



# AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS

## ANNUAL REPORT

January 2009 – June 2010



**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JANUARY 2009-JUNE 2010**

# Australian Little Athletics Inc

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

### Executive

Ross Burridge  
Brian Newton  
Charlie Sanders  
Adam Wallish

President  
Administration & Finance Director  
Competition and Standards Director  
Chief Executive Officer

### Association Presidents

Peter Martens  
Dereck Fineberg  
Tony Northey  
Scott Pitts  
Rhonda O'Sign  
Gordon Major  
Pieter Bergshoeff

ACTLAA President  
LAANSW President  
QLAA President  
SALAA Managing Director  
TLAA President  
VLAA President  
WALA Chairman

### STAFF

Ashlea Watt  
Tim McGrath

Administration Officer  
Project Officer

### LIFE MEMBERS

Trevor Billingham BEM\*  
Alan Triscott  
Keith Maughan  
Doug Hancy  
C P (Paddy) Robinson\*  
Maxine Boyd  
Grahame Searles  
Brian Newton  
Alison Quirke  
Gary Mutton

Don Blyth  
Mal Hastie  
Peter Shinnick  
George Harvey  
David Cramer  
Anthony Libke  
Michael Stubbs  
Marjorie McNamara  
Dennis Goodwin

### AWARD OF MERIT

R O (Dick) Healey \*  
Alan Letcher  
John Crouch  
Don Baker

Brian Newton  
Arnold Hunt\*  
Alison Quirke  
Marjorie McNamara

### MERIT CERTIFICATES

John McCarthy  
Peter Shinnick  
John Marsden

\* Deceased

## **Inaugural 2009 Roll Of Excellence Members**

### **Track & Field**

Steve Hooker  
Nathan Deakes  
Melinda Gainsford- Taylor  
Amy Winters  
Jana Pittman- Rawlinson

### **Sportsmen**

Kathy Watt  
John Worsfold  
George Gregan  
Nova Perris  
Alisa Camplin

### **Volunteers**

Trevor Billingham \*  
Alan Triscott  
Doug Hancy  
Barry Garment  
Helen Moir

### **Achievers**

John Maclean  
Mike Whitney  
Dr. Peter Larkins  
Kirsty Marshall

\* Deceased

# **LITTLE ATHLETICS FAMILY FUN and FITNESS**

## **OUR MISSION**

Little Athletics aims to develop children of all abilities by promoting positive attitudes and a healthy lifestyle through family and community involvement in athletics activities

**BE YOUR BEST®**

## Sponsors

Australian Little Athletics acknowledges the important role played by sponsors in helping to deliver services and benefits to members and records its appreciation to the following for their sponsorship in 2009/10



IGA sponsors the patch on every registered Little Athlete across Australia. IGA also hosts an interactive Little Athletics section on their website and supports a National Docket Promotion. They have provided games, healthy tips and competitions for Little Athletes. IGA also provide support for the official's uniforms at the Australian Little Athletics Championships.

Asics shares the Little Athletics vision of developing young athletes of all abilities to BE YOUR BEST. The commitment by Asics to Little Athletics benefits every family through their support of the Australian Little Athletics Championships, Achievement Book, Website and the Little Athletics range of footwear.





Through the support of The Athlete's Foot Australian Little Athletics has developed an outstanding outlet for the distribution of the Little Athletics shoe.

Australian Little Athletics has established a very strong relationship with Willis Australia who has provided assistance and professional advice over many years in a wide range of Insurances including personal accident, public liability, equipment and professional indemnity. Support from Willis Australia ensures Australian Little Athletics is able to provide Athletes, Associations and Centres a comprehensive and cost effective Insurance.

# Willis



**redefining / financial services**

AXA is the naming rights sponsor of ALA's successful LAPS (Little Athletics Program for Schools). AXA provides quality financial advice to members, and assists ALA in areas such as marketing expertise.

# President Report

It is with pleasure that I write this Annual Report for the extended period from January 2009 to June 2010.

The past 18 months have gone very quickly and this is a good indication of how busy the period has been for me both personally and professionally. I thank all those people who have helped and assisted me. A special thanks to our CEO, Adam Wallish for his efforts, support and friendship. I also thank the ALA Executive, BOM and staff for their professionalism and support.

The BOM continues to work well together to move the organisation forward. There is some natural tension from time to time but the solidarity around the BOM continues to improve. This is particularly demonstrated by the unanimous support for the new logo. The BOM's continued patience with the Athletics Australia relationship and discussions is also very important and appreciated.

The BOM have been very professional in addressing the issues put before them and have been pro-active in finding the path forward. This goes well for the future and the challenges that face us.

Again we have seen a change in the BOM with the departure of Peter Martens. We welcome Tony Reilly as Peter's replacement.

There has been considerable progress on many items during the year.

This has been a period of great change within ALA with a number of new initiatives:

- A new contemporary logo – which will facilitate the growth and exposure for Little Athletics into the future.
- Consolidation of the office to Melbourne – we now have a central place to call home. This move has consolidated our resources and reduced costs. The opportunity to further improve our office arrangements exists with a possible move to Albert Park provided our wishes are met.
- A revised strategic plan – this has led to a renewed path forward and the consolidation of our strategy onto a page. The detailed business plan that supports the strategy will focus our actions and thoughts going forward.
- Progression to an improved governance framework and policies – this has improved from a very low base. As we transition from being a truly grass roots organisation we will need to strengthen and develop our process and policies to a suitable standard.
- A joint effort with Athletics Australia on an after schools program – while this effort has not been painless the very fact that this could be achieved is a positive move. Such a document could never have been developed without our CEO and Project Officer.
- Progress on the AA relationship remains slow. There have been some encouraging signs recently with a new AA CEO on board. Progress to date is steady and 2010/11 may provide some better outcomes.



- Continued concern over the future of ATFCA – the approach adopted by AA and its new Accredited Athletics Coach program has created great confusion and animosity amongst all athletic bodies and coaches. I do not agree nor support the approach adopted by AA nevertheless ALA is working with AA and ATFCA to find a workable and amicable solution.
- New DVD resources for our athletes and families – This resource is an excellent piece of work that could not have been achieved with the BOM's endorsement and the efforts of Tim McGrath our Project Officer. This work will serve ALA well into the future.
- Roll of Excellence – this was highlight of the last period. It was very gratifying to see a number of ex little athletes and volunteers not only enjoy the night but to speak in such glowing and fond terms about their time in Little Athletics.
- Northern Territory – there has been a break through in NT with SALAA recently affiliating Tennant Creek Little Athletics Club. Discussions have now recommenced in Alice Springs.
- History Book – I have read the first draft of the history book and hopefully this will be ready for release in the new calendar year.

Once again ALA had the opportunity to participate in the Australia Cup. This was the third opportunity that ALA has had for Little Athletes, in this case under 14's, to compete in an AA competition. The Australia Cup was a great opportunity for our athlete's to compete with senior athletes, including some of their heroes. It is disappointing that AA is not supporting the Australia Cup in 2011.

Work has continued to try and bring the Federal and State governments along with our vision. The CEO and I met the Minister for Sport Kate Ellis in Brisbane in 2010. While the Minister supports Little Athletics she is unable to provide direct funding and has requested that ALA apply for grants through AA. This has been submitted.

On the sponsorship front our relationships remain strong. There was no change to sponsors over the period and we look forward to long and successful partnerships.

Congratulations to Marjorie McNamara, Alison Quirke, Dennis Goodwin and Garry Mutton on their ALA Life Memberships.

Once again thank you to everyone for their support and I look forward another constructive year in 2010/11.

**Ross BurrIDGE**  
**President**

# CEO Report

There has been much achieved by Australian Little Athletics (ALA) collectively during the extended period under review.

In April 2009, the Board of Management (BOM), having regard for ALA's strategic direction, decided to close the office in Perth, with all relevant administrative functions to be performed from the Melbourne office. Administration Executive Marita Somerford declined to relocate to Melbourne and ALA provided her with various forms of assistance to secure a new position, which she did.

I would like to again formally thank Marita for the assistance she provided to me since joining ALA in April 2008 and wish her well in the future.

Following a review of ALA priorities, the BOM sought applications for a contract position - Project Officer and Tim McGrath was recruited to this role. During the year, the position was extended to December 2010. Ashlea Watt joined ALA in June 2009 as Administration Officer.

Tim presented a report to BOM in April 2009 focusing on key areas such as skills programs, officials/volunteers, coaching and standardisation; all 12 recommendations received unanimous support. With regard to this specific piece of work, it is pleasing to see the results so far.

In terms of programs, the Australian Little Athletic Championships (ALAC) was reviewed (no change), a Companion Manual to support the Active After Schools Program and our goal for increased participation, will be launched (in conjunction with Athletics Australia & the Australian Sports Commission) later in the year and work has commenced on a national skills development program.

A Development Policy outlining various stages within Little Athletics and identifying appropriate approaches to activities within each stage was adopted by ALA. Standard Events (U9 to U15), compiled based on expert advice from the fields of sports medicine, pediatrics/childhood development, academia and coaching, as well as reference to current practice within Little Athletics, were agreed to by ALA. Standard Rules are now being drafted. A DVD Video Resource entitled, *Little Athletics: Getting Started* aimed at new participants and their parents was produced and given to all families taking part in the 09/10 season. Further video resources expanding on coaching and officiating will be made available via website and given out upon request, for the 10/11 season.

