



**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia,  
Held at the Lexus Centre, Cnr Olympic Park Blvd & Batman Ave, Melbourne, Vic 3000  
on Tuesday, 24 November 2009 at 2.00 pm**

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**1. Welcome**

**2. Roll call**

**Directors**

President & Chairman	Rob Fildes, OAM
Director	Matt Mahon
Director	Nick Moore
Director	Jane Hansen
Director	Eddie McGuire

Chief Executive Officer	Danny Corcoran
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**Delegates**

Australian Capital Territory	Alex Gosman
New South Wales	Peter Bromley
Northern Territory	Cameron Burrows
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
Queensland	Grant Cremer

**Athletics Australia Staff**

Chief Financial Officer	Joe Brugliera
High Performance Manager	Eric Hollingsworth
High Performance Youth Manager	Sara Mulkearns
Competitions Manager	David Gynther
Marketing Manager	Nicole Roache
National Coaching Manager	Michael Poulton
Development Manager	Sally McGrady
Transition Manager	Nick Bowden
PA to Chief Executive Officer	Mary-Lou Silveira
Office Manager	Carol Grant
Accountant	Kristine Banks-Smith

**Also present**

Graeme Rose (Masters Athletics)  
 Paul Jenes (Life Governor)  
 Justice Allan McDonald Q.C. (Life Governor)  
 Peter Sharpe (Australian Sports Commission)

**3. Apologies**

Michael Smellie (Director); Bronwyn Thompson (Director); David Grace QC (Director); Bill Bailey (Director); Brenda Pearl (Life Governor); Clive Lee AM (Life Governor); Joyce Bonwick OAM (Life Governor); Noel Ruddock AM (Life Governor); David Prince OAM (Life Governor); Reg Brandis (Life Governor); Denis Wilson AM (Life Governor); Marg Mahony OAM (Life Governor).

**4. Obituaries – 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2009**

Allan Barlow	Andrew Ludwig
Margaret (Burville) Edwards	Harold (Harry) Mason
David Fitzsimons	Kerryn McCann
Roger Green	Julius (Judy) Patching
Arnold Hunt	Jack Pross
Peta (Kennedy) Jurson	Kevin Stone
Peter Lucas	Edwin Ted Jeffrey Winter
Vic Nolan	Don McKinnon
Jean Norman	Peter McWilliams
Elva Schulz	Shirley Brasher
George Tempest	

**5. Confirmation of the Minutes**

Minutes of the 24th Athletics Australia Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2008 as tabled were taken as true and correct. Moved by Stephen Stingemore (WA) and seconded by Tony Keynes (SA).

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

The 2008/09 Annual Report covers a great deal in the President's, CEO's and Member Associations' reports as well as other excellent reports and information presented.

For the purpose of this address – I will take the 2008/09 Annual Report as read.

The President's Report includes 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.

You will note that we continue to maintain a good financial position with a positive cash flow and surplus. We have built reasonable cash reserves to allow us to withstand any unexpected cash movements.

There have been considerable activities in the last 4½ months since the completion of the 2008/09 financial year. I would now like to cover some of these activities and some further considerations for our sport.

Firstly, the Crawford Report was released on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009. This Report is very clear, concise and detailed in its assessment of the position and delivery of Australian sport. It is critical of various areas of Australian sport.

It is not recommending additional funding for the Olympic sports. We believe this is a mistake. Athletics needs additional Commonwealth Government funding to allow us to grow and manage our sport. We believe winning medals at the Olympic Games and other major championships is very important to our athletes and to Australia's standing in the world. We strongly support the Australian Olympic Committee on their stance for more funding for Olympic sports.

Many of the Crawford Report's recommendations on structure and governance are already in practice or being implemented at Athletics Australia. I recommend you read the Report. It is available at the following address: [www.sportpanel.org.au](http://www.sportpanel.org.au)

We are enjoying a very successful era at the International level: 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games (our best Commonwealth Games result); World Championships Osaka (first time two Gold medals); Beijing Olympics (best in 40 years); World University Championships 2009 (best result in 72 years), Berlin World Championships 2009 (four medals – our best WC result ever).

This is very exciting for our sport. It was recently acknowledged by John Coates, President, Australian Olympic Committee that Athletics Australia is going against the trend of diminishing medals in Olympic sports.

Congratulations to our athletes, coaches, support teams and the families of our leading athletes; our Board, our management team led by Danny Corcoran, our Member Associations and all the Athletics fraternity. .

We do, however, have an enormous amount of work to do to continue the improvement of Athletics in Australia. We will continue with our 'whole of sport' philosophy.

We need to improve our grassroots activity to ensure we keep more athletes in our sport. The closer ties we have developed with Australian Little Athletics is a very important part of this. We had an excellent meeting earlier today with the ALA President and CEO and our eight MAs. A spirit of co-operation and trust continues to build between the two bodies.

