

**Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia,
Held at the Novotel St Kilda Hotel, 16 The Esplanade, St Kilda VIC 3182
on Tuesday, 22 November 2005 at 2.30pm**

1. Welcome

2. Roll call

Directors

Chairman	Ken Roche, AO
Director	Rob Fildes, OAM
Director	Jane Hansen
Director	Paul Kennedy
Director	Russell Scrimshaw

Chief Executive Officer	Danny Corcoran
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Delegates

Australian Capital Territory	Michael Thomson
New South Wales	John Patchett
South Australia	Tony Keynes
Tasmania	Brian Roe
Victoria	Anne Lord
Western Australia	Wayne Loxley
Northern Territory	Ian Fullarton
Queensland	Stephen Pitt

Observers

New South Wales	Greg Doyle
Victoria	Nick Honey

Athletics Australia Staff

Chief Financial Officer	Stephen Crook
National Performance Manager	Max Binnington
Competitions Manager	David Gynther
Commercial Operations Manager	Luke Bould
PA to Chief Executive Officer	Janet Chitts

Also present

Tony Pititto (Ernst & Young)
Greame Rose (Masters Athletics)
Paul Jenes (Life Member)
Allan McDonald (Life Member)

3. Apologies: Bill Bailey (Director), Herb Elliott, AC, MBE (Director), Eddie McGuire, AM (Director) Clive Lee (Life Member), Noel Ruddock (Life Member), Denis Wilson AM (Life Member), Stella McMinn (Life Member), Brenda Pearl (Life Member), Doug Carlson (President, QLD Athletics) and Peter Bacich (President, AthleticA).

4. Obituaries

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

Donald F. Bell OAM
 A. Trevor Billingham BEM
 June Ferguston (*nee* Maston)
 Len Horwood
 Don MacMillan
 Fred Napier – Athletics Australia Life Member
 Les Perry
 Florence (Flo) Wrighter OAM BEM

5. Confirmation of the Minutes

Minutes of the 20th Athletics Australia Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2004 as tabled were taken as true and correct. Moved by Russell Scrimshaw (Athletics Australia) and seconded by Tony Keynes (SA).

6. Chairman's address

The Chairman outlined the difficult year in athletics following the ASC/Athletics Australia Review into athletics and consequential changes. The Review document has assisted the direction of a new strategic, operational and high performance plan which are now being implemented.

Just prior to the last AGM, the board appointed a new CEO, Danny Corcoran, and since then Danny has employed a new National Performance Manager, Max Binnington and a new Commercial Operations Manager, Luke Bould and new National Event coaches in NSW, Paul Hallam (Sprints) and VIC, Shaun Creighton (Distance). These appointments all follow the advice set out from the Review.

Also this year two new Directors were appointed, Rob Fildes and Eddie McGuire. After their ratification at this meeting the board will meet to formally appoint Rob as President of Athletics Australia.

As part of the Strategic Plan, the team are working on developing pathways not only for athletes, but coaches, officials and volunteers so this sport can prosper well in the future.

This year has also seen Athletics Australia working closely with Australian Little Athletics for the first time in many years and although a merger between Athletics Australia and ALA has been suspended for the time being, we hope to pursue a merger to continue rebuilding the sport in the future.

The State Institutes and State Academies of sport have been enthusiastic about Athletics Australia's High Performance Plan even though this meant losing funding throughout the last year whilst Athletics Australia regained control over our athletics programs.

We once again had the support of SBS, which covered the Telstra A-series and hope to have SBS as a long term partner in the future.

We had success in the 2004 Athens Olympics with two bronze medals in the walks with Nathan and Jane and the surprising silver in the men's 4 x 400m. But more encouraging is the World Youth

Championships where Australia finished 5th in the World. Our juniors also won nine senior titles at the Telstra Australian Championships in Sydney and whilst this is encouraging for the future of the sport, it is certainly disappointing that the seniors weren't up there making the young ones wait their turn.

The recent World Championships were an excellent opportunity for the Chairman, incoming President and CEO to view how the rest of the world views athletics. It was encouraging to see thousands of spectators sit and watch the athletics in the pouring rain and the passion the Fins have for the sport. And, we can't forget the amazing efforts of Craig Mottram bringing home the bronze in the 5000m in a courageous finish with the Africans.

On finance, the sport concluded the year with a profit of \$366,222, which was not without implications within the sport. We certainly would not have been in the positive without the ASC increasing their support of athletics, noting also that this sport was one of only two to have significant increases. Also the Victorian Government and Melbourne 2006 gave significant support to the Telstra A-series and Melbourne GP11.