I have enjoyed working with each of ALA's sponsors.

- IGA: following the extension of the sponsorship agreement for a further 3 years, the National Docket Promotion was launched across the country – by any measure, it was an outstanding success. Special thanks to the associations and centres/clubs that supported this promotion. ALA thanks Andrew Divaris and Belinda Hyland (since departed IGA) for their assistance over many years.
- Asics: as naming rights sponsor of the ALAC, a new uniform was introduced for the 2009 Event – it was very well received by all. Asics' continued promotional support for the

Little Athletics shoe is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Sam and Simone for their assistance.

- The Athlete's Foot: the media campaign around the Little Athletics shoe and TAF's support for other ALA projects, including state association conferences, is valued. Thanks to Tony, Lea and Amandine.
- AXA: as naming rights sponsor of the Little Athletics Program for Schools (LAPS), AXA also initiated (with Mission Australia) a pilot program whereby 10 children from the Inala area (Brisbane) were provided assistance to participate in the 09/10 Little Athletics season. ALA is hopeful that the program will be expanded further. AXA Ambassador Sally Pearson (nee McLellan) is also helping to promote Little Athletics in a variety of ways. Thanks to Helen at AXA.

In 2009, ALA introduced a Roll of Excellence to recognise the achievements of individuals and/or families that have been involved in Little Athletics and excelled in their chosen field.

By creating a Roll of Excellence we help to preserve and promote Little Athletics' heritage and inspire more children to become involved in our community athletic activities and to do their very best in sport and life.

Four world champions in athletics, along with a diverse range of individuals, were amongst those who were inducted into the inaugural Roll of Excellence during a Gala Dinner at the Novotel, Darling Harbour on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 - the highlights of which featured on Channel 10, Sports Tonight.

The Roll of Excellence will be held annually, to coincide with the October ALA Conference.

During the period, the Executive and BOM determined that it was appropriate to consider a new corporate logo and image for our organisation. Melbourne company Paoli Smith was engaged to assist with the design and implementation of a new brand for Little Athletics.

Following an exhaustive process, a fresh new look was approved. The new identity represents a love for Little Athletics and celebrates our passion for having a go. Our new colours take inspiration from the very environment Little Athletics takes place in. Blue represents the sky above our heads and Green, the grass under our feet.

In a spirit of cooperation and unification, each Little Athletics State Association adopted a version of the new ALA logo. ALA and state association websites were refreshed and the transition to the new brand is taking place.

ALA President Ross Burridge and I met with the Federal Sports Minister the Hon. Kate Ellis on a couple of occasions, more recently in April 09. Despite her sincere interest in Little Athletics, from a funding perspective, the Government will not change its current policy to recognise only one body per sport, in Athletics case Athletics Australia (AA).

With the Minister's support, ALA will now examine ways in which funding may be derived via AA, particularly having regard for the Government's new policy on sport - *Australian Sport; The Pathway to Success*.

The relationship between ALA and AA continues to be a work in progress. Representatives from the 2 Boards meet regularly and some forward steps have been made in the following areas:

By way of formal agreement ALA, AA and the Australian Sports Commission jointly developed an Athletics Program (including Companion Manual) for the ASC's Active After School Program. This is due to commence in the second half of 2010.

ALA is represented on an officials working group to examine the introduction of a common continuous pathway of accreditation from Little Athletics through Athletics Australia to IAAF level.

With regard to coaching, AA introduced a new accreditation framework, which has impacted on ALA and has caused confusion throughout the Little Athletics community. In accordance with the Joint Policy Statement between ALA and the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association (ATFCA), ALA determined that it will continue to offer coaching courses provided by the ATFCA.

Notwithstanding the above, discussion between the three parties continue in an effort to provide for one coaching framework into the future.

The transition of little athlete's to senior athletics is working well at state association level, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria.

ALA was also keen to participate in the Australia Cup this year, the event was extremely well hosted in Canberra.

In an effort to secure alternate sources of revenue, ALA embarked on a scratch and win ticket promotion (sold throughout Queensland and Victoria), with the main prize being a trip to the London Olympics. It is hoped the promotion will lead to further such initiatives.

The rekindling of Little Athletics in the Northern Territory remains very much on the ALA agenda. Discussions throughout the year suggest that some opportunities may exist in the not too distant future.

In terms of the future, ALA's growth strategy needs to be carefully considered – in terms of budget commitment, other expectations and timeframe adopted. The work required around enhanced participation (including volunteering), improved governance and existing projects is underway. The key ALA objectives are contained in the updated business plan.

I would like to acknowledge the media support for Little Athletics, particularly coverage generated at the local level by state associations, centres and clubs. It is important that our community activities receive on-going support and recognition.

I would particularly like to thank ALA President Ross Burridge for his commitment and guidance, and fellow Executive Members Brian Newton and Charlie Sanders; and of course the Board of Management for their support. The state association Chief Executive's for their commitment to national initiatives and Ashlea and Tim for their day to day assistance.

ALA can feel very proud of its achievements over the past 18 months and I look forward to assisting the organisation with its continued success.

**Adam Wallish**  
**Chief Executive**

# Competition and Standards Director Report

## Adelaide ALAC – April 2009

A job well done by the organising committee at the 2009 ALAC, hosted at the SANTOS Stadium. The weather was not kind in the lead up days or the track familiarisation day, but was a little kinder on the day of competition. Some last minute changes were put in place to relocate the athletes from the far side of the ground to grandstand, and although it was a little close it worked well.

To all of the teams, their management and associated staff, congratulations and thank you.

It would be remiss to not thank the many volunteer officials who gave up their time to help out on the day, thank you.

### TOTAL POINTS

Victoria	746
New South Wales	721.5
Queensland	558.5
Western Australia	551.5
South Australia	420
Tasmania	418.5 * * Minor States
Australian Capital Territory	358 *

### HANDICAP POINTS

	ATC	H'CAP	TOTAL
Victoria	746	220	966
New South Wales	721.5	194	915.5
Tasmania	418.5	495	913.5
Western Australia	551.5	333	884.5
Queensland	558.5	315	873.5
South Australia	420	442	862
Australian Capital Territory	358	501	859

### TROPHY WINNERS

Trevor Billingham (Overall)	Victoria
Alan Triscott (Handicap)	Victoria
Dick Healey (Minor States)	Tasmania

## **Multi Event Championship (Life Member's Trophy)**

STATE	POINTS
Victoria	242
New South Wales	236
Western Australia	226.5
Queensland	206.5
South Australia	183
Australian Capital Territory	124
Tasmania	122

## **Australia Cup**

Attended the event in Canberra, January 2010, where the 5 States and Territory were a tribute to Little Athletics. The Australia Cup was won by the Queensland team. A great effort, congratulations.

## **Standard Events**

A set of standard events for the age groups, under 9's through to 15's, were approved for implementation at the April 2010 conference. These events will be eligible for ABP and ABPe recognition.

A set of recommended events for under 6's, 7's, 8's 16's and 17's were also tabled.

## **ABPE's**

The April conference moved that Photo Finish timed events be recognised for ABPe's (electronic). This now allows claims to be made for Hand held timing (ABP) and Photo Finish (ABPe) at all Association Championships.

## **Brisbane ALAC – April 2010**

My thanks go to the organising committee for a great job in preparing and conducting the ALAC in Brisbane at the University of Queensland Athletic Facility. May I also extend my gratitude to the many officials who volunteered their time to ensure that the day and events ran smoothly and, that our athletes experienced a memorable championships'.

To the teams and their management I also extend my thanks.

The ground set-up was good and allowed ample viewing advantages for all events. The grandstand was just the right size, offering the feeling of a full house at all times. The medal presentation area was also well set out. The competing areas and athlete areas were well presented.

The weather was a bit erratic, with a couple of scuds of rain, however overall, the day went well.

### **Trevor Billingham Trophy for the Australian Teams Championships (U13)**

STATE	POINTS
Victoria	689.5
New South Wales	665
Queensland	656
Western Australia	563
South Australia	461.5
Tasmania	454
Australian Capital Territory	331

### **Dick Healey Trophy awarded to the winner from the smaller Associations**

STATE	POINTS
Tasmania	454
Australian Capital Territory	331

### **Alan Triscott Trophy for the Australian Teams Championships (U13) – Handicap**

STATE	POINTS
Tasmania	963 (=1 <sup>st</sup> )
Queensland	963 (=1 <sup>st</sup> )
South Australia	921.5
Western Australia	893
Victoria	888.5
New South Wales	848
Australian Capital Territory	842

### **Multi Event Championship (Life Member's Trophy)**

STATE	POINTS
Victoria	245
Queensland	216
Western Australia	214.5
New South Wales	213.5
South Australia	200
Australian Capital Territory	141
Tasmania	101

### **Standardised Rules for Competition**

Work continues on the formulation of a set of Standard national "Rules for Competition". It is anticipated that these rules will be in line with the IAAF format.

**Charles Sanders**

**Competition and Standards Director**

# Administration and Finance Director Report

I present my report for the eighteen months from January 2009 to June 2010.

## **FINANCES**

Australian Little Athletics finished the eighteen month period with a deficit of \$84,099. This in part was due to the change of financial year which was approved in Sydney in October 2009 with the additional six months seeing normal expenditure continuing but very little income.

