



AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS INC.  
2010 - 2011  
ANNUAL REPORT





AUSTRALIAN LITTLE  
ATHLETICS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
July 2010-June 2011



**AUSTRALIAN  
LITTLE  
ATHLETICS INC**

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**Executive**

Ross Burridge	President
Brian Newton	Administration & Finance Director
Charlie Sanders	Competition and Standards Director
Adam Wallish	Chief Executive Officer

**Association Presidents**

Tony Reilly	ACTLAA President
Dereck Fineberg	LAANSW President
Tony Northey	QLAA President
Scott Pitts	SALAA Managing Director
Rhonda O'Sign	TLAA President
Gordon Major	VLAA President
Pieter Bergshoeff	WALA Chairman

**STAFF**

Ashlea Watt	Administration Officer
Tim McGrath	Project Officer (to December 2010)

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Trevor Billingham BEM*	Don Blyth
Alan Triscott	Mal Hastie
Keith Maughan	Peter Shinnick
Doug Hancy	George Harvey
C P (Paddy) Robinson*	David Cramer
Maxine Boyd	Anthony Libke
Grahame Searles	Michael Stubbs
Brian Newton	Marjorie McNamara
Alison Quirke	Dennis Goodwin
Gary Mutton	

**AWARD OF MERIT**

R O (Dick) Healey *	Brian Newton
Alan Letcher	Arnold Hunt*
John Crouch	Alison Quirke
Don Baker	Marjorie McNamara
Garry House	

**MERIT CERTIFICATES**

John McCarthy
Peter Shinnick
John Marsden

\* Deceased

## Roll of Excellence Members

### Track & Field

Steve Hooker  
Nathan Deakes  
Melinda Gainsford- Taylor  
Amy Winters  
Jana Pittman- Rawlinson  
John Steffensen  
Jane Saville

### Sportsmen

Kathy Watt  
John Worsfold  
George Gregan  
Nova Perris  
Alisa Camplin  
Geoff Ogilvy  
Hollie Grima

### Volunteers

Trevor Billingham \*  
Alan Triscott  
Doug Hancy  
Barry Garment  
Helen Moir  
George Harvey  
Peter Wickes

### Achievers

John Maclean  
Mike Whitney  
Dr. Peter Larkins  
Kirsty Marshall  
Janine Shepherd  
Chris Bradshaw



\* 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.**<sup>®</sup>

## SPONSORS

Little Athletics Australia (LAA) 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, Little Athletics Australia has developed an outlet for the distribution of the Asics Little Athletics shoe.

Little Athletics Australia 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 Little Athletics Australia 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 LAA's successful LAPS (Little Athletics Program for Schools). AXA provides quality financial advice to members, and assists LAA in areas such as marketing expertise.





# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

# PRESIDENT REPORT

It is with pleasure that I write this Annual Report for the period from July 2010 to June 2011.

The past 12 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 LAA 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 remains healthy and at times challenging. Solidarity across all associations is the key to a strong and unified LAA.

The BOM's continued patience with and support for the Athletics Australia relationship and discussions are 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.

While most matters have moved on at a reasonable pace there are some matters that are proving to be troublesome and slow. For example standard rules and governance improvement. The latter is a very important matter and I am concerned that the BOM do not understand the risk around poor governance practice. In my last 12 months this will be a key focus for me.

Pieter Bergshoeff will depart the Board early in the new year and I wish him well in the future whilst thanking him for his past contribution. Life member Brian Newton's term also comes to an end at the 2011/12 Annual Meeting and I also thank him for his contribution and wish him all the best going forward.

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

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

- Signing of an MOU to move to a new state of the art office complex at Albert Park. This move will give both profile and opportunity to LAA.
- Good progress on strategic plan initiatives with a timely refresh to occur for 2011/12.

- The commencement of a Joint Venture between LAA and AA on the back of significant Australian Sports Commission funding. This is a real opportunity to work with government and AA for the betterment of all parties.
- LAA was instrumental in establishing a review of the current officials systems with a view of developing a common continuous pathway of accreditation. This is a two year project and LAA is well represented on this committee.
- The finalisation of Athletics Play in conjunction with AA and the ASC.
- There remains 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.
- Roll of Excellence – this was a 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.
- History Book – the launch of the History Book marked another chapter in LAA with a terrific and well received launch held at the MCG.

On the sponsorship front our relationships remain strong albeit we lost AXA before the expected expiry date and subsequent to the end of year The Athletes Foot sponsorship was not renewed. We have a strong list of sponsors and continue to enhance these relationships. However another one or two major sponsors are required in order to consolidate programs such as LAPS. This is a difficult task as national sponsors must be complementary to our Association sponsors.

Once again thank you to everyone for their support and I look forward to another constructive, and for me final year, in 2011/12.

**Ross Burridge**  
**LAA President**



# CEO REPORT

It was another busy year for LAA.

The new brand for Little Athletics, adopted by LAA and every state and territory association last year, is now well and truly bedded in. The corporate logo has been very well received and will in time provide instant recognition for our sport.

The BOM reviewed the works undertaken by the Project Officer, Tim McGrath and determined that many of the key matters had been completed. As such Tim's engagement concluded at the end of December 2010. In addition to the achievements of the prior period, Tim was involved in the new video resources on coaching and officiating, the creation of Athletics Play, work around national skills development and drafting of the standard rules which is a current Board of Management (BOM) agenda item.

I would like to thank Tim for the gusto in which he worked for Little Athletics and the quality of work produced. I wish him well in the future.

Sponsorship plays an important role in Little Athletics across the country. LAA has again this year enjoyed a great relationship with national sponsors; Asics, IGA, The Athlete's Foot and AXA. It's unfortunate that AXA signaled an end to the LAPS naming rights sponsorship from 30 June 2011; we wish them well with their new direction.

Congratulations to ten-year-old Imogen Taylor from Narrogin Little Athletics Centre in Western Australia on winning for her entire family a trip to the 2011 IAAF World Championships in South Korea. Thanks again to Asics and The Athlete's Foot for a great promotion.

LAA is keen to secure new sponsors in what is a very competitive market.

In an effort to obtain alternate sources of revenue, LAA conducted a "scratch and win" promotion that offered a selection of prizes drawn randomly and the main prize of a trip to the 2012 London Olympic Games.

From a financial perspective, the promotion well exceeded the expectations of LAA, despite some negative feedback received in Victoria re the performance of some of the external sales force.

Congratulations to Victorian, J Nicoll, on winning the main prize.

During the past 12 months, some significant developments between LAA and Athletics Australia (AA) have taken place.

- The Athletics Play resource was a joint initiative developed by way of a formalised partnership between the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), AA and LAA. It is being used by a national network of community coaches involved in the delivery of the Active After Schools Community program to more than 150,000 children around Australia.

Athletics Play has the potential to be a key recruitment strategy for Little Athletics by expanding exposure of our sport to primary school aged children.

- LAA was invited to participate in a review of the current officials systems with a view of developing a common continuous pathway of accreditation. This is a two year project and LAA is well represented on this committee.
- Representatives of LAA and AA met with the ASC about potential funding opportunities (participation growth) for both organisations. Following a consultant's report, the ASC approved a grant \$400,000 toward joint participation objectives and organisational alignment (including pathways) over the next two years. Both LAA and AA are in the process of developing a Joint Venture Agreement, with equal representation from both bodies, to determine how to best allocate and manage the funds obtained.

Confusion around AA's new coach accreditation framework continued. During the year, Ross Burridge and I instigated consultative sessions between AA, ATFCA and LAA regarding the impact of the framework on LAA's coaches and the ATFCA. This resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AA and the ATFCA.

At the LAA October 2010 Conference, it was agreed to provide in principle support for AA's new coach accreditation framework, noting that LAA will be represented on the national committee responsible for drafting the curriculum for all future courses and that the ATFCA had also provided such support. The courses to be approved as they are completed.

During the year, the Victorian Government decided to close Olympic Park and build a new athletics track at Albert Park, including accommodation for athletics bodies (primarily Athletics Victoria and AA). Following discussion with AA and the State Government, the BOM has agreed to relocate the LAA office to the new building, which is due for completion in August 2012.

Having regard for the best interests of Little Athletics, LAA is hopeful that the relationship with AA continues to improve.

Some progress was achieved in the return of Little Athletics in the Northern Territory. With the assistance of Little Athletics South Australia, LAA helped with the establishment of Tennant Creek Little Athletics Centre. Congratulations to Wayne Green and his family for their commitment to our sport.

With the assistance of UTi Charitable, LAA and representatives from Little Athletics New South Wales travelled to Gove and Groote Eylandt to introduce Little Athletics to the local communities. We were met with great enthusiasm by the children and leaders in the region. Little Athletics could thrive in these areas and no doubt uncover some unique talent, if local volunteers could be engaged.

I also met with the Alice Springs Athletics Club regarding the benefits of LAA affiliation; however the club eventually decided not to proceed.

LAA hosted the second Roll of Excellence function, this time in Hobart. Thanks to the Tasmanian Little Athletics Association for their great assistance with the event.

The quality of inductees was again outstanding, with both Win TV and Southern Cross covering the event.

