blake Steele	EO, Athletics Tasmania

Life Governors and Life Members

Chris Wardlaw PSM	Life Governor
Lorraine Morgan AM	Life Governor
Brian Roe OAM	Life Governor
David Grace AM QC	Life Member
Ian Jones	Life Member
Richard Lawysz	Life Member
Heather Mitchell	Life Member
Peter Reynolds	Life Member
Joe Stevens	Life Member

Dr Peter Brukner OAM	Life Member
David Grace KC OAM	Life Member
Lynda Gusbeth	Life Member
Ian Jones	Life Member
Nick Moore	Life Member
Anne Lord OAM	Life Member
Granton McKay	Life Member

Invited Guests

Pierce O'Callaghan	World Athletics
Phillip Urquhart	Australian Masters Athletics
Judy Farrell	Australian Masters Athletics
John Clark	Australian Masters Athletics
Matt Mahon	Oceania Athletics
Evelyn Halls	AA Ethics and Integrity Committee
Rhydian Cowley	Athlete Advisory Committee
Lyndon Hall	Athlete
Ben Buckingham	Athlete Advisory Committee
Sherrie Boulter	President, Little Athletics Australia
Myles Foreman	CEO, Little Athletics Australia
Jo Psihogios	Grant Thornton Audit

AA Staff

Peter Bromley	Chief Executive Officer
Simon Thompson	Company Secretary
Adam Bishop	Executive, Athletics Australia
Andrew Faichney	Executive, Athletics Australia
Cara Honeychurch	Executive, Athletics Australia
Samantha Culbert	Executive, Athletics Australia
Karen Murphy	Staff, Athletics Australia
Nic Bideau	Staff, Athletics Australia
Steve Caddy	Staff, Athletics Australia
Emily Calwell	Staff, Athletics Australia
Jemma Caon	Staff, Athletics Australia
Brett Hardiman	Staff, Athletics Australia
Ashlee Kelly	Staff, Athletics Australia
Chris Brophy	Staff, Athletics Australia
Melanie Purkiss	Staff, Athletics Australia
Luke Richardson	Staff, Athletics Australia
Craig Pickering	Staff, Athletics Australia
Sascha Ryner	Staff, Athletics Australia
Nathan Sims	Staff, Athletics Australia
Lindsey Mersey	Staff, Athletics Australia

The Chair invited AA Life Governor, Brian Roe OAM, to read out the names of the members of the athletics family who had passed away since 1 July 2021 (Appendix one, below).

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting

The Chair introduced the first item of business, which was the minutes of the 37th AGM of Athletics Australia held on 22 October 2021. No questions were raised regarding the minutes, and these were adopted as a true and correct record of the 2021 AGM.

3. President's Report

The President's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled. The report reflected on the historic year that had occurred for Australian athletics, coinciding with the Chair's first year leading the Board of Directors. There has been enormous change over the past 12 months and includes Australians witnessing the very best of Australian athletics. For example:

- In High Performance, Australia sent its largest ever away team to an Olympic Games (Tokyo) and became the third most successful team in Australian history. Weeks later, gold medal performances came from Madison de Rozario, James Turner and Vanessa Low at the Paralympic Games, with 19 medals and two world records achieved.
- Following the Olympic Games, Eleanor Patterson and Ash Moloney claimed medals at the World Athletics Indoor Championships, and Madison de Rozario won the New York Marathon.
- This success would not have been possible without the dedication of the Athletics Australia High Performance department, Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia. They all provided an extraordinary level of organisational and financial support.
- A complete domestic season was staged for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The Chair thanked new partner Chemist Warehouse and many of the Member Associations who worked hard to welcome fans back into stadiums.
- The Chair noted the many achievements off the track as well. This includes the Growth and Development team working innovatively and collaboratively to launch Weet-Bix Active Bands – a gamified platform targeted at children ages 5-12.
- The Chair thanked Rio Tinto for their support to reignite the First Nations People programs, Raise The Bar and Athletics for the Outback.
- Athletics Australia also released new policies to ensure transgender and gender diverse athletes are welcomed to the track with open arms.
- The Chair discussed the 2023 World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Bathurst. Despite COVID cancellations, an immense amount of work was done in the financial year to ensure it is a hallmark event nationally.
- The Chair discussed the OneAthletics merger. 75% of Athletics Australia Member Associations voted in favour of the merger highlighting overwhelming commitment. However Little Athletics Australia's associations did not achieve the support level required. The Chair stated that despite the merger not occurring, the organisation could forge a new path of its own, with the aim of achieving the goals of the proposed merged organisation.
- The Chair outlined how in early 2022, the organisation engaged with and listened to countless voices from across the athletics community including athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, administrators, MAs and more. The organisation acknowledged the need to reset and refine its purpose and create meaningful change across our sport, from the grassroots to the elite, especially for officials and volunteers ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A new strategy would be announced shortly.
- The Chair thanked Kate Palmer for all her work on the OneAthletics merger. Without her effort, the organisation would not be in as strong a position to forge ahead and become the organisation that provides opportunities for all Australians, no matter their age, ability or gender.
- The financial position of Athletics Australia was summarised, whereby the organisation remains in a good position and continues to find new and innovative ways to better the financial strength of the organisation

- The Chair thanked new sponsors and partners including Weet-Bix, Chemist Warehouse, Rio Tinto and the relaunch of The Athletics Foundation to assist athletes financially for decades to come.
- A warm welcome was given to the three new directors to the Board being Steve Moneghetti, Merrick Howes and Ben Sellenger who started in March 2022.