Income for the eighteen months increased by \$104,169 over that for the previous financial year but the increase in expenditure was \$272,202.

The increased expenditure was not due entirely to the extension to an eighteen month period. Three notable items were the DVD, Introduction to Little Athletics, The Roll of Excellence Dinner and the employment of a Project Officer which took effect from 17 January 2009.

Another area of increased expenditure was in the resources area of the Little Athletics Program in Schools. The provision of key rings for participants in these school sessions added significantly to the expenditure on this program..

On the positive side was our experience with the self insured portion of the Equipment insurance. The insurance year that ended on 31 August 2010 produced claims to date totaling around \$63,500. This has meant a potential windfall gain to us of about \$86,500. This is reflected in the Financial Statements and had we experienced claims around the value of the self insured portion or in excess of that amount then our deficit would have been in the order of \$170,000.

It is impossible to make any comparison between the final results and budget. Two budgets were approved by Conference covering the period. The first was for the calendar year 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 approved in Brisbane in October 2008. The second budget was for the period 1 December 2010 to 31 December 2010 approved in Sydney in October 2009. At this same conference in Sydney the constitutional change of the financial year to July to June rather than a calendar year was passed. Subsequently in April this year Conference approved a budget for the period July 2010 to June 2011. No budget was ever passed by Conference for the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2010 or for the six months of 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010.

In all, the finances of Australian Little Athletics remain in a very good position. The Net Tangible Assets exceed one million dollars and whilst spending approved for the subsequent year is likely to reduce the net assets, we will continue to be in a sound position.





## REGISTRATIONS

The following shows the registrations by Association for the registration year 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 together with the figures for the proceeding nine years.

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
ACTLAA	2,935	3,040	2,875	2,614	2,849
LAANSW	40,201	40,200	39,276	35,900	41,128
NTLAA	816				
QLAA	13,221	13,217	12,921	11,150	13,288
SALAA	6,759	5,637	6,067	5,576	5,742
TLAA	2,599	2,599	2,561	2,400	2,717
VLAA	27,141	24,859	22,513	19,931	21,385
WALA	6,116	5,588	5,503	4,992	5,877
TOTAL	99,788	95,140	91,716	82,563	92,986

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Decrease %
ACTLAA	2414	2,656	2709	3,227	2,792	13.48%
LAANSW	37451	39,476	38440	39,779	37,785	5.01%
NTLAA						
QLAA	11697	13,121	12926	13,975	13,092	6.32%
SALAA	5789	6,487	6398	7,338	6,602	10.03%
TLAA	2454	2,606	2470	2,701	2,413	10.66%
VLAA	20194	21,850	20536	23,244	21,206	8.77%
WALA	5827	6,016	6361	7,809	7,279	6.79%
TOTAL	85,826	92,212	89,840	98,073	91,169	
					Average	8.72%

It is disappointing for all to see the decline in registrations from our second highest year on record. Three Associations recorded double digit reductions in percentage terms and the average decrease was 8.72%. This is contrasted with my report at the same time last year when four Associations had achieved double digit growth. With the Commonwealth Games taking

place in the first two weeks of our competition year this should provide the means for an increase in registrations for 2010/2011.

## **INSURANCE**

Whilst it relates to the 2010/2011 year, all of our insurance for the current year has been re-negotiated and was renewed as from 1 September.

It is appreciated that the timing of the renewal causes some problems in regard to the Certificate of Currency required by many Associations, Centres and Clubs but it does not seem to matter when the insurance year begins it will always be an issue. The policy commencement on 1 September is the third date that has been used in recent times and the same issue has always arisen. The only solution that I can see that would impact less Associations, Centres and Clubs would be to have an expiry date somewhere between April and July. This would mean that having a current Certificate of Currency is likely to only affect the Centres in Far Northern Queensland and those Associations conducting winter cross country and winter walks. It is possible that potentially some northern WA Centres and the Northern Territory could also be impacted.

The cash flow affects of this would be significant. Premiums would need to be paid up to four months earlier and that would mean that payment of the ALA levy on Associations would need to be made much earlier. I believe that currently much of the levy is paid from new registrations but it is unlikely this would be the case if we changed the renewal date of our insurance.

On balance I believe we should continue to use the current expiry date.

The other question that could be asked is why is the Certificate of Currency not available until immediately before the previous one is due to expire. This happens because insurance companies are reluctant to quote too far in advance meaning that negotiations take place almost up to the time of expiry of the previous policy, making it impossible to issue a Certificate of Currency until a commitment is made to take out the policy, be that a renewal with the same insurer or a similar policy with a new insurer.

Overall for the 2010 /2011 year insurance premiums have reduced by 5.99%.

Under the Finances heading I mentioned the impact of the Equipment insurance. Two years ago our then insurer declined to quote on this portion of our insurance because of an unsatisfactory claims experience from their point of view. What this meant was that we had paid out the entire self insurance portion of the policy and the insurer was required to meet claims well over the premium paid to them. In the last two years our claims experience has been extremely good. For the 2009/2010 claims to date total a little over \$63,500 and this has contributed just over \$86,000 to the financial result.

## **OFFICES**

Since opening the office in Melbourne in July 2008 we had maintained two offices. The decision was made in April 2009 to consolidate the office position both on an efficiency and financial basis. The current Administration Executive, Marita Somerford was located in the Perth office and was asked if she would relocate to Melbourne And continue her employment with us. Marita decided her wish was to stay in Perth and subsequently left our employ.

Tim McGrath was contracted to provide services as a Project Officer in January 2009 and Ashlea Watt as employed from July 2009 as Administration Officer.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you to Marita, Tim, Ashlea and our CEO Adam Wallish who have contributed to the success of Australian little Athletics over the last eighteen months. They often do not get the recognition they deserve and the assistance they provide me in carrying out the tasks relating to my position is very much appreciated.

The staff of the various Associations and the members of the Board of Management are also supportive and their input is appreciated.

To the other members of the Executive Ross Burrridge and Charlie Sanders I also extend my thanks for their assistance.

Finally, but by no means least, my thanks to my wife Robin for her support, without which it would be impossible to devote the necessary time to fulfil the obligations my portfolio requires.

**Brian Newton**  
**Administration and Finance Director**

### **Australian Little Athletics Championships – Brisbane April 2010**



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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**  
**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS INCORPORATED**

**To the Members**

**Scope**

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the Australian Little Athletics Incorporated for the eighteen months ended 30 June 2010. The financial report comprises the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the statement by the Directors of the Board of Management of Australian Little Athletics Incorporated (the Association), for the eighteen months ended 30 June 2010.

The Directors of the Board of Management of the Association are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purposes other than that for which it was prepared.

**Audit Approach**

I conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the Association. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

I performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the associations financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional and reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used and described in Note 1, are appropriate for the needs of the members.



Liability limited by  
a scheme approved  
under Professional  
Standards Legislation.

I formed my audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- i. Examining, on test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report and
- ii. Assessing appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors of the Board of Management.

Whilst I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion the financial report of Australian Little Athletics Incorporated presents a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of the Australian Little Athletics Incorporated as at 30 June 2010 and the results of its operations for the eighteen months then ended.



**R J AUSTIN CPA**  
**(AUDITOR)**

**Date:** 15 September 2010

# **AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS INC. (ACT) SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

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Your Directors submit the financial accounts of Australian Little Athletics for the eighteen months ended 30 June 2010.

### **DIRECTORS**

The names of the Directors in office at the date of this report are:

Ross James Burridge	President
Brian Rossiter Newton	Administration and Finance Director
Norman Charles Sanders	Competition and Standards Director
Adam Lincoln Wallish	Chief Executive Officer

### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- To conduct national athletic competitions.
- To represent affiliated Associations in expressing policy in matters pertaining to Little Athletics at a national level.
- To provide rules and standards for competition to affiliated Associations and guidance on all other matters pertaining to competition.

