



**Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia,  
Held at the Grand Mercure Hotel, 195 Swanston St, Melbourne, Vic 3000  
on Tuesday, 18 November 2008 at 10.00 am**

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**1. Welcome**

**2. Roll call**

**Directors**

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President & Chairman | Rob Fildes, OAM  |
| Director             | David Grace      |
| Director             | Matt Mahon       |
| Director             | Nick Moore       |
| Director             | Michael Smellie  |
| Director             | Bronwyn Thompson |

Chief Executive Officer                      Danny Corcoran

**Delegates**

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Australian Capital Territory | Greg Gilbert       |
| New South Wales              | Peter Bromley      |
| Northern Territory           | Ian Fullarton      |
| Queensland                   | David Keating      |
| South Australia              | Tony Keynes        |
| Tasmania                     | Brian Roe          |
| Victoria                     | Anne Lord          |
| Western Australia            | Stephen Stingemore |

**Observers**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| New South Wales    | Greg Meagher    |
| Northern Territory | Michael Outhred |
| Victoria           | Nick Honey      |
| Western Australia  | Wayne Loxley    |
| South Australia    | Adam Bishop     |

**Athletics Australia Staff**

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chief Financial Officer        | Joe Brugliera     |
| High Performance Manager       | Max Binnington    |
| High Performance Youth Manager | Sara Mulkearns    |
| Competitions Manager           | David Gynther     |
| Marketing Manager              | Nicole Roache     |
| National Coaching Manager      | Michael Poulton   |
| PA to Chief Executive Officer  | Mary-Lou Silveira |

**Also present**

Tony Pititto (Ernst & Young - Auditors)  
 Graeme Rose (Masters Athletics)  
 Bob Lay (Athletics International)  
 Maxine Corcoran (Athletics International)  
 Harry Summers (ATFCA)  
 David Culbert (Jump Media & Life Member))  
 Clive Lee AM (Life Governor)  
 Noel Ruddock AM (Life Governor)  
 Reg Brandis (Life Governor)  
 Paul Jenes (Life Governor)  
 Jill Huxley (Life Governor)  
 Justice Allan McDonald Q.C. (Life Governor)  
 Brenda Pearl OAM (Life Governor)  
 Wayne Fletcher (Life Member)  
 Roy Boyd (Life Member)  
 Trish Kinnane (Life Member)

**3. Apologies**

Bill Bailey (Director), Eddie McGuire, AM (Director), Jane Hansen (Director), David Bell (Executive Director, QLD Athletics), Michelle D'Ambrosio (Executive Officer, ACT Athletics), Margaret Mahony OAM (Life Governor), Denis Wilson AM (Life Governor), Tony Rice (Life Member), and Rosemary Owens (Life Member).

**4. Obituaries**

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

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Ron Blackney                | Bill Westcott   |
| Kevin Mc Naught             | Ralph Field     |
| Charlie Booth               | John Winter     |
| Max Cherry                  | Bob Brown       |
| Peter Michael(Mick) Dowling | Bob Grant       |
| Lyn Plunkett                | Robert Hamilton |
| Frank Woods                 | Alan Smith      |
| Ed Neimanis                 | Graeme Stoward  |
| Joyce Petfield              |                 |

**5. Confirmation of the Minutes**

Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Athletics Australia Annual General Meeting held on 20 November 2007 as tabled were taken as true and correct. Moved by Tony Keynes (SA) and seconded by Michael Smellie (Athletics Australia).

**6. President and Chairman of the Board's address**

The 2007/08 Annual Report covers a great deal in the President's and CEO's reports as well other excellent reports and information presented.

For the purpose of this address – I will take the 2007/08 Annual Report as read.

That report covers my thanks to our CEO, Mr Danny Corcoran and his dedicated staff. Also my thanks to our Board of Directors, our principal partner, the Australian Sports Commission and our other key sponsors and supporters.

There has been considerable activity in athletics in the last 4½ months since the completion of the 2007/08 financial year.

I will now mention some of the highlights.