There are 2.4 million kids in Australia aged 5-14 and our sport as the foundation of all sports (walking; running; jumping, throwing) should be working harder with the Australian Government on questions of community health outcomes for our kids through to seniors.

A key role we at Athletics Australia are attempting is to bring all of our sport together in a best practice model, minimising the personality driven nature of sports administration. We are also attempting to achieve better co-ordination, pathways, recognition and fairer financial rewards for our coaches and officials.

We deeply appreciate the support and interest from the Australian Sports Commission and also all of the positive activities for our sport through the Australian Institute of Sport and the state institutes.

We must continue to pursue additional funding wherever we can to allow our CEO and his staff to grow and manage Australian Athletics. Our assessment is to run Athletics Australia more effectively, our revenue should be in the \$11-12 million range. Currently it is in the \$7-8 million range.

The competition for the best young male athletes from the four main football codes in Australia, as an example, is increasing dramatically. The professional football codes have enormous money compared to Olympic sports such as Athletics. In financial terms we just cannot compete.

Australian professional sports have the advantage over the Olympic sports in gate receipts, sponsorship and broadcast rights.

Congratulations to John Coates on his election to the International Olympic Committee's Executive Board.

The Crawford Report has a view that the Australian Olympic Committee does not fund Australian Olympic sports to the level that it could. The BOD of Athletics Australia agrees with this. For example, we do not agree with the Australian Olympic Committee in eliminating funding for the coaches of our best Olympic athletes.

Currently Australia is the 10<sup>th</sup> ranked nation out of 213 nations in International Athletics. Our sport has the largest number of participant nations of any sport in the world.

In Athletics, Australia is the most dominant country of the Oceania region. We represent 87% of the major International championship medals and all time records of Oceania. New Zealand represents the other 13%.

It is important that Australia continues to be well represented on the Oceania Council and at IAAF Council level. We also have 25 of the top 250 officials in world Athletics. We have a small but growing number of very successful International standard coaches. Our sport also has various excellent mentors like Athletics International and some fine management personnel throughout Australia.

The extraordinary devotion to Athletics from our administrators, officials and other volunteers is deeply appreciated.

At this point in history, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, Australia is caught between its Asian Pacific geography and its European heritage. Australian Athletics should be competing in Asian Athletics' events and activities, in addition to our Oceania involvement and activity. We should become an active member of the Asian Games and other Asian Athletics events.

We will continue to select large teams and give our youngsters every opportunity to develop at International level. We have a target of six medals at the London Olympics. This can only be achieved if we are all working together for our wonderful sport. We call on the Commonwealth Government to increase funding for the whole of our sport through to our great champions and potential champions.

To retain the number one position in Athletics at the Commonwealth Games in new Delhi will be very challenging. The UK will be sending a large and strong team. They have significantly higher funding than Australian Athletics and the momentum of London 2012.

Our sport needs more heroes. This of course brings more coverage to our sport including sponsorship opportunities etc. Our performances in Berlin were heroic:

- Steve Hooker (Gold Medal/Pole Vault) - while carrying an injury, Steve's performance was full of courage, character and skill under pressure. Alex Parnov is one of our great coaches. Steve and Alex are a very formidable team.
- Dani Samuels (Gold Medal/Discus Throw) - World Champion Women's Discus at age 21 and also World Junior Discus Champion is a remarkable achievement by a fine young woman. Dani displays tremendous mental discipline and steely qualities when in top competition. She has the ability to compete under pressure and win and she has the dedication, skill and personal qualities to be one of the most successful athletes in Australia's history. Dani has an excellent coach (Denis Knowles), management and support team who pay attention to every detail
- Mitchell Watt (Bronze Medal/Long Jump) - terrific performance and so ably coached by Gary Bourne.
- Ben Offereins, John Steffensen, Tristan Thomas and Sean Wroe (Bronze Medal/4x400m men's relay) – a terrific race by them in Berlin.

We are looking forward to all their futures with much anticipation along with Berlin top eight athletes: Luke Adams, Fabrice Lapierre, Sally McLellan and Jared Tallent. There are many other elite Australian athletes who should do well in the three year cycle to London 2012. We also look forward to the return of Jana Rawlinson and Nathan Deakes, our two Gold medalists from Osaka 2007.

I call upon all of the Australian Athletics leadership to go forward with positive determination, taking up the challenge and let's see what we can achieve in the next three years and beyond London 2012.

ROB H FILDES OAM  
President & Chairman of the Board  
Athletics Australia

**7. Presentation of the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2009, 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.

The Annual Report and its contents were taken as read and confirmed.

Items 7.1-7.3 above were moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by Stephen Stingemore (WA).

## **8. Board of Directors**

### **8.1 Re-Election of Board Directors**

Re-election of retiring Director, Nick Moore.