### **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### **OPERATING RESULT**

The deficit of the Association for the eighteen months amounted to \$84,099.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

On behalf of the Directors:



ROSS BURRIDGE  
President



BRIAN NEWTON  
Administration and Finance Director

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010

**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2009 TO 30TH JUNE 2010**

Last Year	Note		
\$		\$	\$
	<b>INCOME</b>		
70	Affiliation Fees		70
	<b>Levies</b>		
21,458	Australian Teams Championship Levy	45,513	
207,478	Administration Levy	202,141	
228,936			247,654
	<b>Commercial Activities</b>		
10,260	Royalties	37,573	
9	Merchandise	-	
10,269			37,573
	<b>Sponsorship</b>		
276,750	Sponsorship	344,238	
14,250	Association Contribution to Sponsorship Servicing	28,500	
291,000			372,738
	<b>Reimbursements</b>		
692,237	Insurance Reimbursement	673,800	
42,251	Ticket & Book Reimbursement	50,180	
12,500	Website Rebate	-	
746,988			723,980
	<b>Other Income</b>		
45	Protest Fees	-	
-	Roll of Excellence Dinner	4,091	
54,519	Interest Received	49,890	
54,564			53,981
<u>\$1,331,827</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>\$1,435,996</u>

**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2009 TO 30TH JUNE 2010**

Last Year		Note	
	<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>		
3,832	ALA History	939	
500	Audit Fees	700	
31,606	Australian Teams Championship	63,666	
854	Bank & Government Charges	1,548	
60,487	Business Plan	-	
-	Consultancy	3,141	
3,853	Depreciation - Office Equip.	8,207	
-	DVD - Introduction to Little Athletics	64,694	
3,947	Entertainment	652	
1,528	Executive & Board Attire	-	
939	Flowers, Gifts, Notices etc.	270	
116	Freight	637	
790	Legal Costs	16,497	
4,925	Legal Costs Trademarks	4,693	
723	Legislative Costs	436	
160	Life Membership Medallions & Awards	1,026	
959	Office Expenses	2,866	
1,204	Merchandise	-	
844	Postage	1,509	
4,387	Printing & Stationery	11,965	
-	Relaunch - NT Little Athletics	1,561	
3,448	Sundries	10,268	
367	Telephone/Facsimile/Internet	6	
150	Training/Conferences	-	
125,619			195,281
	<b>Insurance</b>		
10,604	Directors & Officers Liability	7,393	
49,965	Personal Accident & Professional Indemnity	42,416	
83,568	Public Liability	83,653	
2,399	Travel Insurance	1,289	
50,389	Equipment Insurance Premium	47,102	
162,589	Equipment Insurance Claims	2 11,818	
49,500	Brokerage	54,450	
409,014			248,121
	<b>Ticket &amp; Book Costs</b>		
21,454	Tickets - Printing Costs	16,215	
69,600	Ticket Books - Printing Costs	74,510	
91,054			90,725
	<b>Sponsorship/Projects</b>		
2,052	Sponsorship Commission Paid	54,175	
46,130	Sponsorship Servicing	14,397	
-	Branding	27,177	
81,647	Promotion/Advertising	106,441	
129,829			202,190



**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2009 TO 30TH JUNE 2010**

Last Year		Note	
	<b>MEETING/CONFERENCE EXPENSES</b>		
11,891	Executive Meetings	14,641	
14,368	Board of Management Meetings	11,031	
19,680	Annual & Half Yearly Conferences	32,971	
2,143	AT&FCA Meetings	1,953	
1,010	ALA/AA Meetings	5,417	
-	State Conferences	1,887	
49,092			67,900
	<b>TRAVEL - OTHER</b>		
6,659	Airfares, Accommodation, Meals and Other Expenses	3,847	
6,659			3,847
	<b>Roll of Excellence</b>		
-	Airfares, Accommodation, Dinner and Other Expenses	21,799	
-			21,799
	<b>Australia Cup</b>		
4,440	Airfares	3,318	
128	Other Travel Costs	1,306	
1,817	Accommodation & Meals	2,916	
491	Allowances	2,991	
6,876			10,531
	<b>National Schools Development Program</b>		
100,000	Allocation to Associations	109,788	
14,373	Administration of Program	5,632	
2,000	Resources	76,738	
116,373			192,158
	<b>Office</b>		
182,994	Salary, Travel & Associated Costs	425,238	
-	Motor Vehicle Usage, Parking & Tolls	2,055	
23,619	Rent	48,446	
5,759	Telephone	9,232	
292	Electricity	2,098	
713	Sundry Expenses	474	
213,377			487,543
<u>\$1,147,893</u>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>\$1,520,095</u>
	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		
<u>\$183,934</u>			<u>(\$84,099)</u>

**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30TH JUNE 2010**

<b>Last Year</b>		<b>Note</b>			
<b>\$</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
137,298	Trade Debtors			15,674	
231,768	ANZ Cheque Account				
	Proclaim Management Solutions - Equipment				
25,980	Trust Account	2	41,318		
2,010	ANZ Business One Visa		12,383		
400	Petty Cash		200		
260,158	Total Cash on Hand			53,901	
7,383	Security Deposits			7,383	
10,845	Accrued Income				
12,036	Prepayments			25,927	
-	GST Paid			27,627	
427,720					130,512
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
47,085	Office Equipment at Cost		47,403		
16,540	Less: Accumulated Depreciation		13,601	33,802	
-	Motor Vehicle at cost		31,946		
-	Less: Accumualted Depreciation		361	31,585	
30,545	Total Fixed Assets				65,387
	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>				
1,148,191	ANZ V2 Account			-	
-	ANZ On Line Saver			460,471	
-	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit			518,115	
1	Shares			1	
1,148,192	Total Investments				978,587
1,606,457	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				1,174,486
	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
11,189	Creditors			12,215	
-	ANZ Cheque Account			11,629	
23,054	Unexpired ATC Levy			-	
42,473	GST Payable			-	
125,000	Provision - Equipment Insurance	2		10,000	
100,000	Accrued Expenses			-	
80,000	Income in Advance			-	
381,716	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>				33,844
\$1,224,741	<b>NET ASSETS</b>				\$1,140,642
	<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>				
1,040,807	Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) Brought Forward				1,224,741
183,934	Surplus (Deficit) this period				(84,099)
\$1,224,741	<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>				\$1,140,642

# **AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

### **Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by directors and members of the Association. The directors have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AAS 2:           Measurements and Presentation of Inventories in the Context of the Historical Cost System

AAS 4: Depreciation of Non-Current Assets

AAS 5: Materiality

No other applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report is also prepared on the accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the presentation of this report:

#### **Office Equipment**

All office equipment is carried at cost and depreciated over their useful lives to the Association.

#### **Employee Entitlements**

Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

## **AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

#### **Note 2: Contingent Liability**

Australian Little Athletics has a National Property and Equipment Insurance, which provides cover of up to \$80,000 for every centre and Association. The policy is an aggregate deductible policy which this year requires Australian Little Athletics to pay the aggregate of the first \$150,000 of claims. Any claims in excess of this sum will be met by the insurer.

A requirement of the policy is that Australian Little Athletics deposit funds into a trust account to meet any claims made under the policy, current or past. The policy expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 and a provision of \$10,000 has been made for unsettled claims as at the balance date and events which may occur between the balance date and the expiry date of the policy. For the insurance year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 a total of \$50,000 has been deposited to this account leaving a potential future liability of \$100,000. The funds deposited, less costs to date are reflected in the Financial Position Statement as "Proclaim Management Solutions – Equipment Trust Account".

The value of future claims against the policy is unable to be quantified however Australian Little Athletics recognizes the probability of future claims being received and a contingent liability of up to \$100,000 exists.

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- ACTLAA

It is my pleasure to report on the recent activities of Little Athletics ACT.

## **Board of management and governance**

The association conducted its annual general meeting and conference on the weekend of 17-18 July 2010. There was strong attendance by centres and there were presentations by sponsors, including Athletes Foot and McDonalds.

The association voted to reduce the number of board members from 10 to 6 from 2011, consistent with the size of boards in other states.

With regret, the association noted the resignation of Peter Martens as Chairman to concentrate on his involvement with ACT Hockey. Peter had been Chairman for two years and had been administration director for three years before that. His tenure on the board marked a period of stable and progressive governance and he will be a loss.

Tony Reilly was elected as new Chairman for one year (under the new arrangements, the position will be vacant again in 2011).

Tony was replaced as competition and technical director by Peter Boden, who has an outstanding record as an official and assistant coach of the ACT ALAC team. Michael Spencer was elected as development director. Michael has a long association with our sport and is a LAPS presenter in the region.

John Hunt, who resigned from the board last year after many years of distinguished service, was made a life member of LA ACT.

The association remains in good shape financially. We anticipate recruiting a new part-time staff member in the office in the next two months. For the first time, we also have a school based apprentice working in the office one day per week.

We remain without a marketing director, which has held us back from pursuing new sponsorship agreements for the last couple of years. We propose to pursue new sponsorships over the coming months.

## **Registrations**

Registrations for 2010-2011 are tracking slightly ahead of registrations at the same time last year. We have implemented on-line registrations for the first time and implementation has been relatively trouble-free to date with nearly all Centres embracing the technology provided by the IMG system.

We are delighted that the Batemans Bay Centre has recommenced operations after a five year absence. The centre anticipates at least 100 registrations and we are led to believe these are mostly families who are new to the sport.

**Coaching and education**

We are offering an Introduction to Coaching Course at Batemans Bay, for the benefit of the new centre and also for the surrounding centres including Moruya, Bega and Braidwood. We have LAA NSW permission to invite attendees from the Ulladulla centre. This is the first time we have offered the course outside Canberra.

We have made arrangements with Athletics ACT for them to conduct official's courses for our members, which are proceeding before the start of the season.

We are in the early stages of developing a mentoring program with coach, Matt Beckenham, to give our Little Athletes exposure to local elite athletes.

We are also in the early stages of addressing the issue of transition of Little Athletes to seniors by promoting a squad of Little Athletes from different clubs which will compete at Athletics ACT interclub events.

**Development issues**

ACT and region schools are continuing to take up our offer to run LAPS programs and they are well-received. We are to be involved in the Active After School program in the ACT and also in a NSW Sports Expo in Queanbeyan at the end of October. We continue to roll out On-Track training for centres.

**Health and Safety**

Our main OHS issue at present is the absence of discus cages at many Little Athletics Centres in the Association. We are in consultation with ACT government to determine the best way to address this safety issue.