During the year, the BOM commissioned a report designed to assist with a strategic approach to growth development. The report provides each association with a greater understanding and appreciation for medium to long term demographics by state and



regional locations to identify the greatest potential for growth, particularly in the age range of 5 – 12 years.

The office of LAA continues to field enquiries from around the world re introducing Little Athletics in a particular region. Notwithstanding the interest received, the commercial and practical implementation has its challenges.

It was devastating to see the effects of the Queensland floods this year. The BOM made available certain funds to directly assist effected Little Athletics centres (in Queensland and other states). Little Athletics Queensland managed the destructiveness very well, with thanks to state and national sponsors for their support.

Commissioned by the BOM, Robin Newton has been researching and writing a History of Australian Little Athletics for some three years. The book follows the commencement of Little Athletics in Geelong in 1964, the establishment of each state and territory association including the national body in 1972 and the development since then to present day.

The book is almost complete and an official launch will take place in late July 2011.

The BOM has again made decisions in the best interests of Little Athletics. I would like to thank each member for their considerable commitment and guidance throughout the year. I also wish the retiring members all the very best.

I am particularly appreciative of the expertise and invaluable advice given by President, Ross Burridge. I also acknowledge fellow Executive members, Charlie Sanders and Brian Newton for their counsel. Brian's term as Executive member will cease in October 2011; I have no doubt the sport recognises his outstanding and long term dedication to Little Athletics.

A special thanks to Ashlea for her day to day support and to the association CEO's and staff for their allegiance.

I look forward to the next year with great anticipation.

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



# COMPETITION & STANDARDS DIRECTOR REPORT

## Hunter Track Classic (LAA Team Challenge)

In January 2011 two National Associations and three Hunter Local Zones competed for the "Little Athletics Australia U/14 Team Challenge". The challenge was held in conjunction with the Hunter Track Classic at the Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale in the Lake Macquarie region of NSW.

The Little Athletic teams were fully integrated into the evenings' program. The athletes were introduced to the crowd prior to each event and intermingled with well-known senior athletes such Tamsyn Lewis, Dani Samuels, Jody Henry and Collis Birmingham. Comments on the event were: -

*"Great to see LAs recognised"*

*"Competition day was fantastic and was a credit to the organisers and all the competing athletes"*

*"The whole concept is a brilliant idea to involve the kids with the elite athletes"*  
"A fantastic night and what an experience for our athletes, to be in the presence of such athletes as Dani Samuels, Jody Henry and Laura Whaler. Not to forget our own Olivia Tauro"

*"In Tasmania it is a problem having limited competition, but incorporating the Regional Centres and ACT it was really competitive"*

"The meet was excellent, one of the best athletics meets I have attended. The mix of athletes and the variety of the program was outstanding. It attracted a large crowd and the atmosphere was fantastic".

The athletes competed in 5 individual events and 1 relay, with 2 athletes from each team in each event. The eventual winners were the ACT girls and the Lake Macquarie boys.

The event is being offered again for 2012, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and will open for all Associations to send a girls' and a boys' team.

## Hunter Track Classic (Coaching)

The morning after the "Challenge" a coaching clinic was organised using 'elite athletes' and professional coaches. The two Association teams and many of the Zone team members returned for this event. The event was organised by Darren Wensor from LANSW and was a great credit to his commitment to the future of all children in the Little Athletics movement.

The event ran for several hours with the athletes having the chance and the time to listen to stories from the elite athletes and also have a "question time" with these athletes. From this session they went to the track and the field to be coached by the "professionals", what an experience. Comments from those that took part: - "quality of the coaches and elite athletes who participated was exceptional and the question and answer session with the elite athletes was a highlight", "thank you to Darren for



his organising of this event, all the athletes commenting on what an amazing experience it was being exposed to elite and experienced coaches".

This session will again be a part of the experience offered in 2012.

### **Standard Rules and IAAF Specification Changes**

LAA received communication from AA regarding some changes in the implements to be used by Under 14's upward. The changes relate to Javelin, Shot put and Discus. It is suggested that we, LAA, follow the recommendation and make the changes required.

To do this, several changes will required within the Constitution document, and these relevant motions will be put to the October conference.

In relation to the suite of "Standard Events and Age groups" the changes will be reflected in Under 14 boys' Shot put, going from a 4Kg to a 3Kg implement. Another change is reflected in the Javelin to be used by the Under 15 girls, it will change from the 600gm to the 500gm.

Other recommended changes are in the Under 16 and 17 age groups not covered at this stage in the "Standard Ages" and the changes are as follows: -

Under 16 Girls' Shot put from 4Kg to 3Kg.  
Under 17 Girls' Shot put from 4Kg to 3Kg.  
Under 16 Girls' Javelin from 600gm to 500gm.  
Under 17 Girls' Javelin from 600gm to 500gm.  
Under 16 Boys' Shot put from 5Kg to 4Kg.  
Under 16 Boys' Discus from 1.5Kg to 1Kg.

### **ALAC 2011 (Teams welcome)**

The teams gathered on the top viewing area of St Aloysius College at Milsons Point. The teams admired the view across Sydney Harbour looking towards the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The gathering was addressed by LAA President, Ross Burridge, ALAC Convenor, John McFadden, College Principal, Rec Fr Chris Middleton SJ and Dani Samuels. The function concluded with an afternoon tea and the teams mingling and exchanging badges.



### **ALAC 2011 (Championship day)**

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011, with threatening skies the teams and their management arrived and set up in the team's village to ready themselves for the days' competition. The day started with a spectacular Opening Ceremony and Teams March Past, with the Scots College Pipe Band leading the athletes and officials around the arena in preparation for the Official Opening.

With the opening completed it was time to get on with the days' events, with a few new procedures coming into play for the running of the day. Meet Manager and Photo finish was fully integrated allowing a smooth transition of the race finish results directly into the recording system. The use of this technology also allowed the electronic scoreboard at the Homebush track to display the full result to the spectators within seconds of the completion of the event.

Medal presentations were done following the events, and this proved to be a smooth operation and removed the usual backlog of presentations from the end of the competition prior to the Closing Ceremony.

The heavens did open up, if only for a short time, but overall a great day and plenty of good healthy competition.

To the LANSW organising team, my congratulations and sincere thanks, for putting together a splendid 2011 ALAC and MEC event. Well done to all involved.

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

Place	Team	Points
1	New South Wales	724.0
2	Victoria	694.0
3	Western Australia	579.5
4	Queensland	555.0
5	South Australia	473.0
6	Tasmania	417.0
7	Australian Capital Territory	385.5



#### **Dick Healey Trophy awarded to the winner from the smaller Associations (U13)**

Place	Team	Points
1	Tasmania	417.0
2	Australian Capital Territory	385.5

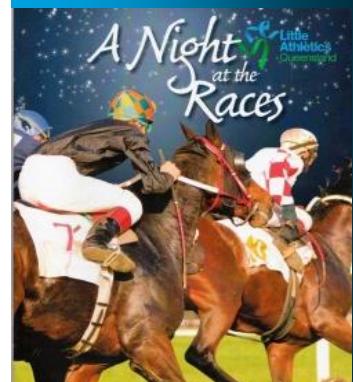
#### **Alan Triscott Trophy for the Australian Teams Championship (U13) - Handicap**

Place	Team	Points
1	South Australia	932.0
2	Western Australia	916.5
3	Tasmania	916.0
4	New South Wales	915.0
5	Australian Capital Territory	907.5
6	Victoria	888.0
7	Queensland	852.0



#### **Life Members Trophy for U15 Multi-Event Team Competition (U15)**

Place	Team	Points
1	New South Wales	266.0
2	Victoria	245.5
3	Western Australia	214.0
4	Queensland	207.5
5	South Australia	157.5
6	Tasmania	117.5
7	Australian Capital Territory	113.0



#### **LAQ Conference**

I had the pleasure of attending the Little Athletics Queensland conference in June of this year. It was held on the Sunshine Coast at Maroochydore.

The conference was held over two days, with very interactive communication between all members in attendance and the Board and management.

The work-shopping during the conference was really informative and the information gathered I am sure will be invaluable for the Association.

Of course it was not all work and there were a couple of social events. The trivia night was enjoyed by all who participated. And of course in the theme of the weekend "A Night at the Races" the dinner dance was well attended. All who attended got into the theme and many were dressed for the races, some workers and a few horses and jockeys.

The weekend flew and I must congratulate Tony, Simon and their Board and Staff for a well-run and very informative conference, I found it very friendly and interesting, and I was happy to have been involved.

#### **U14 Camp**

At the last April 2011 BOM meeting it was suggested that an under 14 camp should be considered. Since that meeting I have been in contact with Glynis Nunn-Cearns (AT&FCA), Darren Wensor (LANSW), Alvin Uhmaday (LANSW) and Shane Bertrand (LAVic).

It was planned to hold the camp at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast and had started to draft some ideas. However, due to the facility being in a poor state of repair the camp for this season has been abandoned.

The Executive have suggested that the Hunter Track Classic be supported again this season. The event will consist of 100, 400, 1000, Swiss medley relay, Shot put, Long jump for girls and Triple for boys. There will be coaching sessions arranged for all athletes. Teams will be 5 boys and 5 girls, with each athlete to do at least 2 events each. The teams will be awarded points as per multi point-score for each performance.