By rotation, Mr Moore retires at the conclusion of the 2009 Annual General Meeting. Being eligible, Mr Moore offers himself for re-election and consequently will enter a second term as a Director. According to clause 30.4 of the Constitution this election will require a majority of the Members.

*'That a majority of the Members re-elect Mr Moore to the Board.'*

Re-election of retiring Director, Matthew Mahon.

By rotation, Mr Mahon retires at the conclusion of the 2009 Annual General Meeting. Being eligible, Mr Mahon offers himself for re-election and consequently will enter a second term as a Director. According to clause 30.4 of the Constitution this election will require a majority of the Members.

*'That a majority of the Members re-elect Mr Mahon to the Board.'*

Re-election of retiring Director, David Grace.

By rotation, Mr Grace retires at the conclusion of the 2009 Annual General Meeting. Being eligible, Mr Grace offers himself for re-election and consequently will enter a second term as a Director. According to clause 30.4 of the Constitution this election will require a majority of the Members.

*'That a majority of the Members re-elect Mr Grace to the Board.'*

Tony Keynes (SA) moved that the meeting accept the re-election of the three retiring Directors of Athletics Australia, seconded by Peter Bromley (NSW). Unanimous support was received from all Members to reelect the three retiring Directors. The President congratulated the returning Directors.

## 9. Life Governorship and Life Membership

As per the below 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

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

Richard Carter (Athletics Australia)

Bill Bailey (Queensland)

Colin Stubbings (Queensland)

Jim Minehane (Queensland)

Ian Boswell (South Australia)

Norm Osborne OAM (Victoria)

Ray Weinberg (Victoria)

Owen Heness (ACT)

Michael Thomson (ACT)

Nancy Atterton (NSW)

John Atterton (NSW)

Brian Roe (TAS) moved that the meeting accept the nominations for Life Membership, seconded by Tony Keynes (SA). Unanimous support was received from all Members to confer Life Membership on the above nominations. The President conferred Life Membership and welcomed the 11 new Life Members into Athletics Australia.

## 10. General Business

### 10.1 Election of the Company Auditor

The Chief Financial Officer addressed the meeting. Athletics Australia has put to tender the company's audit services for the next three years. We have invited 6 organisations, being two "big four", two "second tier" and two smaller firms. Submissions are required

by 30 November 2009 and a recommendation will be made to the Board for approval at their next meeting.

## 10.2 Motions

Clause 12.4 of the Athletics Australia Constitution states: "Motions may only be submitted to a general meeting of the Company by a Member or Director and any motion desired by a Member to be put to a general meeting must be received in writing by the Chief Executive Officer not less than two months prior to the general meeting at which it is desired to consider and vote on the motion."

In accordance with Clause 12.4, *Athletics Tasmania* has put forward the following Motions for consideration:

1. *That a working group be formed comprising representatives of both the Company and Member Associations to thoroughly review, and consider the ongoing viability of, clauses 8 and 9 (National Programs) of the Athletics Australia Constitution.*
2. *That a working group be formed comprising representatives of both the Company and Member Associations to review the current policies and practices of the Company in providing pathway opportunities to volunteers within athletics in Australia.*

These motions were discussed at the Presidents' meeting and have been adopted. As a result Athletics Tasmania withdrew the motion from the Agenda.

In accordance with Clause 12.4, *Athletics Western Australia* has put forward the following Motions for consideration:

1. *That the new guidelines proposed by the Special Awards Committee for use when considering nominations for life membership of Athletics Australia, be removed.*
2. *That Life Membership may be conferred on any natural person who has rendered distinguished service to the sport of athletics in Australia.*

These motions were discussed at the Presidents' meeting and the Special Awards Committee has been charged with conducting a review of the Guidelines and seek additional information from MAs prior to nominating any person for Life Membership. As a result Athletics Western Australia withdrew the motions from the Agenda.

The President opened up the floor to questions from the participants.

Tony Keynes, President, South Australia spoke to the meeting re the aspirational qualities of Olympic Sports. The athletes who strive to be the best in the world show the country that there is a pathway from grassroots right through to the Olympics.

The CEO, Danny Corcoran spoke to the meeting regarding the recently released Crawford Report. The President of Athletics Australia will be formally responding to the Crawford Report. The CEO is encouraging the MAs to provide feedback to the report which can be included in the Athletics Australia document. The timeline for feedback will be early December 2009.

Allan McDonald QC spoke to the meeting. He fully endorsed the contents of the President's address. He agrees that the Commonwealth and Olympic Games provides inspiration to all Australians. It is the spirit of the nation.

He further noted that the move towards working with Little Athletics is important and should continue so that the sport can provide a pathway to all aspiring athletes.

Allan thanked the President, Board and staff of Athletics Australia for their continuing work.

In closing, the President thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.

Taken as a true and correct record.

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Rob Fildes, OAM - President

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Date