Before concluding, the Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge the partnerships which had made an impact over the past year including:

- Previous President Mark Arbib, who displayed great leadership of Athletics Australia over the past six years;
- Two new Vice Presidents in Jane Flemming and Jill Davies;
- The immense support of the Australian Government and particularly Federal Minister for Sport, the Honourable Anika Wells MP;
- Acknowledging the role of the Australian Sports Commission and thanked its Chair, Josephine Sukkar and CEO, Kieran Perkins OAM. Without their belief, Athletics Australia wouldn't be able to operate successfully;
- Commonwealth Games Australia who provided vital funding, as well as the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia;
- Member Associations and National Institute Network whose commitment and collaboration are vital;
- Partners and individuals who have donated to The Athletics Foundation; and
- Athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials, who are at the centre of the organisation; and particularly CEO Peter Bromley.

4. CEO's Report

The CEO's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled. The CEO thanked the Chair for providing a comprehensive report and noted that Athletics Australia had come a long way in the last 12 months. The CEO provided the following highlights and acknowledgments:

- Operationally, the Tokyo Olympic Games marked the culmination of five years of work for the High Performance department and our athletes. Despite the difficulties surrounding this cycle amid the pandemic, the Australian team managed to finish the Olympics triumphantly with three medals, including one silver and two bronze.
- The Tokyo Paralympics were also a Games to remember, with a medal haul of 19 that included four gold, seven silver, eight bronze medals. The Australian team placed 11th out of 56 nations, with the team delivering two world records, 12 area records, five Paralympic Games records, plus nine personal best performances.
- Along with two more medals at the World Athletics Indoor Championships, the team did tremendously at the World Athletics Championships, Birmingham Commonwealth Games and World U20 Championships.
- The Australian Summer of Athletics and the Australian Track and Field Championships showcased the sport domestically once again. With the support of Member Associations, Oceania Athletics, Athletics International, athletes and coaches, we were able to run a great series of high-level meets over the summer, culminating with the 99th edition of the Australian Track and Field Championships.
- The technical officials were magnificent this season, and it is never possible for Athletics Australia and our members to host events without this cohort of volunteers. We are truly grateful for their resilience.

- A big highlight of the year was the inroads made by the Growth and Development team. Athletics Australia launched the Weet-Bix Active Bands platform which has been hugely successful with 20,000 participants to date. 65,000 hours of activity has been logged showing that we can truly make a difference in the health and wellbeing of Australia's youth.
- Athletics Australia also reached more significant milestones including, but not limited to:
 - National Transgender and Gender Diverse competition policy and community athletics guidelines;
 - Assisted more than 140 para athletes to be nationally classified;
 - Placed a focus on gender equity and now writing a gender equity strategy to help improve our sport; and
 - The recommencement of the First Nations Peoples Programs in Raise The Bar and Athletics for the Outback, thanks to our new partnership with Rio Tinto.
- Internally, a salary benchmarking process took place where all roles within the organisation were assessed against data provided by the AIS to ensure staff were receiving adequate remuneration compared with others in the sport sector.
- Athletics Australia also formally adopted a new suite of integrity policies in partnership with Sport Integrity Australia, more commonly known as the National Integrity Framework. This makes our sport a safe, fair and healthy environment for participants.
- Financially, a strong future is ahead for athletics by signing fantastic partners including Chemist Warehouse, Weet-Bix and Rio Tinto. We retained our loyal sponsors including Puma, The Athletes Foot, Accor Hotels and we are grateful for their support. We also relaunched The Athletics Foundation – our philanthropic arm of our business that invests in the development of our sport.
- The CEO thanked world Athletics and in particular Pierce O'Callaghan for visiting Australia for the World Cross Country site visit and attending the AGM. The World Cross Country event in Bathurst is a fantastic opportunity for the sport in 2023.
- I would also like to thank the partnerships which have made an impact over the past year including:
 - The Australia Institute of Sport;
 - Australian Sports Commission;
 - Australia Olympic Committee;
 - Paralympics Australia;
 - Commonwealth Games Australia – who provided us with substantial funding to ensure we could stay number one in the Commonwealth;
 - Athletics Australia staff;
 - Our extended family of countless coaches, volunteers and officials who give life to our sport;
 - President Jan Swinhoe and our Board;
 - Oceania Athletics; and
 - Member Associations for the support and commitment.

5. Financial Statements and Reports

The Chair noted that the *Corporations Act 2001* requires financial statements, Directors Report, Directors Declaration and Auditors Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2021 to be tabled.

No questions were received on the reports.