**Charlie Sanders**

**LAA Competition & Standards Director**



# ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

I present my report for the twelve months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

## Finances

Australian Little Athletics finished the year with a surplus of Income over Expenditure of \$180,313. This is a \$189,063 turnaround from the budgeted loss of \$8,750. The main variations between budget and actual are detailed in the table below. These items account for \$170,585 of the difference between budget and actual as against the actual difference of \$189,063. Variations not detailed are of a relatively minor nature.

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Sponsorship	227,499	264,250	(36,751)
Interest Received	61,712	35,000	26,712
Donations/Raffle	112,454	50,000	62,454
 <b>Total Income</b>	 1,463,056	 1,415,000	 48,056
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
ALA History	30,788	40,000	(9,212)
DVD's - Introduction to LA's & Officiating/Coaching	75,465	31,400	44,065
Ticket Books - Printing Costs	65,532	81,000	(15,468)
Sponsorship Expenses	72,598	140,350	(67,752)
Sponsorship Servicing	12,940	25,000	(12,060)
Promotion/Advertising (Website)	14,622	22,250	(7,628)
Meeting/Conference Expenses	42,232	68,680	(26,448)
National Little Athletics Program in Schools - Resources	0	33,000	(33,000)
Grants - Association Equipment Grants	62,400	0	62,400
Project Officer	38,573	73,720	(35,147)
Projects			
Standard Events & Development Policy	0	3,950	(3,950)
Skills Development Program	0	11,520	(11,520)
Model Centre Policy	0	550	(550)
Centre Competition Resource	0	1,900	(1,900)
 <b>Total Expenditure</b>	 1,282,743	 1,423,800	 (141,057)
 <b>Surplus (Deficit)of Income over Expenditure</b>	 \$180,313	 \$(8,750)	 \$189,063

The decrease in the Sponsorship income is directly related to the loss of the sponsor of the Little Athletics Program in Schools.

Donations/Raffle shows income in excess of budget by \$62,454. This is all attributable to the program conducted in the States of Victoria and Queensland. Whilst we were always hopeful of a greater return than that budgeted for, it was considered prudent to only budget for the guaranteed minimum. The financial result from this activity was most satisfactory but it is fair to say that the Associations in both States were not happy with the methods of fund raising that were used in order to achieve the result. The over budget surplus from Donations/Raffle is directly offset by the Association Equipment Grants of \$62,400.

The cost of the history book was almost 25% under budget for the year. The budget allowed for payments to the author, consultants and printing of the book. Payments for these activities were finalised during this year. Outgoings since the end of the financial year in relation to the history relate to freight of the book and the staging of the launch. This will result in the expenditure being significantly over the budget allowance of \$5,000 in 2011/2012.

When approving the budget for 2011/2012 in April this year there was some debate concerning the budgeted amount of travel expenses. It is therefore pleasing to note that for the year just completed that actual expenditure on Meeting and Conferences, which includes travel, was \$26,448 under budget or 61.5% of the budget.

The overall finances of Australian Little Athletics are in a sound position with Net Tangible Assets in excess of \$1.3 million.

## Registrations

The following shows the registrations by Association for the registration year 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011 together with the figures for the proceeding nine years.

	2001/20 02	2002/20 03	2003/20 04	2004/20 05	2005/20 06	2006/20 07
ACTLA						
A	3,040	2,875	2,614	2,849	2,414	2,656
LAANS						
W	40,200	39,276	35,900	41,128	37,451	39,476
QLAA	13,217	12,921	11,150	13,288	11,697	13,121
SALAA	5,637	6,067	5,576	5,742	5,789	6,487
TLAA	2,599	2,561	2,400	2,717	2,454	2,606
LAVic	24,859	22,513	19,931	21,385	20,194	21,850
WALA	5,588	5,503	4,992	5,877	5,827	6,016
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,140</b>	<b>91,716</b>	<b>82,563</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>85,826</b>	<b>92,212</b>



	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	Increase/Decrease	Increase %/Decrease %	Average Registrations
ACTLA				2,942	150		
A	2,709	3,227	2,792			5.37%	2,812
LAANS				35,918	-1,867		
W	38,440	39,779	37,785			-4.94%	38,535
QLAA	12,926	13,975	13,092	12,374	-718	-5.48%	12,776
SALAA	6,398	7,338	6,602	6,621	19	0.29%	6,226
TLAA	2,470	2,701	2,413	2,433	20	0.83%	2,535
LAVic	20,536	23,244	21,206	19,726	-1,480	-6.98%	21,544
WALA	6,361	7,809	7,279	7,634	355	4.88%	6,289
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,840</b>	<b>98,073</b>	<b>91,169</b>	<b>87,648</b>	<b>-3,521</b>		<b>90,717</b>

It is disappointing for all to have a decline in total registrations for the second consecutive year. Four Associations achieved increases but unfortunately the three biggest Associations all recorded reasonably significant decreases.

These figures will also potentially impact on the levy for the 2012/2013 year as, using the current levy as a base figure, there will be a reduction of approximately \$37,000 in revenue.

In my report twelve months ago I referred to the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the hope that would bring with it the traditional upward bounce in registrations. This did not occur and may well be attributed to the time zone where the Games were conducted not being conducive to television audiences on the east coast. There could be some significance with WA recording the second highest of the increases in percentage terms and the highest in absolute figures where the television viewing of the Games was at a friendlier viewing time.

In my opinion it is imperative that plans are put into place early to try to capitalise on the exposure track & field will receive from next year's London Olympic Games which will coincide with our general registration period. The challenge is to convert this exposure to registrations and then to keep those as ongoing participants in the sport.

### Insurance

Whilst it relates to the 2011/2012 year, all of our insurance for the current year has been re-negotiated and was renewed as from 1 September. The table below sets out the premium comparison between 2011/2012 and 2010/2011.

CLASS OF INSURANCE	2011/2012		2010/2011		Premium Difference	% Difference
			2011/2012	2010/2011	2010/2011	2010/2011
	2	1	1	1	1	1
Sports Injury & Personal Accident	\$45,007		\$48,737		-\$3,730	-7.65%
Public & Products Liability / Professional Liability	\$66,427		\$77,301		-\$10,874	-14.07%
Association Liability (Directors & Officers Liability)	\$7,997		\$7,999		-\$2	-0.03%
Corporate Travel	\$1,981		\$1,970		-\$11	-0.56%
Business Insurance (Equipment Insurance)	\$60,724		\$53,881		\$6,843	12.70%
 TOTAL PREMIUM	 \$182,137		 \$189,888		 -\$7,751	 -2.97%

There is an overall saving on premium of \$7,751 with a reduction in all classes except the Equipment Insurance. The increase is due to three factors, a reduction in the aggregate deductible amount from \$155,000 to \$150,000, property market conditions and a 3% increase in the size of assets insured across Australia from \$12,460,000 to \$12,833,800.

Due to a change in the insurer's underwriting guidelines for business insurance there has also been an increase in the excess from \$100 to \$250 for food spoilage claims and from \$250 to \$500 for all other claims. This is still below the standard excess normally offered by this insurer.

Due to the situation with floods on the Eastern seaboard earlier this year we sought to include flood cover as part of the insurance coverage. Unfortunately this has not been possible at this time due to the wide range of localities covered, approximately 550. However it may be possible in the future with the provision of flood mapping although there is a further hurdle to overcome as apart from designated centres and clubs, coverage is also provided for equipment stored at the homes of volunteers and this is an ever changing scenario.



## **Offices**

The proposed move towards the end of the current financial year to Albert Park Athletic Complex is an exciting time as potentially this will establish a home for the national body that will endure for many, many years. From the humble first office in Brisbane established in 2001, the move to Perth, to the subsequent establishment of a second national office in Melbourne followed fifteen months later by the closure of the Perth Office. This has all transpired over the course of the last decade.

To now be in a position to establish a home that will be stable for the next twenty years can only benefit the sport.

## **Acknowledgements**

Over the years in finalising my reports for Annual General Meetings at a National level and a State level I have finished these reports with a thank you to those I have been associated with over the preceding year.

This time however I believe that circumstances dictate that I take a slightly different approach.

I have been a member of the Board of Management of Little Athletics Australia since its inception in 1994 and the first meeting of the Board in January 1995. Over that time I have worked with many different Board Members, Association Board Members and Staff and I would like to thank all of them for their involvement, their support of the sport and the fellowship, friendship and assistance extended to me. I am sure many of these friendships will endure through the coming years.

To the current LAA Board Members, Association Delegates and Staff, thank you for your support, help and assistance.

The current LAA office staff of Adam and Ashlea and Tim, who was with us for the first six months of the year, all help me enormously. When I reflect on this help it is difficult to see how I would ever have coped with the duties required of the position without the assistance of the staff, both past and present. Thank you for your support and assistance.

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

Finally, and by no means least, my thanks to my family and in particular my wife Robin for their support. I think in common with the families of most, if not all, who are involved at Association level and above, the families endure quite a bit. Mine certainly have and I think no more so than since I have been a member of the Executive. For their forbearance I sincerely thank them.