The Olympic Games in Beijing. In Track and Field athletics, Australia achieved four medals: Steve Hooker, Gold / Pole Vault; Sally McLellan, Silver / 100m Hurdles and Jared Tallent, Silver / 50km Walk, Bronze, 20km Walk. This was the best medals result in athletics for Australia since 1968. Hearty congratulations to our athletes, coaches and their support teams. We believe we can improve on this performance at the London Olympics. The Track and Field Athletics in Beijing were fantastic – very well run and organised. A tremendous stadium, with great performances and records achieved by many nations.

The Gold Medal from Steve Hooker was truly exceptional. He did what he had to do when it mattered most and those of us that were lucky to be in attendance were absolutely thrilled for him and Australia. Sally also produced when it mattered most and ran a great race. Jared's performances were simply outstanding and full of courage. We look forward to these three great Australian athletes and many up and comers performing very well over the next four year cycle up to and including the London Olympics.

In the Paralympics we achieved: ten Gold Medals; nine Silver and seven Bronze. A wonderful result capped off by with Kurt Fearnley's back to back Gold Medals in the Men's Marathon. Paralympics continues to grow worldwide and Australia is an outstanding performer. Australia continues to improve and expand its involvement in all the major events for athletes with disabilities. Congratulations to all our Paralympians.

The question of funding for Australian athletics remains a very serious one. We sincerely appreciate the support we receive from the Australia Sports Commission and the Australian Government. We do, however, need more funding to be able to continue the upward impetus that Australian athletics has achieved in the last three years.

We continue to actively pursue a key new sponsor for athletics. This is proving to be a difficult task. We continue to work with a number of potential sponsors

The 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne provided the best Australian Commonwealth Games athletics' result in our history. We also achieved our best result in Osaka at the 2007 World Championships in Athletics with two Gold Medals followed by our best performance since 1968 with four medals in Beijing.

Throughout 2008 the Board of Athletics Australia has had a number of extraordinary meetings working on our Strategic Plan. We have arrived at five key pillars:

1. High Performance and Pathways that lead there;
2. Leadership of Athletics in our community;
3. Coaching;
4. Junior Programs;
5. Financial Capability.

We have also been studying the questions of best practice in governance and structure for our sport.

Post the Beijing Olympics there has been a review of our High Performance Department and there will be a rearrangement to the structure of this Department. It has been highlighted that there is simply too much work across the broad spectrum and additional personnel and changed responsibilities are necessary. We thank Max Binnington, National Performance Director, for ably performing what is really two roles.

In addition to our work, the ASC commissioned Gemba to present a report on Australian athletics. The contents of this report are available through Danny Corcoran if you would like further information. They were particularly interested in the commercial opportunities for Athletics.

We have also presented a submission to the Independent Sports Panel, Chaired by David Crawford. This submission to the Australian Government is on all Australian Sports. Danny and I met with the Chairman last week.

Athletics Australia, in addition to our primary role of developing elite athletes and being the governing body for the whole of our sport, has considerable opportunities to work with the Government on the questions of community health and obesity.

We are establishing closer contact with ALA and have commenced joint executive Board meetings to ensure better communication between the two organisations. We expect to develop a new national juniors' program, Under 14 to Under 20, which will offer a clear athletics pathway for juniors who choose to remain in the sport of athletics. We have been losing too many youngsters to other sports or to doing nothing at all in terms of sport. We expect our new juniors' program to introduce hundreds of new athletes into our sport. The planning for these programs is in its early stages, however, a model being used between NSW and ALNSW, as an example, is proving to be an excellent and successful initiative.

Athletics Australia continues to support Athletics Victoria in closely monitoring developments with the Victorian Government regarding the new Victorian Athletics centre at Albert Park. Athletics is reluctantly moving from Olympic Park under strong Government direction and the promise of a better facility for Athletics to be built at Albert Park.

We continue to recognise the immense importance of the development of hundreds more accredited coaches throughout Australia. We must also support our best coaches more than we have previously. The example of Alex Parnov, the outstanding pole vault coach, reconfirms how important the right coach is for an Olympic standard athlete.