6. Election/Ratification of Directors

The Chair reminded attendees that the proposed resolutions for the election and ratification of directors had been set out in the Notice of Meeting, provided to members on 22 September 2022. The resolutions asked members to ratify the appointment of directors Ben Sellenger, Merrick Howes and Steve Moneghetti who had been appointed as directors since the last AGM. In addition, the Members were asked to re-elect Jane Fleming and Jeff Cook as directors of the Company in accordance with Clause 28 of the Constitution.

Members had earlier signed written resolutions (under clause 25 of the Constitution) confirming that they ratify Ben Sellenger, Merrick Howes and Steve Moneghetti appointments, and re-elect both Jane Flemming and Jeff Cook as directors.

The Chair declared the resolutions carried unanimously and congratulated the directors on their appointment. Jane Flemming was invited to address the meeting.

Director, Jane Flemming recalled running in regional Victoria as a junior athlete and her passion for athletics. Jane is honoured to continue as a director and is proud of her work on the following committees:

- Special Awards Committee, thanking Brian Roe and Paul Jenes for their support.
- High Performance Committee, thanking Chris Wardlaw for his tireless work in the high performance area and across all of athletics. Jane is looking forward to assisting the high performance committee with her experience and knowledge into the future.
- The Athletics Foundation, whose philanthropic work has re-connected people back into athletics and supported athletes with scholarships.
- The Member Associations for doing the real work on the ground, which is inspiring.
- Finally the Athletics Australia Board who display their experience and willingness to listen to advice and feedback.

Director Jill Davies was introduced to read a note prepared by Jeff Cook, who is an apology for the meeting due to an overseas business commitment. From Jeff Cook to AGM attendees:

I'd like to express my appreciation to the Member Associations and the Board Nominations Committee for their support in re-electing me to the position of Board member of Athletics Australia for a second term.

The three years I have spent on the Board to date have been so personally rewarding. It's been a time not without its challenges for the organisation, and for us as a Board. The disappointment of the OneAthletics outcome, the impact of the pandemic on our ability to showcase our great sport and develop the RunWest event, the cultural health check process, and a change in both CEO and President are all events that could have derailed a lesser organisation, but it is a testament to the commitment and passion of our Board, management team and Member Associations that we have emerged from those challenges in a position of strength.

We are now excitingly positioned to continue the upward trajectory of our sport. The performances of our elite athletes, both para and able-bodied, over the past 18 months have been truly inspirational, and we on the Board are energised to move ahead with an exciting strategy to grow the sport and ensure its strength and status through to Brisbane 2032 and beyond.

I am proud to be involved in the sport of athletics and a member of such an experienced and talented Board of Directors. Track and field has always been my passion and, whilst I would have preferred to have been a talented athlete, I consider it a privilege to be a Board member. I recognise that my contribution can never match that of our dedicated athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, but as Chair of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee, and a member of the Ethics & Integrity Committee and Board Nominations Committee, I will commit to spending the next three years doing everything I can to further the financial stability, reputation, profile and standing of this great sport.

Thank you

(Jeff Cook – Director)

7. Election of Auditors

The Chair confirmed that, under clause 60 of the Constitution, the voting members had all signed a resolution to unanimously agree for Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd reappointment as auditor of the Company.

8. Special Awards

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

That, under clause 7.7 of the Constitution, Honorary Life Governorship and Honorary Life Membership be conferred upon the following individuals nominated by the Special Awards Committee and whose candidacy has been approved by the Board.

Honorary Life Governorship

- *Chris Wardlaw PSM*

Honorary Life Membership

- *Denise (Robertson) Boyd (Qld)*
- *Terri Anne (Wangman) Cater OAM (Vic)*
- *Kim Owens (NSW)*
- *Agostino (Gus) Puopolo OAM (Vic)*
- *Dion Russell (ACT)*

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

Both Gus Puopolo OAM and Chris Wardlaw PSM addressed the meeting expressing their appreciation for the awards.

The Chair congratulated the new Life Governor and Life Members on their awards and thanked them for their contribution to athletics.

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 3.15pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

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Chair/President

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Date

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021

OBITUARIES

DURING 2020 – 2021 REPORT YEAR

Gayle Anderson (VIC)

Ian Blackwood (VIC)

Alan Cardy (NSW)

Bob Chalmers (WA)

Barrie Cox (QLD)

Ricky Dunbar (VIC)

Enid Evans (Pate) (NSW)

Patricia Hamilton (TAS)

Peter Harbison (SA)

Percy Hobson (VIC)

Vern Hough (NSW)

Marie Hutton (NSW)

John Landy AC CVO MBE (VIC)

Maureen Moyle (SA)

Daphne Pirie (QLD)

Ron Reed (VIC)

Noel Ruddock AM (TAS)

Viktor Saneyev (NSW)

Clyde Spencer (TAS)

Christine Tew (VIC)

Geoff Walker (VIC)

Charlie White (ACT)

Robin Whyte (ACT)

Rita Whitehouse (TAS)

SINCE 1 JULY 2021

Pat Agg (VIC)

Murray Bird (TAS)

Shirley Cotton (NSW)

Sharon Dalton (NSW)

Stan Guilfoyle AM (VIC)

Bob Lay AM (VIC)

Rex Leedham (SA)

Alf Mitchell (NSW)

Sean Quilty (VIC)