**ALACs 2013**

We are in the process of constituting a convening committee for the 2013 ALACs. The 2013 ALACs will coincide with Canberra's centennial celebrations and so there will be a number of logistical challenges to address to ensure the event is not 'crowded out' by other events occurring at the same time. This also presents some opportunities as well with ACT Government possibly providing assistance.

**Tony Reilly**

**ACTLAA Chairman**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- LAANSW

## **NEW LOGO**

LAANSW is already using the new logo and we have now completely phased out the 'old' logo. Centres have been instructed they must cease to utilise the 'old' logo by the end of the upcoming season.

Any Centre wishing to utilise the logo is required to make application in writing and agree to the usage terms and conditions. Failure to comply will result in the right to use the logo being withdrawn.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN & OPERATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

The LAANSW Strategic Plan for 2010-2013 and the Operational Action Plan for 2010-2011 have been completed and endorsed. The plans focus on such areas as improved retention strategies; increased skill development programs; use of available technology; facilitation of best practice sharing amongst Centres and improved access and support for remote athletes, coaches and officials.

## **ASSOCIATION FOCUS AREAS**

Once again we have determined a number of focus areas for the coming season. They are: - Centre Support; Delivery & Quality of Product; Growth & Retention and Use of Technology. By completing the relevant actions, we will achieve a number of advancements in various areas of the Association's operation.

## **STAFF RESTRUCTURE**

The staffing structure in the LAANSW Office is currently under review. Several meetings have been held between the President, CEO and Resources Director, in an attempt to provide a structure that can better service the membership for today's requirements, particularly in the areas of Centre support and Championships. The new structure will more than likely see a change to several roles, as well as the creation of others. It is hoped to have the new structure in place later this year.

## **ANNUAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

Our Annual AGM and Conference was held over the weekend of July 17/18 in Port Macquarie. Approximately 200 delegates, Life Members, Zone Cos, BOM, staff and special guests attended. Among the special guests was Mark Ella the former Wallaby and now the Council's Sports & Events Coordinator who opened the conference. Also in attendance were Adam Wallish, Dean Paulin & Steve Ryan from LAV, Hayley Butler Commonwealth Games hurdler, Matt Rowan (ANSW) and reps from our sponsors Hart Sport, IGA, McDonalds, and Coca Cola.

In an effort to better reach the Centres in regional New South Wales, the Board of Management will again be hosting some Regional Conferences throughout late 2010. The agenda items for these Conferences will replicate some of what is covered at the Annual

Conference, but more importantly will also provided an opportunity for regional Centres to discuss areas of concern or raise any questions with the members of the Board and/or staff in attendance.

### **ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Last season, an Athlete Assistance Program was introduced to provide financial support to families that are experiencing financial hardship. Through the Athlete Assistance Program, and subject to approval by the Board of Management, we were able to provide a discount or waive the registration fees for some athletes. As a result of some government funding through a NSW Sport and Recreation 'Sport and Athlete Development Program' grant, we are able to extend this program to fund additional athletes for the coming season. It is hoped that by offering the Athlete Assistance Program, the LAANSW can help to overcome the financial obstacles that prevent some young people from participating in our sport in NSW.

### **COUNTRY COACHES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

A further assistance program will be implemented this season, with a view to increasing the number of qualified coaches in country areas. Also with funding through a NSW Sport and Recreation 'Sport and Athlete Development Program' grant, the LAANSW is able to offer funding for country coaches to attend coach accreditation courses, or provide funding for courses to be held in regional areas.

### **DUAL REGISTRATION**

The key features of dual registration for the 2009/10 season were: the alignment of registration dates between the two organisations and dual athletes were no longer levied an additional \$20 registration fee (this fee was waived in an attempt to encourage more dual athletes, with the Association registration for the second Association now being free).

As we have progressed through the summer season, Athletics NSW has enjoyed a record number of dual athlete registrations and the NSW Junior & Youth Championships held in February was a resounding success as a result.

Of the 750 participants at the inaugural NSW Junior and Youth Championships, over 50% were dual athletes. Of the 468 athletes who qualified for the Australian Junior and Youth Championships, approximately 45% were dual athletes.

### **ONLINE REGISTRATIONS**

All Centres will again be required to offer members the opportunity of registering online for this season. This simply means that individuals will have the ability to use this means of registration if they so choose.

The rebate of \$5 per athlete is again being offered this season. It was pleasing to see rebates issued to 88% of Centres for approximately 30,000 athletes last season.



### **ONLINE ENTRIES**

We will continue to utilise the IMG online system for entries into Camps, Clinics and Championships. This means of entry has become very popular and will be heavily promoted, with a view to eventually making some events 'online entry only'.

### **ZONE & REGION RESTRUCTURE**

A working party which includes Board members and Zone Coordinators has been formed to carry out a thorough review of the current Region/Zone structure to ensure it is meeting current membership expectations in terms of accessibility to families in terms of cost, travel and time commitments. Is it logical, equitable etc? The review will also include the current qualification process through to our State Championships.

**Dereck Fineberg**  
**President LAANSW**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- QLAA

On behalf of the LAQ Board of Directors, we are pleased to present the following report, which highlights Little Athletics Queensland's achievements to date in 2010.

## **Registrations**

At the time of writing this report the current registrations for the Winter Season is 1,593 which is a decrease of 15% on the previous year. The main cause of this reduction is one of the larger centres affiliating with ANQ rather than LAQ this season. There has also been a general reduction in participation in North Queensland sport across the board.

The Summer Registrations for last season also recorded a drop of 5% but this compared to a record number of registrations in the prior year coinciding with the 2008 Olympic Games.

## **Competitions**

The number of athletes competing at the Association competitions remained relatively static. The IGA State Championships were conducted in Townsville this year and participation was excellent with numbers comparable to the previous time the event was conducted in North Queensland.

The IGA Winter Championships were conducted in July at the Townsville Sports Reserve and had relatively small numbers compared to previous years. The Board will be looking at ways to improve the participation at the event in future years. Interestingly, the number of u16 and u17 athletes competing at LAQ competitions has increased markedly following the decision at the 2009 Conference to allow them to compete at all Association competitions.

## **McDonald's Development Squads**

The Squads continue to prove popular with 386 athletes participating in the Squad Training Days. This represents an attendance ratio of 75% of the athletes that are invited to participate that take part.

## **School Programs (including Little Athletics Program for Schools (LAPS))**

LQA Development staff continued to deliver school programs throughout Queensland in 2010, which saw an increase in the number of students that took part in LAPS to 8,333 so far this season.

## **Strategic Plan 2010-2012**

The Board and staff have now had two workshops with our strategic planning consultants and the second draft of the plan is now being circulated for comment. The overwhelming sentiment is for us to focus on the athletes and the Centres.

## **Queensland Little Athletics and Queensland Athletics**

Throughout 2010, LAQ and QA have continued to meet regularly to look at ways both organisations could work better together for the good of the athletes and the Centres. We have agreed on a dual registration process for u13 to u15s who will receive free registration to QA and u16 to u17s who will receive free registration to LAQ. The next step is to simplify the

process of dual affiliation so that Centres that are, or wish to, affiliate with QA will have an easier transition.

### **AGM & Annual Conference**

The AGM took place at Comfort Inn & Suites Robertson Gardens, Brisbane in March. Incumbent Directors Todd Williams, Donna Smith, Kelly Buckby and Tony Northey were re-elected to their respective positions.

The Annual Conference was conducted at Novotel Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast. It was a very positive conference with increased numbers from last year attending.

### **Marketing and Promotion**

All sponsorships remain in place with renewals from IGA and Quest Newspapers in 2010. There are some promising new opportunities which will hopefully come to fruition later in the year.

### **Staffing**

In 2010, LAQ appointed a part time Development Officer in North Queensland to undertake school and Centre visits, and to assist with coaching and development programs.

**Tony Northey**  
**QLAA President**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- SALAA

It is my pleasure to present an update since the previous ALA Meeting on behalf of the South Australian Little Athletics Association.

## Administration

- The number of affiliated Centres and Clubs in South Australia is 59 which include the Coaches and Officials Club.
- Athlete Registrations for 2009/2010 have not reached last year's figures of 6600 by the end of the season. Although the numbers are slightly less than last year, this is not surprising given the current condition of Centre venues due to water restrictions and the trend in the year following a high increase in membership.
- This season we established new Little Athletics Centre based at Laura and affiliated a Centre at Tennant Creek. Both Centre Committees have been very pro-active. At present we have expressions of interest from the Burra and Keith areas. We are currently looking at the feasibility of re-establishing Little Athletics Centres in both locations.

## Education

- To date we have Programmed 24 Officials and Introductory to Coaches Courses in the Metro & Regional areas, as weeks go by more Centres are starting to read the paperwork and request Courses, so by the end of the season the number of courses conducted will grow. Many of those who attended the Introductory to Coaching Courses will complete the ATFCA Level 1 Course with many achieving higher accreditation.
- Squad LA continues to be our success story for developing the athletes to reach higher standards, 110 athletes joined the program and we look forward to watching their progress over the year.
- The schools development program is maintaining a presence within the school community and also remains one of our top marketing strategies.
- The Nunga Come & Try day that developed to the status of Championship Event has been deferred until May 2011 because of the resurfacing of the Santos Stadium track. This event for Aboriginal children last year attracted 700 participants and will no doubt increase in 2011. We successfully applied for a grant from the State Government to assist us in further developing the event.