What lies ahead? For me personally I don't know the answer to that but I hope I can continue to make a contribution somewhere in future. For the institution of Little Athletics? Despite the challenges I see no reason why it shouldn't go from strength to strength.

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



**R.J. AUSTIN CPA  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

**ABN: 34 015 754 823**

Unit 9 First Floor  
Cretonia House – Oatley Court  
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Postal Address:  
PO Box 191  
JAMISON ACT 2614

TEL: (02) 6251-4546  
FAX: (02) 6253-2048

**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 twelve months ended 30 June 2011.

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 twelve months ended 30 June 2011.

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.

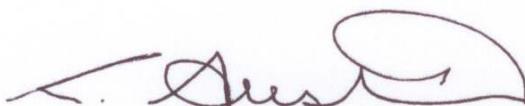
Whilst I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

**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 2011 and the results of its operations for the twelve months then ended.



R.J. AUSTIN CPA  
(AUDITOR)

Date: 16 September 2011

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

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

---

Your Directors submit the financial accounts of Australian Little Athletics for the twelve months ended 30 June 2011.

#### 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

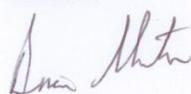
The surplus of the Association for the year amounted to \$180,313.

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 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011

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

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011

Last Year	Note	
\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
70	Affiliation Fees	70
<b>Levies</b>		
45,513	Australian Teams Championship Levy	24,519
202,141	Administration Levy	<u>220,665</u>
<u>247,654</u>		245,184
<b>Commercial Activities</b>		
37,573	Royalties	16,678
0	Donations/Raffle (Profit)	112,454
0	Merchandise	<u>0</u>
<u>37,573</u>		129,132
<b>Sponsorship</b>		
344,238	Sponsorship	213,249
	Association Contribution to Sponsorship	
28,500	Servicing	<u>14,250</u>
<u>372,738</u>		227,499
<b>Reimbursements</b>		
673,800	Insurance Reimbursement	735,550
50,180	Ticket & Book Reimbursement	60,000
0	Website Rebate	<u>0</u>
<u>723,980</u>		795,550
<b>Other Income</b>		
0	Protest Fees	0
4,091	Roll of Excellence Dinner	3,909
49,890	Interest Received	<u>61,712</u>
<u>53,981</u>		65,621
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		1,463,056

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

# **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011**

Last Year	Note	\$
		\$
<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>		
939	ALA History	30,788
700	Audit Fees	1,300
63,666	Australian Teams Championship	33,207
1,548	Bank & Government Charges	249
3,141	Consultancy	6,000
8,207	Depreciation - Office Equip.	6,603
64,694	DVD - Introduction to Little Athletics & Officials Coaching	75,465
652	Entertainment	0
0	Executive & Board Attire	1,481
270	Flowers, Gifts, Notices etc.	171
637	Freight	640
16,497	Legal Costs	2,339
4,693	Legal Costs Trademarks	6,515
436	Legislative Costs	398
1,026	Life Membership Medallions & Awards	900
2,866	Office Expenses	875
1,509	Postage	623
11,965	Printing & Stationery	4,559
1,561	Relaunch - NT Little Athletics	2,070
10,268	Sundries	972
6	Telephone/Facsimile/Internet	0
0	Training/Conferences	28
<hr/>		<hr/>
195,281		175,183
<b>Insurance</b>		
7,393	Directors & Officers Liability	7,394
42,416	Personal Accident & Professional Indemnity	43,150
83,653	Public Liability	70,631
1,289	Travel Insurance	513
47,102	Equipment Insurance Premium	49,287
11,818	Equipment Insurance Claims	3 190,289
54,450	Brokerage	65,000
<hr/>		<hr/>
248,121		426,264
<b>Ticket &amp; Book Costs</b>		
16,215	Tickets - Printing Costs	15,962
74,510	Ticket Books - Printing Costs	65,531
<hr/>		<hr/>
90,725		81,493
<b>Sponsorship/Projects</b>		
54,175	Sponsorship Commission Paid	38,073
14,397	Sponsorship Servicing	12,940
27,177	Branding	6,963
106,441	Promotion/Advertising	14,622
<hr/>		<hr/>
202,190		72,598

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

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011

Last Year	Note	\$
		\$
<b>MEETING/CONFERENCE EXPENSES</b>		
14,641	Executive Meetings	13,257
11,031	Board of Management Meetings	6,833
32,971	Annual & Half Yearly Conferences	18,997
1,953	AT&FCA Meetings	0
5,417	ALA/AA Meetings	1,372
1,887	State Conferences	1,773
<u>67,900</u>		<u>42,232</u>
<b>TRAVEL - OTHER</b>		
3,847	Airfares, Accommodation, Meals and Other Expenses	4,937
<u>3,847</u>		<u>4,937</u>
<b>Roll of Excellence</b>		
<u>21,799</u>	Airfares, Accommodation, Dinner and Other Expenses	<u>17,593</u>
<u>21,799</u>		<u>17,593</u>
<b>U14 Competition/Australia Cup</b>		
3,318	Airfares	651
1,306	Other Travel Costs	576
2,916	Accommodation & Meals	886
2,991	Allowances	823
<u>10,531</u>		<u>2,936</u>
<b>National Little Athletics Program in Schools</b>		
109,788	Allocation to Associations	100,000
5,632	Administration of Program	0
<u>76,738</u>	Resources	<u>0</u>
<u>192,158</u>		<u>100,000</u>
<b>Grants</b>		
<u>0</u>	Equipment Grants	<u>62,400</u>
<u>0</u>		<u>62,400</u>
<b>Office</b>		
425,238	Salary, Travel & Associated Costs	244,026
2,055	Motor Vehicle Usage, Parking & Tolls	14,902
48,446	Rent	29,108
9,232	Telephone	4,818
2,098	Electricity	1,460
<u>474</u>	Sundry Expenses	<u>2,793</u>
<u>487,543</u>		<u>297,107</u>
<u>1,520,095</u>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>1,282,743</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		
(84,099)		180,313

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2011**

Last Year	Note	\$	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
15,674		14,128		
41,318				
12,383				
200				
53,901				
7,383				
25,927				
27,627				
130,512				113,570
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
47,403		53,786		
13,601			33,582	
31,946				
361				
65,387				59,245
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>				
460,471		820,068		
518,115			549,133	
1				1
978,587				1,369,202
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				1,542,017
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
12,215		2,936		
11,629			28,873	
0				23,947
10,000				102,905
0				62,400
33,844				221,061
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				<b>\$1,320,956</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>				
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) Brought				
Forward				1,140,643
Surplus (Deficit) this period				180,313
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>				<b>\$1,320,956</b>

## AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011

---

#### **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.

#### **Motor Vehicles**

Motor vehicles are carried at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful life.

#### **Employee Entitlements**

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

#### **Note 2: Change of Financial Year**

Australian Little Athletics changed its financial year in 2009 from a calendar year to a fiscal year. As a consequence of that change all comparative operating figures shown in these financial statements cover an eighteen month period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

## AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011

---

#### **Note 3: Liability**

Australian Little Athletics has National Property and Equipment Insurance, which provides cover of up to \$75,000 per event for every centre and Association. The policy is an aggregate deductible policy which currently requires Australian Little Athletics to pay the aggregate of the first \$155,000 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 current policy expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and a provision of \$102,905 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. This figure represents the difference between claims paid to date for the year and the aggregate deductible of \$155,000.

For the insurance year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011, a total of \$75,000 has been deposited to the trust account leaving a potential future funds outflow of \$80,000. 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 recognises the probability of future claims being received and has provided in full for this eventuality.

#### **Note 4: Contingent Liability**

The Board of Management resolved to make available as grants a total sum of \$20,000 towards damage suffered by Little Athletic Centres which incurred financial loss as a result of the floods in January 2011 in the states of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The grant was to be to a maximum of \$2,000 per Centre.

To the date of this report no claims have been received but Australian Little Athletics recognises the possibility that claims may be received and an amount up to \$20,000 be expended in the coming financial year.





# ASSOCIATION REPORTS

# ASSOCIATION REPORT LAACT

It is my pleasure to provide the Annual Report of the ACT Little Athletics Association.

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Association. I am delighted and relieved that the association remains in robust health. Our financial position is strong and we have run small surpluses now for several years. Our clubs structure is stable and we added a centre at Batemans Bay last season. On the board of management, we have the benefit of directors with a wealth of experience and a passion for our sport. The fundamentals for a successful community sporting organisation are all in place.

## **Governance**

I am grateful to the 2010/2011 board of management for their support and imagination. From 2011/2012, we move to a new governance structure comprising six directors instead of 10, consistent with the other states. This is a sensible size for a board but presents special challenges for the ACT, which has fewer volunteers available than the bigger states.

The board of management was ably assisted again this year by Kerry Boden, whose presence in the office continues to be a fount of knowledge and calm. We were also very fortunate this year to recruit Rebekah Gupte as our first office assistant and for much of the year; we also had an office apprentice. The association office is in good hands.

