



Athletics Australia
ABN 72 006 447 294

Minutes of 33rd Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 27 October 2017, at Athletics House, Catherine Freeman Room, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park Victoria

Ordinary Business

1. Apologies and obituaries

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.32am and welcomed Directors, Delegates, Life Governors, Life Members and observers.

Present

Mark Arbib
Jan Swinhoe
Brenda LaPorte
Peter Bromley
Anne Lord
Geoff Nicholson
Ben Sellenger
John Steffensen
Chris Wardlaw

Position

President and Chair, Athletics Australia
Vice President, Athletics Australia
Vice President, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
CEO, Athletics Australia
Company Secretary, Athletics Australia

Darren Gocher
Darren Boyd

Members, Delegates

Neil Boden
Peter Higgins
Kevin Mulvahil
Desmond Johnston
Joe Stevens
Shelley Miller
Rohan Claffey
Mal Harford

President, Athletics Australian Capital Territory
President, Athletics New South Wales
President, Athletics Northern Territory
President, Queensland Athletics
President, Athletics South Australia
President, Athletics Tasmania
Vice President, Athletics Victoria
Director, Athletics Western Australia

Members, Executives

James Kaan
Roger Chin
David Gynther
Adam Bishop
Gabby Steele
Glenn Turnor
Wayne Loxley

Executive Officer, Athletics Australian Capital Territory
Director, Athletics Northern Territory
CEO, Queensland Athletics
CEO, Athletics South Australia
Executive Officer, Athletics Tasmania
CEO, Athletics Victoria
CEO, Athletics Western Australia

Other attendees

Paul Jenes OAM
Margaret Mahony OAM
Lorraine Morgan AM
Brian Roe OAM
Craig Hilliard

Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Governor
Life Member and Head Coach, Athletics Australia

Martin Stillman	CEO, Little Athletics Australia
Phil Urquhart	Secretary, Victorian Masters Athletics
Michael Hall	Executive, Athletics Australia
Alison Campbell	Executive, Athletics Australia
Rob Ewart	Executive, Athletics Australia
Michelle James	Executive, Athletics Australia
James Selby	Executive, Athletics Australia
Belinda Symes	Executive, Athletics Australia

External Auditors

Tony Rose	Director, Lachlan Nielson Partners
Archana Kumar	Audit Manager, Lachlan Nielson Partners

Apologies

Heather Ridley	President Athletics Victoria
Duncan Tweed	CEO, Athletics NSW
Michele Hughes	Executive Officer, Athletics NT
John Bailey AM	Life Governor
Ian Boswell	Life Governor
Pat Clohessy AM	Life Governor
Rob Fildes OAM	Life Governor
Peter Hamilton	Life Governor
Jill Huxley	Life Governor
Ronda Jenkins OAM	Life Governor
Clive Lee AM	Life Governor
Geoffrey Martin OAM	Life Governor
Brenda Pearl OAM	Life Governor
David Prince OAM	Life Governor
Denis Wilson AM	Life Governor
Wayne Fletcher OAM	Life Member
Wilma Perkins	President, Australian Masters Athletics
Dereck Fineberg	President, Little Athletics Australia
Simon Baker	ATFCA Director, and former Director Athletics Australia

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave an Acknowledgement of country paying respect to the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which the meeting was being held.

The Chair invited Life Governor, Brian Roe, to acknowledge the obituaries of the distinguished members of the athletics community who had passed away since 1 July 2016 (see list attached). A moment of silence was observed in memory of those who had passed. The Chair specifically noted the passing of Betty Cuthbert and the extraordinary contribution she had made to the sport.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting

The minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 28 October 2016 were adopted unanimously 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 provided the meeting with the following highlights and acknowledgements:

- The Chair noted that the sport's mission is to be the largest participation sport in the country and there is tangible movement towards this. In FY 2016/17, Member Association membership grew by 19% and, since 2013, the sport's membership has grown by 40%. He noted that the sport's ability to recruit and retain is better than most. The President noted that much of this work is being done at a local level and he sincerely thanked the Presidents and CEOs of the MAs who work to deliver a sport and product that is relevant to every day Australians.
- The Chair noted the Board's passion for improving junior participation. AA's Management is developing a Junior Sport Policy and he complemented the work done so far, including a broad consultation process with members and stakeholders.
- The Chair thanked Coles for its support as AA's community partner, a partnership that is shared with Little Athletics Australia. He noted the Board's excitement at the potential for growth in this relationship.
- The Chair discussed Nitro Athletics, noting that it was one of the largest events that Athletics Australia had ever conducted with one of world sport's biggest drawcards, Usain Bolt. The Chair:
 - noted that Nitro Athletics drew a national TV audience of 3.1M viewers, 265 hours of international broadcast content, reached over 6.7 million social media accounts, 24,000 fans attended three nights and, critically, 93% of attendees said they would encourage family and friends to attend future events; and
 - thanked and congratulated key people that were involved in the event, including Darren Gocher and John Steffensen, plus the AA Board and staff. He thanked Kerry Stokes and Channel 7; Kerry's generosity in providing a financial investment was particularly appreciated.
- The Chair then congratulated the Australian athletes that had performed brilliantly on the global stage. In particular he acknowledged:
 - all medal winners and finalists at the recent London 2017 IAAF World Championships;
 - gold medallists and world record holders from the London 2017 Para-Athletics World Championships, making specific mention of the Board's pride in and commitment to AA's para-athletics program, noting that the team finished fifth on the medal table with 28 medals at these Championships;
 - the Commonwealth Youth Games team that topped the medal table at its championships;
 - the World Youth Para-athletics team that finished third on the medal table at the inaugural event; and
 - the World Cross Country team, headlined by Patrick Tiernan's 13th place finish.

The Chair congratulated the AA High Performance team and all coaches, then noted his and the Board's excitement at the prospects for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

- The Chair thanked the Board for their contributions and constant drive, as well as AA management and staff.
- Finally, the Chair thanked the athletics family, in particular its volunteers and officials, noting his and the Board's deep appreciation for their commitment. He noted the

Board's reciprocal commitment to ensuring that these people feel respected and appreciated by the sport in return.

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 acknowledgements:

- The CEO noted that although he had only been in the role for seven weeks, he has spent significant time talking to members and stakeholders, as well as planning for the home Commonwealth Games which he considers provides a wonderful opportunity to promote the sport and capture new audiences.
- The CEO is driving a review of the strategic plan which will take time and consultation. However, he noted a number of immediate priorities including:
 - improving communication with members and the athletics community;
 - re-establishing the Athletes' Commission to provide athletes with a voice;
 - appointing an Officials Manager (jointly with Little Athletics Australia) to ensure that these key members of the athletics community are properly cared for, developed and retained over the next few years;
 - continuing to work with athletes and coaches to sustain high performance, including strengthening relationships with State Institute of Sport / State Academy of Sport (SIS/SAS) network to ensure best practice;
 - continuing to create vibrant and innovative competition opportunities; and
 - driving OneSport initiatives through collaboration with AA's members plus Little Athletics Australia and other key partners to create a seamless experience for participants throughout their life in the sport.
- The CEO reiterated some of the comments from the President, celebrating the outstanding success of many athletes – particularly our para-athletes – on the international stage in the last year. Further, he noted that Nitro Athletics had reset the bar for what Athletics Australia can deliver, and he personally thanked the AA and Athletics Victoria teams for their contribution to the venture, and all MAs for their unwavering support.
- The CEO noted that AA also operates a large number of other programs that it is proud of, commenting on the continued growth of AA's Sporting Schools program, and the tremendous indigenous engagement initiatives that continue to develop, including the Raise the Bar Academy and Athletics for the Outback.
- The CEO then thanked the Member Associations, AA's corporate partners, the thousands of dedicated officials and volunteers nationwide, and athletes and coaches; together with the Board and staff of AA and the remainder of the athletics community – noting that, in his experience, everyone is passionate and has the best interests of the sport at heart.

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 2017 were tabled.

6. Election of Directors

The Chair reported that Brenda LaPorte, Anne Lord and Jan Swinhoe, being eligible, had offered themselves for election as directors of Athletics Australia for further terms in accordance with Clause 28.3 of the Constitution.

The Chair noted that pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, it had been unanimously agreed by the Members that Brenda LaPorte, Anne Lord and Jan Swinhoe all be re-elected as directors.

The Chair congratulated the directors on their re-election.

7. Ratification of Auditors

The Chair reported that, under clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed that:

Lachlan Nielson Partners be ratified as the Company's auditor for the 2017-18 financial year.