In October we will conduct a Training Program to educate the Aboriginal Parents on how to become a Chaperone and have Basic Official Skills by utilising the 'How to help at Little Athletics' Booklets. At the completion of program we will present them with a Site Skills Certificate. To date around 15 parents have nominated to attend. This is the first step to assist in integrating the parents as well as the athletes at Little Athletics Centres.

## Championships

- The long awaited resurfacing of the track at Santos Stadium will commence mid-September, it is anticipated that the work will not be completed until the end of February 2011. The Government has selected Rekortan as the new surface. Unlike other Associations we only have one synthetic track. For this season we will be utilising a Centre venue for the IGA State Relay Championship and live in the hope that the track will be available for the remaining State Championship Events before the end of the season.

## Sponsorship

- How fortunate are we having IGA as our major sponsor. The relationship we have is excellent.

Apart from the traditional mutual support, IGA will also continue to support our five Volunteer Awards presented for first time last season. We are very thankful for their involvement with Little Athletics; we look forward to growing this relationship as we progress.

- South Australian Government through the Office for Recreation and Sport have been a tremendous supporter of our Association as they recognise we are the base for any sport young people may wish to pursue, as well as a feeder to the sport of Athletics. We continue to work with them in promoting the many important Health and Safety messages, ensuring we have as many people actively participating or volunteering in the community. We were successful in receiving an increase and a further 2 years funding agreement for our core business, as well as a 2 years funding for the conduct of the Nunga Come & Try and Championships.
- McDonalds will continue to sponsor our winter Cross Country Program and State Cross Country Championship. They agreed on an increased sponsorship deal to include the Age Patch, Multi-Event Championships, store tray and posters, television commercials, drink bottles and tents. We are looking forward to a rewarding and exciting relationship with them into the future.
- We will continue our association with rebate supporters SportsCentre, IDM Sporting Equipment; Aussie (Home Loans) and Nippy's.
- Channel 9 & Win TV will continue to sponsor our television commercial.
- Mutual Support will also be provided to our National Sponsors:
  - Asics
  - Willis Insurance
  - Athletes Foot
  - IGA.

## **General**

- Board Members – Sadly after 16 years on the Board of Directors Wendy Beisiegel resigned at the AGM. Wendy has given great service to the Association and will be sadly missed. Steve Holland (Ex President of the Reynella Little Athletics Centre) has stepped up and was voted in at the Annual General Meeting as Administration Director. Marketing still remain vacant, Pam Sard continues to voluntarily carry out the duties of this portfolio.
- Brittany Winter has settled in to the Little Athletics family way of life extremely well however she has a decision to make on whether she continues with us or takes up her university placement. Based on the success of the trainee scheme we would employ another should she decide to leave. Brian Sard has continued to assist in the office whenever needed.
- Many of our Centres have benefitted from the Active Club Grants that are available twice a year. These grants have been utilised mainly for timing gates and long jump run-up's. Technology is fast replacing many volunteer positions at Centre and Association level hopefully it does not replace the family and voluntary aspect of our Association.

The State Government has just announced the availability of a Grant up to \$50,000 for the establishment and Development of Facilities, many of our Centres will take advantage of this which is geared to support grass roots sport.

- Community Involvement – We have agreed to support Asthma SA this season in a 'Kids Marathon'. The program allows young athletes the opportunity to fund raise based upon the distance they run/walk and finishes up with a Marathon on the 12<sup>th</sup> December around the Torrens. The proceeds will be split between Asthma SA, Little Athletics and our Centres.
- Our State Conference was a huge success, plenty of business, networking, workshopping and fun. We were pleased to welcome a Lecturer from Asthma SA who conducted an Asthma Course resulting in 60 Delegates receiving an Asthma First Aid Training accreditation. We also were pleased to welcome Brian Newton and thank him for taking the time to attend.
- Athletics SA has reintroduced Dual Registration with some restrictions. We will offer this opportunity to our Athletics in the Under 14 to Under 17 Age Groups.
- Our focus will continue to be on the participation base ensuring that we assist athletes of all abilities reach their potential in a Family Fun and Fitness environment and at the same time provide opportunities for Parents and older athletes to reach their potential as Officials, Coaches and Administrators.

**Scott Pitts**  
**SALAA MANAGING DIRECTOR**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- TLAA

I am pleased to present my report for the 2009/10 season. I am now in my 4<sup>th</sup> year as President, and am so proud to be a part of an Association which is continuing to grow and introduce new initiatives.

During the past season a number of initiatives have been undertaken as the Board continues to look at ways we can grow and strengthen in certain areas.

These include:

- the re-invention of the Regional Committees;
- continuation of the popular under 12/13 Coaching Camp;
- the first State Cross Country Championships;
- the establishment of our first office;
- the continuation of the very successful Little Athletic Regional Clinics;
- continuation of the use of technology to enhance our operations.

The Board needs the assistance of many members within our 19 Centres. These members form the regional committees, cross country committees and assist with the running of our State conducted meetings. This assistance is greatly appreciated. Having said that, we need even more members to take the step to become qualified officials, to nominate to be a coach / hut parent at the Coaching Camp, and to assist with the conduct of the regional Little Athletic Clinics.

I thank all Board Members, our Administration Officer Jacqui Singleton, and all Centre committees and officials for the wonderful job you have all done throughout the season in your various roles.

## **Board of Management**

As previously advised, following State Conference in June 2009, the Governance of the Association underwent a change to remove the position of Administration Director, this role being taken up by our employee, Jacqui Singleton. The Board continued to review the Governance in line with the work that is being undertaken successfully by the office. The review period covered eight months, during which time the majority of the Membership Director duties were allocated to the Office, along with the onus of compiling the TLAA Newsletter. The review clearly identified that the additional tasks of Membership Director and Publicity Officer were amply covered by the office within the 25 hours a week worked by the Administration Officer. April through to September has always been the busiest from an administrative perspective, therefore the new tasks covering the months of October through to March are a perfect fit to ensure a continuity of tasks.

At the completion of the review, the TLAA Board called a Special General Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May to remove the positions of Membership Director and Publicity Officer, with the motions accepted by the members.

Following this Governance change; the position descriptions of both Education Director and Technical Director were reviewed and duties changed to reflect minor changes to their roles, the most significant being the inclusion of the media liaison responsibilities to the portfolio of Technical Director.

We have a full complement of six board members at present, who between them possess a wide range of knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas. The Annual General Meeting saw several changes to the Board of Management. Former Publicity Officer Kaylene Knee was successful in her nomination as Education Director. We bade farewell to Technical Requirements Officer Rob Panton who resigned due to family commitments. Roger Hosie. This role is now being undertaken by Roger Hosie, former President of Clarence Little Athletics Centre.

## Office

Through the funding provided by the office of Sport and Recreation, we are able to retain and grow the position of administration officer. Jacqui is now seen as the first point of contact for our Centres and this has certainly taken a lot of workload off the individual board members.

A funding application has been forwarded for the next round of funding by the Department, and we look forward to a positive response later in this year.

## State Conference

State Conference this year was held at Wrest Point. We welcomed several guests including Australian Little Athletics President and Life member of the TLAA, Ross Burrige, ALA Administration and Finance Director Brian Newton and Life Member Helen Moir, and I thank them for taking the time out to attend. Their input was invaluable, and as always our members welcomed the opportunity to ask questions from members of the ALA and from people like Helen who have a connection that goes back to the very beginning of Little Athletics in Tasmania.

In addition to our guest we had presentations from the following:

- Blair Brownless from the Sports Commission gave a presentation on the Active After Schools Program;
- Sarah Davidson, Client Manager from the Department of Sport and Recreation who presented on Play by the Rules;
- Susan McLeod, Project Officer from Sports Medicine Australia gave a very good presentation on courses available for members to undertake.
- Dan Finnigan from Launceston Centre arrived armed with the Centre's new timing gates and gave an excellent report on how the Centre introduced these and the benefits to the Centre. The gates have created a lot of interest, and already several other Centres have an order in for these. The TLAA will also be looking at utilizing these gates, where available, at our State conducted meetings.





## Sponsorship

Sponsorship remains strong in Tasmania, and we are very fortunate to have many long term sponsors who are great advocates of our sport.

- Aurora Energy
- McDonald's
- IGA Tasmania
- MyState Financial
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Medalmania
- Robbie's Confectionery
- Southern Cross Television

## Registrations

Unfortunately we saw a large decrease in registrations this season. This is due in the main to the extremely bad weather in the South of the State during October and November. Four of our major Centres in the South were unable to gain access to their grounds for the first 3 – 5 weeks, with one Centre not having access until December, resulting in a decrease in registrations of 26%. Whilst these Centres did collaborate and conduct combined meetings at the Domain Athletic Centre, the effect of not competing at their own Centre venue was highly evident. Centres have been heavily marketing the sport over the past two months, and with the various coaching clinics which have been held, along with the marketing generated through the school LAPS visits, we are looking forward this season to not only recouping our lost numbers, but to grow on this.

## State Meetings

The 2009/10 season was essentially one of consolidation in regard to the State Events Calendar. As was the case last season, TLAA conducted the following meets:

- 2 Centre Challenge Days, essentially retaining the overall format introduced in 2008/09
- 2 All State meetings (Actually we scheduled 2, but only conducted one, due to weather!)
- Relay Championship Day, retaining the format from 2008/09
- Walks and Multi Event Championships Day
- State Individual Championships weekend.