We held our annual general meeting and annual conference on the weekend of 5-6 June 2011. It was well attended by Canberra centres and some regional centres. The highlight was a facilitated workshop on 'Improving our Product', which addressed centre programs, consistency of officials and increasing participation as the major issues to be addressed. The centres identified survey feedback that programs are too long and there is too much waiting around and agreed to set an aspirational target that programs for U6-U8 should be completed in 90 minutes and programs for U9 and above should be kept to 2 hours. The discussion also identified initiatives for improving the quality of officials, including workshops before each carnival, appointing an officials co-ordinator at each centre, arranging more officials' courses and providing more information for officials at each event at carnivals.

## **Registration**

The final number of registrations this year was 2942, compared to 2792 in 2009/2010 (increase of 150, or 5%).

On-line Registration was implemented this year, with over 30% of families registering and paying online and many more taking the opportunity to register online but pay the Centre directly.

## **Competition**

Numbers for all LAACT carnivals were up from last year.

- Multi event 484 (434)

- Relay 483 (448)
- Northside 322 (280)
- Southside 361 (344)
- Championships 516 (500)

### **Relationship with government**

We enjoy a good relationship with the ACT government, which is our principal source of funding. Our triennial grant has increased to \$22,000 per year for the next three years.

In return, we have undertaken to work with Athletics ACT on transitioning our older athletes (U14s and up) from Little Athletics to seniors to ensure their ongoing participation in the sport. We are developing joint initiatives with this in mind.

In co-operation with the ACT government, we are also continuing to look closely at what we offer on the northside of Canberra, particularly in Gungahlin, which is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Gungahlin is now our biggest centre, with over 400 athletes. There will come a time in the not too distant future when we will need a new centre in that area. It will be up to Gungahlin to decide when that time arrives and when it does, we will work with them and the ACT government to bring a new centre on line.

At our request, the ACT government has agreed to roll out discus cages at all our grounds over the next couple of years.

### **Sponsors**

Our relationships with our sponsors remain strong, but we can always do better, both in delivering value to our existing sponsors and attracting new ones. Our current sponsors are IGA, Canberra Southern Cross Club, The Athletes Foot and McDonalds. In 2011/2012, we will have a marketing director on the board of management for the first time in several years. This will give us the opportunity to examine our sponsorship relationships more closely, so we can ensure we are delivering the best outcomes for our sponsors and for us. ALAC 2013 also gives us a fantastic opportunity to start developing new relationships.

### **ALAC 2013**

We have formed a committee to prepare for the Australian Little Athletic Championships in 2013 in Canberra. Each Canberra centre has been made responsible for particular aspects of the preparation. We look forward to showcasing our sport and our city in April 2013, during the Centenary of Canberra.

### **Coaching Accreditation**

Our association remains concerned about the continuing confusion around accreditation of coaches by Athletics Australia. We are continuing to work with the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association to provide a quality product and support to our coaches.

### **Hunter Track Classic**

The ACT participated with Tasmania and some Hunter region teams in the Hunter Track Classic in January 2011. It was a great meet and a model for how Little Athletics events can be integrated into a seniors program.

**Tony Reilly**  
**Chairman**  
**Little Athletics ACT**





# ASSOCIATION REPORT LANSW

This past year has certainly been challenging as we tackled a number of quite significant 'projects', any one of which could consume a lot of resource. I refer to the new constitution, Zone/Region review, staffing re-structure and hosting of the 2011 ASICS Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) in Sydney. The drivers for these were varied but nonetheless all extremely important.

## **Zone & Region Review**

Our Association had not undertaken a significant structural review of our Zones and Regions since 1998. As a result, a working party which included Board members and Zone Co-ordinators, was formed to carry out a thorough review of the current Region/Zone structure to ensure it was meeting current membership expectations in terms of accessibility to families in terms of cost, travel and time commitments.

The working party undertook a number of surveys to members and Centres. The results confirmed some of the original findings but also identified some new issues for consideration, such as the way that athletes currently qualify for championship events. A large number of members felt that the direct qualification process that was used was not necessarily providing all talented athletes with the most equitable opportunities to progress though our championships pathway.

After almost seven months the working party submitted a proposal to the Board of Management which was approved for implementation from the 2012/13 season. The new structure retains twenty-four Zones across the state, however some Centres have been moved from one Zone to another, some Zones have been moved to a new Region and in some cases Centres/Zones moved from a metropolitan to a country Region. The number of Regions will be increased from five to eight, being four country and four metropolitan. The number of qualifying athletes to State Championships will be increased from eighteen to twenty-four. The qualification process from Region to State will be the first two place getters in each event at Region plus the next best eight performances across all Regions.

## **Proposed New Constitution**

The Association had to review its current Constitution to identify the changes required to comply with new legislative requirements, and engaged Lander and Rogers to assist with this process.

Underpinning the proposed Constitution was a series of Regulations covering: Standing Orders; Registration of Competitive Members; Register of Individual Members; Administrative Requirements for Service Awards; Requirements for Affiliation of Little Athletics Centres; Disciplinary Procedures & Appeals; Duties of Directors; Elections & Voting; Alteration to the Constitution & Regulations; Duties & Responsibilities of Zone Co-ordinators; Zone & Region Structure; Complaint Handling & Grievance Procedures; Finance; Selection, Administration & Management of State Team; Administrative Requirements for Rules of Athletic Competition for Conduct of Association Carnivals; Meetings of the Membership.

Unfortunately, the motion regarding the introduction of the new Constitution did receive the required 75% vote at our AGM. It is the intention of the Board to further involve the wider membership in a review of the draft; however the Board retains its resolve to produce a contemporary Constitution and regulations for the Association to meet 21st century challenges. We have agreed we will not rush this task and will instead work through it with our membership with the intention of bringing back an amended Constitution and Regulation package for consideration at the 2012 AGM.

### **Staff Re- Structure**

A review of the staff structure and roles was initiated in an attempt to assess the requirements of the current membership and provide a structure that can better service that membership. It was determined that two areas needed greater focus, those being Centre support, and Championships. As a result, the entire structure and the various roles were amended and the following positions were confirmed: Chief Executive Officer; Executive Assistant; Administration Assistant; Centre Liaison Officer; Competition & Volunteer Co-ordinator; Coaching & Development Officers x 2; Coaching & Development Administrator; Online & Graphics Co-ordinator (part time); and Finance Co-ordinator (part time). The revised structure sees the appointment of a new employee into the position of Executive Assistant (Georgie Boost) and the reshuffling of several others. We hope that this structure serves its purpose and is able to provide a better service to our key stakeholders, the members.

### **Australian Little Athletics Championships- Sydney**

From an organisational perspective, we were particularly pleased that the enormous amount of behind the scenes work that goes into hosting the ALAC, paid off, and that from our view, the Championships and all associated activities were extremely successful. The comments received were highly praising and everyone involved in the organisation of the events should be congratulated. Particular thanks are extended to the ALAC Convenor, John McFadden, and the team of wonderful Centre volunteers who, along with staff member Chantelle Grills, combined to form the Support Committee – Sally Richardson, Craig Lonard, Lisa Sayers, Tom Murphy and Darren Tait.



### **Strategic Plan & Operational Action Plan**

The LANSW Strategic Plan for 2011-2014 and the Operational Action Plan for 2011-2012 have been reviewed and updated, and largely reflect our need to seriously consider and address the decline in registrations as a result of poor retention rates. Our focus will remain 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.

### **Membership satisfaction survey**

From information prepared by our Membership Development Advisory Committee, a survey to parents was prepared and emailed to them in April of this year. We received over 2,000 responses including a lot of comments and detailed information. A working party is now being established to address the findings of the survey and to develop strategies to address the issues of Centre operation and retention, as highlighted from the responses.

### **Financial Assistance Programs**

The past season also saw an increase in the number of financial assistance programs offered to our members with the introduction of the Country Athletes Support Program. This program was introduced to assist talented young athletes from country areas of NSW to access competitions held in the Sydney Metropolitan area. In its first season of operation, approximately \$5,000 in assistance was offered to 21 athletes for attendance at the State Track & Field Championships. Our existing support programs, being the Centre Grant Scheme and the Athlete Assistance Program, saw the distribution of a

further \$45,000. Nineteen (19) Centres shared in \$39,000 through the Centre Grant Scheme for equipment and facility upgrade, and 65 athletes shared in \$6,200 towards registration expenses through the Athlete Assistance Program.

### **Sydney Track Classic & LANSW State Championships**

The staging of the Sydney Track Classic in conjunction with the LANSW State Track & Field Championships received much praise and positive comment. The day was a celebration of athletics at all levels, with the LANSW State Championships taking part during the day; the LANSW U14 boy's and girl's 400m finals included in the Sydney Track Classic program that night; and some exceptional national and international talent on show for all to witness. Although there was much logistical organisation required to ensure a smooth handover of the venue, the end result was a fantastic collaborative effort between the various athletic organisations involved.

### **Meet Manager Roll- Out**

Meet Manager software licenses were purchased for all Regions last season and utilised at all Championships from Region level upwards. This season a further 24 licenses have been purchased to roll-out use of the program to all Zone Championships as well. Training in use of the software is currently underway and approximately 8 training sessions will be conducted at various venues across the state.