Shortly we will be re signing Telstra as the principal sponsor of athletics. We also appreciate the support of New Balance, who will not be continuing past the end of this year, Qantas, who also discontinued their partnership with athletics this year. We thank IGA, Musashi, Pitcher Partners, Accor and of course the ASC, the AOC, the APC, and the ACGA for their incredible support again this year and their continued support into the future (we think).

The Chairman thanked the huge number of volunteers, who are the unsung heroes for their commitment and huge amount of time they dedicate to athletics. Thanks went to the Member Associations who work tirelessly on the grass roots from where our future champions come. Thanks also went to the staff at Athletics Australia who undoubtedly have been through some tough years. Special thanks went to the Chairman's fellow board members, especially Rob Fildes who has put an incredible amount of time into the sport since joining the Board in February this year and created many working committees who give an immense amount of time and expertise to athletics at no cost to the organisation.

Special thanks also to retiring directors, Russell Scrimshaw and Herb Elliott. Russell had been on the board since 1999 and has been through many difficult times but never shied away from the difficult job at hand. Herb had been a Board member of Athletics Australia for two and half years and in that time headed the much needed review into the sport. Herb brought a wealth of knowledge to the board, not just as a high profile athlete but as a well recognised international businessman.

The Chairman concluded by stating the work done in the past year had developed a base from which to drive the sport forward. He recognised the need to hold our junior talent within the sport, who hopefully will be inspired by the Commonwealth Games next year. The Chairman also thanked Danny and his team.

The Chairman stated that at the conclusion of this meeting he would be standing down as Chairman, but will remain on the board.

7. Presentation of the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2005, 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. Moved by Stephen Pitt (QLD) and seconded by Wayne Loxley (WA).

7.2 Reports of the Member Associations;

The MA 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 7.2-7.4 were moved by Tony Keynes (SA) and seconded by Anne Lord (VIC).

8.1 Retiring Directors, Russell Scrimshaw and Herb Elliott, AC, MBE.

The meeting was informed that Directors, Russell Scrimshaw and Herb Elliott, AC, MBE would be retiring at the conclusion of the 2005 AGM.

8.2 Ratification of Board Members

At the 2004 AGM, the members agreed to a change in Constitution from 7 to 8 Directors and as a result, Mr Robin 'Rob' Fildes, OAM filled the new vacancy in February 2005.

In March 2005 Mr. Edward 'Eddie' McGuire (AM) filled a vacancy on the Board left by the resignation of Andrew Forrest in November 2004.

Under the terms of The Company's Constitution, these appointments required the confirmation of the Members. Moved by Tony Keynes (SA) and seconded by Stephen Pitt (QLD). The appointments were confirmed.

9. Life Membership & Merit Awards

In accordance with clause 7.7 of the Constitution the Directors submitted their nomination of Mr Reginald 'Reg' Brandis for honorary life membership. The members had received information outlining Mr Brandis' distinguished service to the Company over a significant time period and highly commended this nomination from Queensland Athletics.

Moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by John Patchett (NSW). The members approved The Company to confer Life Membership to Mr Reg Brandis.

10. Constitutional changes

The Members were informed of the Board's wish to change the title of the head of athletics in Australia from Chairman to President and were asked to endorse the change in the Constitution.

Moved by Stephen Pitt (QLD) and seconded by Tony Keynes (SA). The change to The Company's Constitution was confirmed.

11. General Business

Allan McDonald, QC, former President and Life Member of Athletics Australia commended the change from Chairman to President, which also made available the option to have a female head of sport.

Allan thanked the Chairman for respecting the athletics supporters who passed away throughout the year, many of whom were known personally to the Chairman and Allan.

Allan congratulated the Board and team for the work done throughout the year and noted the difficult times in competing for sponsorships. Allan was impressed by the additions to the board, which certainly have the expertise to take the sport forward.

Allan highlighted his enjoyment of athletics and his recent experiences at the Deaf Olympics. He also voiced his concerns for the home of athletics in Victoria given the Victorian Government's proposal with Gosh's Paddock, Olympic Park and Albert Park all being discussed. Allan felt it would be terrible if athletics wasn't to stay at Olympic Park and he also noted that with the experience of the board, especially Rob, Jane and Eddie, we certainly had the best people to look after athletics' interest.

Allan gave special thanks to Ken for his time as Chairman/President of athletics and his expertise particularly as an international athlete and businessman.

In response and conclusion, the Chairman and CEO reiterated their concern also for Olympic Park and outlined their discussions with Minister Madden.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.10pm.

Taken as a true and correct record

Chairman

Date