There was some innovation also:

- The concept of **Regional Committees** was re-visited. These committees help with the conduct of TLAA meets within the region. I believe these worked very well for their first season, and look forward to continuing and expanding the benefits that they provide.
- Greater flexibility was afforded to Centres in regard to forming **relay teams**. Scope was provided for relay teams to be filled with athletes from the next younger age group. Many centres availed themselves of this new opportunity.
- **Video Judging/Timekeeping** was implemented at all Northern meets. The earlier meets being used to ensure that the processes would be correct for State Championships weekend. This was a great success, and much thanks must go to Northern Athletics Branch for the provision of the equipment and personnel to make this happen. They provided approximately 50 person hours effort, which covered tasks that would have otherwise required around 350 hours effort from Centre officials / parents.

Overall, attendances were very good at all meetings although we saw a drop in athletes travelling to state meetings outside of their immediate region, with the exception of championship events. The Board continues to investigate initiatives that will increase attendance figures, and make the meetings attractive for all athletes.

### **Coaching Clinics**

For the third year running the TLAA conducted Coaching Clinics during August and were very well attended. These clinics open to all children aged between 5 – 14 years residing in Tasmania and are a great opportunity to highlight our sport to the community, free of charge.

The clinics serve a dual purpose of providing the children with an opportunity to gain valuable coaching and skill acquisition in three events of their choice as well as being a major marketing tool for Little Athletics in Tasmania. Many of our Little Athletics coaches, as well as senior coaches freely give their time to assist on the day, and their assistance is greatly appreciated by all.

This year, the Department of Sport and Recreation had an “Award for Excellence” category in addition to their annual sports awards. I submitted an application for the coaching clinics, and was extremely pleased to be advised that the nomination was chosen as one of four finalists. The overall winner was Kingborough Gymnastics in recognition of their 5 Star national accreditation. Whilst it would have been a huge honour to win the Award, to finish in the top four in the State was a wonderful achievement and the recognition TLAA received on the night was excellent.

This year we also ran combined clinics with Athletics Tasmania in the three major regions. These have been very successful and had the support of Blair Brownless from the Active after Schools Program, who contributed to the costs of the promotional flyers. These combined clinics have been seen in a very positive light by various athletic stakeholders and has strengthened the relationship between the two athletic bodies in Tasmania.

### **IGA Cross Country**

The second State Cross Country Championships were held in early September in Campbell Town, and this was well attended by members from both regions. IGA provided medals and ribbons, and the parents and athletes were treated to a free barbecue and refreshments. It was a great day of competition, and I thank all those committee members who assisted to ensure that it was a great success.

### **State Teams**

#### **Under 14 Australia Cup**

This event was held in Canberra on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Our athletes performed exceptionally well, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at a competition which combined both Little Athletics and some of the Country's top track and field athletes. Thanks to Kay Knee and Wim Vaessen for accompanying the team to Canberra, and for the large amount of work which went into to ensure that all athletes had a great experience, not only on competition day, but for the duration of their stay in Canberra.

### **Australian Little Athletics Championships - Brisbane**

The team travelled to Brisbane, and it was with great delight that the Team not only retained the Dick Healy Trophy for the overall points winner of the smaller Associations (being ACT and Tasmania), but they also tied for first place with Queensland, for the Alan Triscott Handicap Trophy.

This handicap trophy was devised in order that all Associations had a chance of winning a trophy. Prior to the introduction of the handicap event there was virtually no hope of the middle tier Associations participating in the overall trophies. The smaller Associations had the Dick Healy. The handicap points are established on the average points per Association for the last seven ALACs (being one full rotation).

Our Under 15 Multi-event athletes also performed extremely well, and I congratulate them for their dedication and courage. All four athletes put in over and above what was expected.

For the second year, the Carbine Club of Tasmania provided a bursary of to one under 13 boys and one under 13 girls to assist with their expenses to attend the championships. Athletes are invited to apply for the bursary by completing the relevant form and selection criteria, with the Board determining the two successful recipients. The bursary is certainly appreciated by the athletes and is further recognition of the great support given to Little Athletics. Advice has recently been received advising that the bursary will continue for a further two year period, with an increase in the amount per athlete.

### **Summary**

The TLAA Board of Management takes this opportunity of wishing all State and Territory Associations the very best for the forthcoming season.

Tasmania is looking forward to hosting the 2010 Annual General Meeting and conference in October, along with the second Roll of Excellence Award Presentation and Dinner.

**Rhonda O'Sign**  
**TLAA PRESIDENT**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- LAV

## Registrations

Registrations during the past season totalled 21,164 compared to 23,244 the previous year, which was a decrease of about 8.9%. This was disappointing, as up to two hundred (200) schools were visited by us under the LAPS program. At the time of writing this report it is still too early to predict registration levels for the coming season, however, indications from a few centres look positive.

With the Commonwealth games commencing in early October we should be able to utilise the publicity and exposure of our sport at these games. With the television advertising from our sponsorship arrangement with McDonalds, run during the months of August and early September, and with the Little Athletic place mats at their stores to start for two weeks during mid September, we are looking for a higher registration result than last year.

## Regions

We have finally completed our re-organisation of our eight Regions reducing this number down to seven. This has required some centres to be moved from their current locations to a new Region. Every Region now has a minimum of two all weather athletic tracks, which will mean that all new Regions will be on a "level playing field" for Region elimination events for State Relays and State Track and Field Championships

## AGM

Our AGM for this season was held on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August with, compared to last year, very few constitutional motions and a reduced amount of competition motions. Several of the requested LAA Standard Competition Events were put before the delegates, but were not well received. No decision was made on two events, namely the 200 metre hurdle event, in place of our current 300 metre hurdle event, and the Under 11 Girl's 1100 metre walk, in place of our current 1500 metre walk. Therefore a postal ballot via email to all our centres was decided upon by the delegates. This was requested so that they had more time to decide, and for all centres to be given the opportunity to vote. The result of the ballot was still outstanding at the time of writing this report.

Next year due to the time saved at the AGM, we intend to combine our normal CentreFest and Presentation weekend with the AGM. This will be held in Shepparton in late July 2011.

## Centres

Two new Centres commenced operations this year. The first being Bar-rook, which is in the Wimmera – Mallee area, and the second, Skye Valley, which is a new metropolitan Centre near Frankston. Skye Valley has been active with a very experienced committee, and Bar-rook has also been getting involved with activities outside their centre. They were successful in winning a Merit Award (\$250.00) at our Presentation night for the IGA Docket Competition.

We have lost one of our older centres due to the local Council deciding that the demand for soccer is greater than the demand for athletics. The centre, Fawkner, have decided to call it a day, even though we did request that they either shared another centre's facilities or moved to the next closest centre and become a club. The Centre Committee however, decided to close the centre down leaving their members to join another centre if they wished.

Our Membership Committee is currently also looking at the new growth areas surrounding the Melbourne Metropolitan Area for possible locations to set up and organise new centres.

### **LAVic & AV**

The relationship between LAVic and AV continues to improve every year, and this past season we have had over 1200 dual registered athletes. We also, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, competed with AV at the Sandown Park race track in a combined road relay event. LAVic entered 82 teams on the day with the event being a great success. This was the second year we have been involved and this year we entered more than double the amount of teams.

### **LAA Raffle**

The LAA Raffle being conducted within Victoria did cause some problems between the sellers and the general public, which caused quite a few complaints to be registered at our office. As a result a meeting was held at the LAVic office between "ALLsports", the company selling the tickets on behalf of LAA, Ross, Adam, Dean and myself. We have been able to sort out most of the concerns, and since the meeting LAVic has been able to notify the centres where and when the tickets were to be sold. This has reduced the number of complaints coming in. The biggest problem was the apparent wrong information being given at the selling points.

### **New Logo and Name**

The new Little Athletics logo design was accepted by the delegates at the AGM and we are now in the process of changing all our old logos. The delegates also moved, and passed that LAVic is to use the original slogan "Family, Fun and Fitness" where ever possible.

Victoria Little Athletics Association registered name has now been officially changed and registered as the Little Athletics Association of Victoria. This was finally approved and registered on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2010.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Preparations have started, and sub committees organised, for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be held in April 2015 just prior to the holding of the ALAC in Victoria.

At this time the ALAC will be held at Geelong, which as we all know was the starting point for all Little Athletics.

It is proposed that the celebrations will start with a dinner/dance and presentation evening, possibly at the Crown Plaza with a professional Master of Ceremonies. We are expecting in excess of 600 people to attend the evening. We will keep every one advised of the preparations for the celebrations as they occur. This will also be the formal dinner for the ALAC.

### **Calendar for the coming season**

The calendar for the forth coming season has been approved by the Board and was submitted to the delegates at our AGM. During the season ahead we have 16 Introduction to Coaching courses already allocated, 5 On Track Workshops, 7 Junior Development Squad (JDS) training days, 6 Starter's Seminars, 2 Under 7 to Under 10 McDonald's Clinics, 3 Officials Seminars and at least 2 Race Walking Judging Seminars. Our calendar, when you also take into account the number of Region and State events and events with AV to be held during the oncoming season, is expected to be extremely busy offering help to all of our athletes and their parents.