### **Sponsorship & Marketing**

Our partnership with McDonald's continues to be strong, with McDonald's and their Public Relations company, PPR, continually looking for ways to further assist the Association and our Centres in gaining media attention and promoting our sport. One example of this was the Today Show broadcasting all weather crosses from the Northern Suburbs LAC venue on Monday morning, September 12. Former Wallabies Captain and LAA Roll of Excellence inductee, George Gregan, was in attendance as the advocate for promoting the sport of Little Athletics. World Youth athletes, Jake Stein and Melissa Farrington were also present, alongside many Little Athletes. PPR followed the event with a state-wide media release resulting in many newsprint articles encouraging registration.

McDonald's has also added a further \$8000 in equipment grants for Centres in the coming season and are already preparing Little Athletics promotions to coincide with the London Olympics next year.

IGA continues to offer support to both the Association and to Centres through a Centre promotion. IGA has decided not to offer the docket promotion this year, but will be working on an alternate promotion to the value of \$15,000.

LANSW will also be continuing our relationship with The Athletes Foot at an increased level from that provided through the national sponsorship in the past.

In terms of advertising, in addition to our regular regional TV advertising, this year the LANSW advertised via radio on 2Day FM in Sydney. The feedback received to date has been positive, however it is still too early to determine the full success of this medium.

### **Registrations**

The one disappointing aspect of the season was the fact that final registrations stood at approximately 36,000 athletes. This is a 5% decrease on the previous season and the lowest figure since 2004. This is a worrying trend, with registrations dropping by almost 10% over the past 2 seasons.

The challenge for us in the coming year is to reverse the trend in registrations, consolidate the many new initiatives developed this past season and make sure that we are addressing the needs of parents today.

**Dereck Fineberg**  
**President**  
**Little Athletics NSW**



# ASSOCIATION REPORT LAQLD

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the following report, which highlights Little Athletics' Queensland achievements in 2011.

## Registrations

Registrations at the time of this report stand at 12,374, which is down around 600 on last year. While we can put this down to the flooding in December and January, it is still very disappointing seeing this was a Commonwealth Games year. Winter Centre's this year are down once again, and a worry is that two of our large Centre's in Townsville have only half the registrations they normally have. We now have an anxious wait to see if the constant rain last season will have a bearing on this season.

We had three new Centres start at Douglas Shire, Monto and Millmerran.

## Competitions

The number of athletes competing at the Association competitions remained relatively static. The IGA State Championships were conducted in Brisbane and participation was excellent, with numbers comparable to the previous year even with the drop in registrations.

The IGA Winter Championships were conducted in July at the Townsville Sports Reserve and although we allowed athletes from ANQ once again, we had a decrease in numbers. This is a trend that our Winter Centres are very keen to reverse.

Our Regional relays and State Relays had good growth in numbers over last year, we are still no where near the numbers we had 10 years ago. This season we had a joint competition with Queensland Athletics which boosted the numbers to over 2,000 competing Athletes. This was a great success and something we hope to continue.

The LAQ competition participation summary is as follows:

Carnival	Venue	Month	Number of Athletes
Bendigo Bank Regional Championships – Summer	Various throughout Regions	February	3197
Quest Newspapers Junior Carnival & Senior Pentathlon	State Athletics Facility, Nathan	March	495
IGA State Championships	Qld Sports & Athletics Centre, Nathan	March	1792
IGA Winter Championships	Townsville Sports Reserve, Townsville	July	167
Bendigo Bank Regional Championships – Winter	Various throughout Regions	August - October	521
The Athlete's Foot Senior Carnival & Junior Pentathlon	State Athletics Facility, Nathan	November	686
McDonald's Regional Relays – Summer	Various throughout Regions	November	3672
IGA State Relays	State Athletics Facility, Nathan	December	1775

## **McDonald's Development Squads**

*Our McDonald's Development Squads have been conducted in 11 Regions for a total of 249 Athletes with more planned in the next couple of months.*

This is a good increase on last year, and should continue into the summer season



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

We have made a concerted effort with Laps this season, so our numbers will be up on last year by 1000 to 2000, and hopefully this will see an increase in registrations from the Schools.

## **Regional Support and Liaison**

Members of the Board and Staff travelled to all Regions throughout the State in conjunction with Regional meetings and competitions to share information and provide advice and support. The LAQ Development Officers visited most Centres throughout the year to provide hands on support in areas of coaching, officiating, administration, governance and athlete development.

LAQ has also provided information to Regional Support Officers throughout the State with the aim of further enhancing the ability of the Centres to receive support at the local level. The RSO's were also an information source for Centre Committees especially those that experienced a change of office bearers.

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

After meeting monthly last year, we have only met once this year. Queensland Athletics are putting a new constitution up for their members where they will elect 3 members from South East Queensland, 3 members from North Queensland (ANQ) and then 3 more member elected by those 6 members. We are not sure how this will pan out, but we do hope we can continue working with QA.

## **AGM & Annual Conference**

The AGM took place at Sports House, Brisbane in March. Incumbent Directors Eddie Fabian (Finance Director) and Karen Wolfenden (General Director) finished their maximum 6 year term and had to stand down from the Board. Ros McAlister also finished her 6 year term, but stepped up into the Finance Director role. We had one new member elected to the Board, Darryl Dickson. This leaves a General Director vacancy on the Board.



The Annual Conference was conducted at Surfair at Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast in June. The Board made the decision that due to the Association recording a surplus for the financial year, LAQ would pay for a delegate from each Centre to attend the 2011 Conference. As a result, overall attendance was up by over 30 delegates and 10 Centres attending Conference.

## **New Zealand Development Tour**

In January 20011 LAQ continued with the New Zealand Development Tour. The Association has identified a major drop off in registered members in our older age groups. As such, we have organised this tour to encourage our athletes to remain involved in Little Athletics throughout their senior years. It is also anticipated that by

doing this, it will encourage athletes to stay involved in the sport of Athletics as they move into adulthood. The purpose of the tour is a development opportunity for athletes of all skill levels.

All the Athletes who attended had a fantastic time, and we will continue with these tours. We are also in talks with New Zealand for a reciprocal tour in Queensland.



## **Corporate Support**

Little Athletics Queensland corporate support continues to provide a significant proportion of the Association's revenue. LAQ's major sponsor McDonald's continued their support of LAQ through the provision of contra for the McDonald's Development Squads and Clinics. Our other major sponsors, IGA continued its support of LAQ, and our new Sponsor Medibank Private is fitting in very well. Bendigo Bank continued with their sponsorship of the Bendigo Bank Regional Championships. Quest Newspapers and Nordic Sport also continued in their support of the Association along with Comfort Inn & Suites, The Athletes Foot and another new Sponsor, Mitsubishi Motorama.

## **Government Support**

This year was the first joint application with Queensland Athletics for funding by the State Government. The Government had stated that they would only support one athletic body, which necessitated the joint application. Unfortunately, the funding across the two bodies dropped by around \$100,000, so we lost around \$50,000 in Government funding.

## **Staffing**

Our staffing remained the same this year apart from two Government funded Regional Support offices. There was funding for 2 officers for Little Athletics, and 2 for Queensland Athletics. This funding is for 3 years, and they are to support the Centres in the regions they are in, but cannot be used as development officers.

**Tony Northey**  
**President**  
**Little Athletics QLD**







# ASSOCIATION REPORT LASA

## **Administration**

- The number of affiliated Centres and Clubs in South Australia is 58; this includes the Officials and Coaches Clubs who are affiliated and have voting rights.
- Despite the slow start to the season with rain, high winds and heat we increased our membership to 6600 a very satisfying result.

## **Education**

- We trailed the combination of Officials Courses, Introduction to Coaching Courses and Coaching Clinics as an alternative to individual courses. The response was very positive with Courses offered at 24 locations during the season so we will continue this course structure into the future.

Planning is in place for all Courses for the 2011-2012 season.

- Our Officials and Coaches Clubs have also introduced Event Specific Sessions for parents who have completed the basic courses offered and wish to progress further. The numbers attending was very satisfying to our educators who see these courses as increasing confidence in ability of skills that have been learnt.
- Our Development Squad LA commenced in August again a great response with 110 athletes registered to date, it is expected that the numbers will increase as the season progresses.
- The program in schools continues to popular particularly around SAPSASA Championship events dates both summer and winter.

## **Competition**

- Dates for our Association 2011-2012 Season Championship Events, Regional Games and Cross Country Events have been set. Rules, Timetables and Programmes were confirmed at the State Conference.

## **Sponsorship**

- Our mutual support relationship with IGA continues to grow. This year we resigned for a further 5 years. We look forward to developing new initiatives to develop the links between the stores and our centres.
- 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 providing pathways to the sport of Athletics. We continue to work with Rec. & Sport in promoting the many important Health and Safety messages, ensuring we have as many people actively participating or volunteering in the community. We have two years remaining of our funding agreement for our core business.

- McDonalds continue to be a great supporter of our Association as the sponsor of our winter Cross Country Program and State Cross Country Championship, the Age Patch, and Multi-Event Championships.

The support we receive has increased with the provision of tents, appearances of Ronald McDonald at events and the continuance of television commercials. We are currently working with their PR Company in an endeavor to generate further media coverage of Little Athletics.

- Channel 9, GTS Spencer Gulf Broadcasters and WIN TV have agreed to the continuance as a sponsor to put free to air television commercials for South Australian Little Athletics again this season.