Last night we held an historic event: The Gala Awards Dinner. This initiative was in my opinion well overdue. We now have 46 living Life Members and 16 living Life Governors. The recognition of our outstanding officials, coaches, volunteers and key persons in our sport is extremely important. We expect Life Memberships and Life Governorships to grow considerably in the years ahead.

Athletics faces tremendous challenges in the years ahead to remain relevant in the Australian community. To grow and flourish our wonderful sport we must meet the challenges that lay ahead. The competition for our best athletes from the professional sports in Australia is enormous and competition from various International countries with large funding is increasing.

In Beijing, we achieved equal eighth with Great Britain out of 170 competing nations. We were ahead of Japan, China, Germany and other historically very successful nations. People say to me why doesn't athletics do better? For example, we are not able to match swimming in medals at the major competitions but we can continue to be a very strong country in athletics. Our success in Beijing was excellent. You can be assured that Great Britain will love to beat us in London and it is going to be challenging and fun to see if we can match them on their own turf.

Thank you all for your attendance today.

Let us all work together for the betterment of Australian athletics.

**7. Presentation of the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2008, including:**

The President presented the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2008, 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 were taken as a true and correct record.

Standing Committees and Commissions Reports can be viewed on the website.

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 David Grace (Athletics Australia).

**8. Board of Directors**

**8.1 Re-Election of Board Directors**

No Directors are to be elected/re-elected in 2008.

**9. Life Governorship and Life Membership**

As per the below Athletics Australia Constitutional Clauses:

7.7 The Company in general meeting and on the recommendation of the Board may:

7.7 (2) confer Honorary Life Governorship on any natural person who has rendered outstanding service to the sport of athletics in Australia and confer Honorary Life Membership to any natural person who has rendered distinguished service to the sport of athletics in Australia. The suitability of a nominee for Life Governorship or Life Membership must be approved by the Special Awards Committee established by the By-Laws.

7.8 The election of:

7.8 (2) an Honorary Life Governor will be determined by a three quarters majority of votes cast.

7.8 (3) an Honorary Life Member will be determined by a three quarters majority of votes cast.

The Board of Athletics Australia nominate the following persons for Life Governor:  
Nil

Brian Roe addressed the meeting on behalf of the Special Awards Committee (SAC), outlining the role of the SAC and the part they play in the recommending the nominations of Life Governors and Life Members to the Board of Athletics Australia. Brian then provided a brief synopsis of the nominees for Life Members.

The Board of Athletics Australia supports the nominations and agreement is sought to confer the award of Life Membership on the below recipients:

Ken Roche (Athletics Australia)  
Peter Duras (Athletics Australia)  
Bob Cruise (Athletics Australia)  
Graham Boase (South Australia)  
Fletcher McEwen (South Australia)  
John Boas (Victoria)  
Harry Summers (Victoria)  
Ray Smith (Victoria)  
Glynis Nunn-Cearns (Queensland)  
Rod Gibb (New South Wales)

Unanimous support was received from all Members to confer Life Membership on the above nominations. The President conferred Life Membership and welcomed the ten new Life Members into Athletics Australia.

## **10. General Business**

Anne Lord thanked the President for his continued support to all the MAs and many individuals who have contacted him over the last 12 months.

Wayne Fletcher from Tasmania thanked Athletics Australia for the support of all the officials, allowing this group to develop their skills and travel to various parts of the world.

Allan McDonald QC thanked Athletics Australia for the Gala Awards Dinner which presented an opportunity for so many people to get together and acknowledge the time they have given freely to the sport.

Allan also thanked the President and Board for their continued contribution to the sport including accreditation of coaches, working with Little Athletics, and governance and structure.

Anne Lord (President, Athletics Victoria) addressed the meeting and confirmed that Athletics Victoria and Athletics Australia are working with the Government to ensure Albert Park is a world-class facility.

In closing, the President thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.55 am.

Taken as a true and correct record.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Fildes, OAM - President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date