A great deal of these events will only be happening due to the hard work by our General Manager in chasing and organising extra sponsorships to cover the costs involved.

LAVic is looking forward to a very successful season ahead.

**Gordon Major**  
**President Little Athletics Victoria**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT- WALA

## WALA – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2008-09

This past year saw the opening of the new Athletics Stadium, something which has been most welcomed, albeit, due to the absence of the full complement of athletics facilities required and requested to accommodate our programs, it did require some changes to be made to our competition programs.

Overall, these revised programs went relatively smoothly, however, as expected, use of the new stadium provided some new learning experiences, which has resulted in further appropriate adjustments for the ensuing season, being made in an endeavor to overcome some issues which confronted us last season.

Usage costs in accessing the new stadium have risen substantially to that which we had previously anticipated. This may result in seeking alternative facilities to accommodate some of our training & development programs in the future.

I wish to acknowledge the continued support of our sponsors:-

- McDonald’s as the naming right sponsor of our State Track & Field Championships, plus their significant advertising support to our annual registration initiatives.
- The West Australian for their continuing support of our annual registration day.
- IGA who extended their support to the Association. This being the second year of our relationship with IGA, saw IGA become the naming rights sponsor of our State Relay Championships. We look forward to their continued and long term support of this marquee event on our Championship calendar.

Registration numbers were again strong at approx. 7,300, which was extremely pleasing – thanks to the hard work of numerous people across all Centres & Clubs.

The 2010 Australian Little Athletics Championships held in Brisbane also saw the launch of the new LA logo nationally, which appears to have been well received across the LA fraternity.

We have continued to work closely with the AWA Board members and DSR, focusing on making the transition for LA Members easier through to Senior competition, this included dual registration for athletes U’14 and above. Additionally, last season saw the launch of a joint initiative to support training & coaching through the LA Centres & Clubs.

Last year’s AGM also saw the configuration of the Association’s Board of Management changed. These changes are designed to better assist our focus on enhancing the delivery of focused programs to Athletes, Coaches, Officials and Volunteers generally.

## **REGISTRATIONS**

Kaye Runge with the support of our office staff has overseen this portfolio.

We again facilitated a Registration day common to all Centres in the State. We were, and are again for the forthcoming 2009/2010 season, fortunate to receive advertising support from our major sponsor – McDonald's together with that of our daily newspaper - The West Australian, for without their support the cost of advertising would certainly mean reduced publicity for the day.

The past season saw our registration numbers reaching approx. 7,300. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation for the effort expended by everyone involved across Centre's and Clubs, the results of which has resulted in our registrations levels remain extremely strong on a historic comparative basis.

With the Commonwealth Games being staged in Delhi this coming October, it is expected that this will have a positive effect on the profile of our sport and hence registrations. The real issue confronting us now though is the ability to retain athletes, particularly given the extended competition days experienced by a number of Centres last season due to their increased in numbers.

It remains an ongoing desire of mine, for Centres to review their program of events so as to shorten the time impost on athletes and their families in their participation of weekly competitions, which I consider critical to improving both our retention rates, together with growing our membership base.

## **FINANCE**

Our financial position for 2009/10 season reflects yet again a stable financial position being achieved.

To have been able to achieve this result, whilst also having been able to again assist with funding some 90 people with achieving their AT&FCA Level 1 & 2 coaching accreditation during the past season, together with maintaining our investment into the sport of athletics – inclusive of a number of other initiatives designed to support our members and promote our sport, has been a very pleasing result.

Thanks to our Executive Officer - Hannah Tebbutt for again managing the day to day financial obligations of this portfolio during the past year.

Our members can be rest assured, that our Organisation is in a very sound financial position, one by which we can support the continued growth of our sport within WA.

During the season ahead, we are anticipating running an operating deficit, much of this we expect will relate to our usage of the New Stadium, which has resulted in additional financial imposts on our Association, both in regard to revenues and expenses.



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Notwithstanding this portfolio having been vacant for some time, during the past season we were successful in maintaining and continuing the development of our relationship with McDonalds. This is a relationship which we are keen to continue to develop into a long term benefit to both ourselves and McDonald's.

Last year saw IGA continue and increase its sponsorship of our sport at a State level via its support of State Relay Championships. Not only did they sponsor this event, but they were actively involved on the day in distributing fruit to attendees.

## **ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES**

During the past season, Anne Graham has again been extremely busy in attending Centre meetings, assisting Centres in completing their Incorporation- Constitutional documents.

Anne has also been liaising with DOCEP in regard to proposed changes to Constitutions for Incorporated bodies, a task that has taken her an immense amount of time, however, is now completed in preparation for these new requirements becoming legislated.

This portfolio also continues to be quite busy, unfortunately, often it relates to trying to assist Centres in overcoming internal operating issues in deference to focusing more on providing the best environment for our athletes being the primary consideration of some.

Whilst it is appreciated that it may not necessarily be uncommon in the wider sporting community, concerns continue to exist in being able to encourage volunteers to step in and fill positions within Centres.

## **COMPETITION & SPECIAL EVENTS**

During the season Bob Gray has continued to fulfill this portfolio. Overall our State Events last season were quite successful – many thanks to all our volunteers who assisted in the successful running of these events.

Prior to the commencement of last season the Board undertook the task of moving the Association's equipment from Perry Lakes to the new stadium, inclusive of the acquisition of new equipment and items by which to transport these around the new arena. These tasks were made all the easier by the immeasurable support provided by our technical officers - Bernie O'Brien & Greg Doecke – my sincere thanks to both of them.

Additionally, the move to the New Stadium required all our State Event programs to be reviewed and revised, overall, these changes were well managed, however, it has required some further minor adjustments for the season ahead.

## **ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT**

This was again a very busy year for this demanding portfolio, the challenges of which were very admirably handled by Frank Jamieson.

There were the annual ET clinics held last September and the continuance of our Development Squad training & coaching program. Once again these were well attended and, by all reports, well received.

Coaching and training of athletes for the Australian Little Athletics Championships, plus the recent International Team which traveled to Singapore took much of Frank's time during April, May and June and the accomplishment of these teams are a testament to the quality of coaching organised for the athletes. My thanks go to the various coaches who have assisted Frank with these programs during the past year.

The performance of our State Team at the Brisbane National Championships was certainly very credible, albeit, slightly impacted on the day by some untimely injuries being incurred.

The International Team comprising of some 67 athletes attained some sensational performances, inclusive of some records being broken. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our relationship with this event with Singapore, and whilst it was disappointing to learn just prior to competition that Malaysia would not be attending, it is pleasing to report that we have since had communication with Malaysia and they will be hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our involvement with them next year.

As an aside to Frank's portfolio, it is pleasing to advise that last year, we delivered athletic related programs into over 100 schools through our part-time Development Officers coordinated by Lee Hartley.

#### **OFFICIALS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Frank Bertoli joined the Board during the past season to fulfill this new portfolio, which is becoming increasingly important as we seek to both enhance accreditation standards throughout our membership, together with increasing the pool of volunteers we can utilize for our major events.

It was very pleasing to see many people complete various Grades of the Officials accreditation courses during the year. We continue to experience an ongoing challenge of attracting new officials to assist in the smooth running of our programs, both at a State & Centre level.

I am sure Centres and Zone committees will see more of Frank during the ensuing season as he seeks to enhance our capabilities in this area, this will also include additional resource support being provided within the Association office in relation to the conducting of State Championships Heats & Quarter Finals (Zones).

#### **PARENTS/COACHES DEVELOPMENT**

Jenny McGregor joined the Board during the past season to fulfill this new portfolio, a portfolio which I expect will see ever increasing demands placed on it as we continue to strive to enhance the capabilities of coaching across Centres & Clubs, together with deepening the pool of coaches that we can draw from to support the myriad of Athlete Development and Training programs being provided.

The demands for coaching clinics seem to be up year by year. During the ensuing season, Jenny will be coordinating/supporting the continuance of our assisted AT&FCA accredited Level 1 & 2 Coaching courses together with the Introduction to Coaching courses which will be conducted.

I wish those Board members seeking renomination to their respective portfolios and those who are have nominated for Board positions all the best at the forthcoming AGM. It would extremely pleasing if all Centres ensure that their votes are completed in accordance with the Associations Constitutional requirements and thus ensure that their votes reflect their voting intentions.

In addition to coaching and offering special event clinics courses at Centres, there are the annual ET clinics to be held in September and the continuance of our Development Squad training & coaching programs.

**In closing:**

I have spent a large portion of my life around sporting clubs - from juniors & seniors playing football, cricket, tennis & basketball. In all cases there were fantastic people who have given their all to the service of the club and the people of the clubs they hold dear.

Now sporting clubs do have a habit of eating their own, unfortunately, whereby those who are the most generous with their time, energy and often money, are criticised by those of us who do little other than to play, eat, drink and be merry with very little regard to what goes on around us. Well I would like to thank all those club people for their ongoing support - and if you see one today thank them, or call and thank them - they are the salt of the earth, never looking for thanks or reward and yet no club can survive without them. Thank you...

I also express my thanks for the efforts and support of my family, all my fellow Board members, together with our hardworking Executive Officer – Hannah, who is most capably supported by Melissa and Lee.

**Pieter Bergshoeff**  
**WALA CHAIRMAN**