## General

- The SALAA Annual Conference was held in the famous wine district of the Barossa Valley in the township of Tanunda. It was very encouraging to see the number of Centres represented on the increase and in particular the number of new delegates attending for the first time.

The program was jammed packed with worthwhile presentations and workshops and from the number of emails we have received certainly appreciated. Guests Speakers covered basics bookkeeping, an asthma first aid course, keeping children safe in recreation and sport and very topical – additive alert – guide to safer shopping and canteen products. These together with Workshops on: Who meets and greets on Registration day; Who follows up the calls; How do you keep meets interesting and fun; Tiny Tots Programmes; How do you recognise athletes progress; Centres award/rewards for volunteers at Centre level; are Coaches paid/volunteers; and many more topics were workshopped.

Kym Coventry, IGA State Manager, Peter Annells, McDonald's Franchisee and their PR Company spoke on developing the relationship between our organisations. Kym attended the Conference Dinner and presented the IGA Volunteer Awards to the five recipients and drew the winning ticket for a trip for two to New Zealand donated TAE and Air New Zealand. The theme was 'We're off to see the Wizard' the costumes were outstanding.

- Future Development of Santos Stadium – The State Government has given us a further two Grants one to establish temporary change rooms at Santos Stadium and another to tender for the establishment of the permanent change rooms.
- Athletics SA are managing a review of athletics facility within South Australia under a grant from the Office for Recreation and Sport. SALAA have 2 representative members on the steering committee.

Planning is in place and the advertising dollar spent to ensure we continue to provide a vibrant 'Family Fun and Fitness' experience at grass roots level for young people of all ability levels well into the future.

**Scott Pitts**  
**Managing Director**  
**Little Athletics SA**





# ASSOCIATION REPORT TLAA

I am pleased to present my report for the 2010 / 2011 season.

During this season a number of initiatives have been undertaken and progressed as the Board continues to look at ways we can improve many areas of our Association.

These include:

- the continuation of the Regional Committees;
- continuation of the ever increasingly popular under 12/13 Coaching Camp;
- the second successful State Cross Country Championships;
- the continuation of the Little Athletic Regional Clinics and combined coaching clinics with Athletics Tasmania which have proved to be very popular;
- exploring the use of further technology and implementation where appropriate, to enhance our operations; including the use of timing gates at our State Meetings.

The Board needs the co-operation and assistance of many members within our 19 Centres. These members form the regional committees, the cross country committees and assist with the running of our State conducted meetings.

Each year we must continue to investigate opportunities to improve our product and processes. These may emanate from suggestions or observations from individuals or committees etc. Whist we do not want change for change sake we must always consider new initiatives to further enhance what we do. I encourage everybody involved in our organisation to keep open minds so as to identify these opportunities. The TLAA is currently investigating online Officials Exams and online Registrations. Whilst we are in the early stages, all avenues will be investigated to advance our administration processes in these areas.

The change of Governance last year has proven to be extremely beneficial, with a very successful year of operation under the new structure. There have been some changes to position descriptions to allocate additional duties, and the office has taken on more workload, especially with respect to membership and competition.

I thank the members of the Board, our Administration Officer Matt Hey, and former 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. Without your contributions the many activities that we rely on for our sports to prosper simply would not occur.

## Office

For the third year, the TLAA was successful in its application to the Department of Sport and Recreation for funding for the part time Administration Officer. One of the key performance indicators of the funding is the requirement for our coaches and officials to complete the *Play by the Rules* online training. Thank you to those Centres who have been promoting this valuable training resource to their members. The site offers training in a wide range of resources covering areas such as administration, coaching, officials and competitors. For many, the resources reiterate issues that are well known and reinforces that rules we have in place are common practice in all junior sports.

Jacqui Singleton resigned from her position as Administration Officer in October 2010, with the vacancy being filled by Matt Hey, former athlete from the East Derwent Centre. Matt was well known to many members as he was and continues to be, a great support to the TLAA at state meetings either as announcer, or assisting with administration tasks.

## Australian Little Athletics (ALA)

Throughout the season I have attended a number of Australian Little Athletics (ALA) Board Meetings, two conferences and the Annual General Meeting. Areas of focus by ALA Board of Management over the past twelve months include:

- Revision of standard rules for competition;
- The production of the national coaching DVD, along with the continuation of the introductory DVD which this year went to all new registrations;
- Continuation of the new Coaching Accreditation Framework;
- Scratch and Win Promotion
- LAA and AA joint funding proposal to Australian Sports Commission for participation funding.
- Active After Schools Program

Tasmania hosted a very successful Australian Little Athletics Roll of Excellence Dinner in October. This event was attended by many well known former athletes as well as members from East Derwent, South Launceston and Devonport Centres. I congratulate ex TLAA athlete, Hollie Grima on being inducted into the Roll of Excellence in the category of Sports.



## Sponsorship

I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again our valued sponsors:

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

For the second year running IGA ran their National Docket Competition, with the winning Centres being presented with their cheques at the 2011 State Conference. Thank you to all Centres who supported our sponsor by participating in this promotion.

This season again saw Centres undertake fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House, and I sincerely thank members of the following Centres for their wonderful contributions.

- Deloraine, Devonport, East Derwent, Launceston, Longford Districts, North East and White City.

Along with parents and athletes from the East Derwent Centre, I visited the Ronald McDonald House on Good Friday to present our cheque for \$6,000 and to have a tour of the house. The work undertaken by the two staff members and the many volunteers is to be highly commended, and it was wonderful for all to see the great work that the RMH does, and how the fundraising of our Centres assists families in so many ways.

Following is an extract from correspondence received from Penny Richardson, Executive Officer for the Ronald McDonald House, and I believe this says it all:

*Rhonda, today is my first day back in the office after the Easter break. Thank you so much for coming to the House on Friday – it was such a lovely gesture to have some of the athletes donate the eggs and bunnies. All this on top of your wonderful donation!*

*Thank you for such lovely feedback Rhonda. It is always a pleasure to be able to show off the House to others and I think the service we provide becomes a reality when people can actually see what it looks like and what it offers. We really appreciate any connection we have with kids outside the House – I personally feel quite strongly about the concept of 'kids helping kids' and your organisation is a great example of that, so thank you for making it possible. I will ensure that we write to each club involved to send a personalised thank you.*

*We look forward to an ongoing association with Little Athletics Tasmania.*

## **Registrations**

This year we saw an increase in registrations from 2407 last year to 2418 this year. This is very positive when taking into account the inability of several Hobart Centres to have access to their grounds for several weeks. In addition to this, Claremont were without a committee and therefore an approach was made to Hobart Districts to allow their athletes to run at their Centre, under the name of Claremont. This was welcomed by Hobart Districts and the Centre had 13 athletes competing for the season. This was down from 70 in the 2009/2010 season. Claremont has been proactive in for the coming season and we look forward to good news of their progression forward.

Little Athletics Australia adopted a strategic goal to increase participation in little athletics throughout Australia. To assist its growth strategy, Little Athletics Australia sought to understand and appreciate the medium to long term demographics of state and regional locations to identify the greatest potential for growth, particularly in the age range 5-12 years of age.

By assessing the local and regional demographics of each state, it will assist this will both LAA and the individual states to identify the potential for new centres, potential consolidation of existing centres and the implications for existing centres where the demographics indicate a decrease of young people in some areas for the foreseeable future. Targeting key growth areas will ensure a more strategic approach to growth generation.

The report received for Tasmania, was unfortunately incorrect in that the consultant only focussed on 17 of our Centres, and failed to recognise Circular Head and Glamorgan / Spring Bay. This was very disappointing, especially in light of Circular Head having the largest increase in registrations this past season, and is recognised by the TLAA as having great potential for increase in registrations.

The report concludes with this statement:

*There is little significant opportunity for growth in Tasmania with the population ageing and the population of those aged 0-14 years decreasing slightly over time.*

*There is some growth in the Brighton and Kingborough regions although existing centres in these regions would be best focussed on expansion rather than any consideration for new centres as the expected increase in numbers will be small.*

*Maintaining current numbers of participants and arresting any decline would be a good outcome for Tasmania.*

The challenge is for TLAA and Centres to prove this report wrong. More emphasis this year will be focussed on marketing from a State level, and we will be encouraging and assisting Centres with their marketing for the forthcoming season.

## **Little Athletics Clinics**

This year saw the third season of the Little Athletics Clinics, with a slightly modified program which proved to be successful. Rather than offer under 6 to under 9 athletes specific events, they gained an insight into Little Athletics by way of an introduction to the three disciplines of throws, jumps and sprints. All other athletes were given the choice of three events in which to gain training and coaching.

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.

In addition to these clinics, I met with Athletics Tasmania and the Sports Commission to discuss joint coaching clinics, and promotion of both sports. These were held in all three major regions of the State, and again were well attended.

## **IGA Cross Country**

Last season saw a large increase in the number of weekly competitors at both the Northern and Southern Cross Country competition. I extend my thanks to Paul Mommers and Cathy Imlach who respectively ran the cross country in the South and the North of the State. I commend them for their commitment to the sport, and the dedication shown in the successful running of the cross country program.