8. Special Awards

Nominations made by the Special Awards Committee under clause 11.2.1(a) of the Company's By-laws were noted.

The Chair reported that, under clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed that:

Life Membership pursuant to Clause 7.7 of the Athletics Australia Constitution be conferred upon Len Johnson and Laurie Keaton.

The Chair congratulated Len and Laurie on their award and thanked them for their contribution.

9. Other Business

Life Governor Margaret Mahony addressed the meeting about the following issues.

- Ms Mahony congratulated Athletics Australia on the work it was doing with IAAF Kids Athletics and promoting opportunities for participation in the sport by young women and girls in particular.
- Ms Mahony asked what Athletics Australia was doing to identify and develop young talent.
- Ms Mahony noted that Nitro Athletics captured attention and excited the community, but she wondered if it could be integrated into a club environment?
- Ms Mahony asked where discussions were at between Athletics Australia and the ATFCA (Australian Track & Field Coaches Association).
- Finally, Ms Mahony noted that she felt that the communication of Board activities to the athletics community was lacking.

The Chair thanked Ms Mahony for her comments and questions; he and the CEO responded as follows.

- The Chair agreed that the Board had not met the expectations regarding communication about its activities and he committed to this being improved.
- The Chair and CEO noted that they consider Athletics Australia's talent ID and development program to be comprehensive, but improvement opportunities are always being explored. They discussed examples such as the "Target Talent Program" that exists within the state institute network (SIS/SAS), and the development of a "Junior Sport Policy" for the sport as a whole.
- The Chair and CEO commented on participation, noting the Board's belief that the sport needs to continue to evolve. Going forward, the Board considers it is essential to focus on One Sport initiatives (including building relationships at all clubs with Little Athletics and Masters), plus integrating external partners like parkrun and operators in the recreational running market.
- Regarding Nitro Athletics, the Chair agreed that seeking expansion of it into a club / school environment was important and noted that this was currently being explored by AA.
- Lastly the Chair and other directors addressed the relationship between AA and ATFCA:
 - An MOU was signed by the parties in August 2017, the purpose of which was to work out how an operational partnership between the parties could evolve.
 - It was noted that a key issue to tackle was education – the parties must collectively develop a better understanding of what the sport can offer coaches.
 - Broad consultation will be required by the parties to ensure that appropriate outcomes are delivered.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.36am.

Signed as a true and correct record.

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Chair

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Date

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA – SPECIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

OBITUARIES

DURING 2013 – 2014 REPORT YEAR

Nancy Borwick (WA) - Olympian

DURING 2016 – 2017 REPORT YEAR

John Atterton (NSW) – AA Life Member and ANSW President; Coach

Geoffrey Boon (Tas) – AT Life Member

Vern Collings (Vic) – AV Life Member

Jane Crayford (SA) – Official

Phil Edwards (Tas) – Athletics Writer, The Launceston Examiner

Jack Giddy (NSW) - Coach

Graeme Gledhill (Vic) – Athlete

David Hilliard (Vic) – former Secretary of Athletics International

Brian Hodgson (Vic) – AA Life Member and AV President

Gai Kapernick (Qld) – National Representative

Don Keane (WA) – Dual Olympian

Dawn Keys (NSW) – Club Administrator

Ruby Lambden (Vic) – National Technical Official

Allan Lawrence (NSW) – Olympic Bronze Medallist

Jennifer Lennon (Tas) - AT Merit Award

Allan McDonald AO (Vic) – Former AA and AV President and AA Life Governor

Ellen McGrath (NSW) – National Technical Official

Janet Munro (NSW) – National Technical Official

Leoni Nankervis (Tas) - AT Merit Award

Gregor Nicol (NSW) - Athlete

Jack Pennington (ACT) – Athlete and founder of ACT Cross Country

Patricia Peters AM (SA) – Life Member Athletics Australia and Athletics South Australia

Judy (Canty) Wilson (NSW) – Olympian and National Champion

SINCE 1 JULY 2017

Don Allen (NSW) – National Technical Official and ANSW Life Member

Peter Bethell (Vic) – National Technical Official

Betty Cuthbert (NSW) – Olympic Champion and Member of the IAAF Hall of Fame

Peter Halson (Vic) – Athlete

RA (Tony) Lethbridge (Vic) – Coach and Club Administrator

Damien O'Shea (Vic) – Athlete