The State Cross Country Championships were held at the Campbell Town Football Club, and despite the cold and wet conditions, were well attended with some great times being recorded.

## **State Teams**

### ***Under 14 Team***

I attended the Under 14 Hunters Classic in Newcastle in January. The calibre of the event was second to none, and all Little Athletics events were given the same fanfare as the senior events. Our athletes performed exceptionally well and were a credit to Tasmania. The continuation of an Under 14 competition was discussed at length at a meeting in April, and unfortunately the majority of states are against the concept of a National Under 14 event.

### **Australian Little Athletics Championships - Sydney**

The team travelled to Sydney and it was with great delight that the Team retained the Dick Healy trophy, with a total points score of 417 with ACT runners up on 385.5. Our athletes did exceptionally well on the day of championships and certainly did Tasmania proud by their behaviour and the way they conducted themselves for the duration of their stay in Sydney. I was fortunate to be able to present medals to two of our three medal winners, and I did so with so much pride for their wonderful achievements.

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.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Team Management of Kaylene Knee, Paul Mommers, Paul Street, Peter Weldon and Wim Vaessen for the hard work and dedication to the team.

There is much organisation and planning which occurs well before the team is announced, and continues up to the team reunion. This is not limited to the planning of



accommodation, travel, uniforms, coaching and care whilst away, but the focus also of ensuring that all team members are united in their understanding of the team concept, that they get to know each other and are fully aware of the responsibilities of being a member of a team representing their State.

Today we say farewell today to long serving Board Member, Paul Street. Paul has been a part of the Board of Management since 1996 and has achieved so much.

***Board of Management***

1996—1998 Education Officer  
2000—2011 Development Officer

***Awards***

1999 TLAA Service Award  
2002 TLAA Distinguished Service Award  
2006 TLAA Life Membership

Paul has been an invaluable member of the TLAA Board of Management since 1996 when he took on the role of Education Officer. He fulfilled this role for three years and then did not renominate for his position. He obviously decided that he missed the Board members and his involvement at a State Level which allowed him to do what he does best – educate parents and athletes in the fundamentals and skills of Little Athletics, and renominated for the position of Development Officer in 2000; a position he holds today.

Paul has visited all Centres many times over during the past eleven years, and he is well known by the majority of little athletic families. If he is not visiting a Centre, he is conducting our primary schools Little Athletics Program for Schools. Paul has introduced Little Athletics to thousands of Tasmanian school children, conducted many orientation and coaching courses, attended TLAA coaching camps as a coach and camp parent, and has officiated at State Conducted meetings in a variety of roles. Paul will be sorely missed by all involved in Little Athletics, however with one granddaughter competing, and others pending, I am sure we will still be seeing him in attendance at our State Meetings. Thanks Paul for all you have done for Little Athletics.

I pass on the Board's congratulations to Garry House on being awarded with an Australian Little Athletics Award of Merit. This is a very deserving award and was presented to Garry in recognition of his many years of dedicated service and contribution, at both National and State level. Garry was presented with his award at the Australian Little Athletics Championships. Garry has been involved in Little Athletics for the past 27 years, and began his involvement at State level in 1991. He has held several positions including President and Finance Director, and is a truly worthy recipient of this National Award.

I remain so proud to be a part of this great sporting organisation. I thank my fellow board members for their support and input over the past twelve months (and for sitting through my often lengthy President report each board meeting). I also thank all members of the Centres for the support of both myself and the Board. Whilst we are all passionate about the sport and take on our roles because of this factor, it is always great to have positive feedback received, and I thank those who have taken the time over the past twelve months to do this.

**Rhonda O'Sign**  
**President**  
**Tasmanian Little Athletics Association**

# ASSOCIATION REPORT LAVIC

## **Registrations for 2010/2011**

Registrations for the 2010/11 season reached 19,726, which is down approximately 2,350 from the previous season. Some of this was caused by very poor weather prior to Christmas, resulting in some Centres being down by nearly 45%. We continue to be involved with LAPS, but this past season did not greatly help with numbers.

It was also found at the start of the season that approximately 49% of all athletic members from the previous season did not return. This is a big concern, to not only the Board, but it must also become a concern for Centres. Very little appears to have been done by Centres to contact those that did not return to find out why they did not come back. There must be a reason, and yet we all don't bother to pick up the phone or send an e-mail to ascertain why. We are encouraging Centres this season to contact the non returners to find out why they do not or have not returned. A survey will be conducted by the office during the month of October, with Centres, requesting them to contact their non returners.

## **New Athletic Complex**

The new Albert Park Athletic stadium opens during late October and will be used by LAVic during November for our State Multi Championship. The athletic facilities are completed, but there is still work to be done to complete the buildings and some of the spectator areas. Parking is an ongoing concern, which is still to be organised by the Government. We have been approached to share some of the office facilities, but due to no costing having been announced by the Government for any part of the complex, we will not be committing ourselves to become tenants at this stage.

Unfortunately the situation with the Formula 1 Car Race, which is held at Albert Park in March each year, prevents us from holding our main State Championship at the new complex. Next year, 2012, we will be holding our State Track and Field Championships at Bendigo.

## **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015**

The committee for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Little Athletics is working well and preparations are proceeding. It is still intended to hold the formal dinner in the Melbourne area with the ALAC to be held at Geelong, which as we all know, was where Little Athletics started so long ago.

## **CentreFest**

In late July we held our CentreFest, which included our Conference and our Annual General Meeting for the first time in many years. More than 70 Centres attended and we also held forums to assist Centres with running a Centre and also assisted them with what is required for all Executive positions. The

event was held in Shepparton, with the great assistance of the local Council. There has only been very positive feedback from Centres since the event. Next year's our mini Fest will be held in the metropolitan area in early July.

At the conference the membership passed motions to bring more of the Standard Events into line with LAA. A Competition Standards Panel was also approved by the membership and they will be responsible to examine any changes or suggested changes for competition within the State. This will also include any changes recommended by IAAF and/or LAA.

### **Australian Little Athletic Championships (ALAC)**

Congratulations to NSW on winning the Trevor Billingham trophy for the under 13 age group and also the Life Members trophy for the under 15 multi event, which was held at the Homebush Stadium, Sydney. The Board of LAVic would also like to record their thank you for our own team and the Team Management for the terrific effort put in at the Championships. We are all looking forward to Hobart in April next year.

### **Asics**

We understand, from Adam, that a new contract has been signed by LAA with Asics for the next three years and we co graduate LAA for getting Asics across the line. LAVic applied for a copy of the contract or to be allowed to view the new contract, as we did not want to find ourselves in conflict with any part of it.

### **Educational courses**

This season more and more courses are being proposed by our Education committee under the leadership of the Education Director. Courses include, Introduction to Coaching, Officials seminars, U7 – U10 McDonald's Skills Clinic, U14 – U16 Multi Event Clinic, On Track Clinics and Walks clinics. This along with our Junior Development Squad (JDS) has nearly filled the next six months. The numbers attending each and every one of these clinics are increasing, making the parents and coaches more proficient in helping our athlete's right through all the total age groups.

### **Conclusion**

Little Athletics Victoria is looking forward to a full and successful season ahead; with we hope an increase in membership. We do not want to see Little Athletics Australia wide continue to decline with members and we hope all States and Territories continue to work towards a bigger and stronger sport for children.

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



# ASSOCIATION REPORT LAWA

The past season saw us sustain our registration numbers above 7,000- for the 3<sup>rd</sup> successive year with a slight increase in Registration numbers to approx. 7,500, which was extremely pleasing – thanks to the hard work of numerous people across all Centres & Clubs, together with the support provided by our major sponsor McDonalds and the West Australian.

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. It is pleasing to advise that we have successfully negotiated an extension of our sponsorship agreement through to 2017.
- The West Australian for their continuing support of our annual registration day.
- IGA who for the second year were the naming rights sponsor of our State Relay Championships. We remain in negotiations with IGA in regard to their continued sponsorship support for next season.

The Board recently appointed a new Development Officer aimed at assisting growth in Centre's and Club numbers and support our quest to achieve 10,000 registrations by 2016/17. It was pleasing to have received a large number of applications for this newly established role and after an exhaustive review of all applicants, it is pleasing to advise that Abid Imam was the successful candidate.

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, inclusive of our joint initiative to support training & coaching through the LA Centres & Clubs. This is to be extended during the year ahead to incorporate support to Regional areas.

Our State Team acquitted themselves extremely well at this year's ALAC's held in Sydney during April. The support of Team Management and coaches to the State Squad & Team was much appreciated.

I also wish to acknowledge the performance of our State International Team in Malaysia this year for both their efforts at competition where a number of meet records were broken, numerous PB's achieved and of course those athletes who successfully medaled in their respective events. This year's event saw strong representation from both Singapore and our hosts Malaysia, with the Malaysian team acquitting themselves extremely well.

I also wish to recognize the exemplary manner by which our athletes carried themselves as ambassadors of our Association; State and Country for which they are to be congratulated.

## **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 2011/2012 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 over 7,500. 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 World Championships being staged during the week days leading up to our Common Registration Day this coming season, it is expected that this will have a positive effect on the profile of our sport and hence registrations.

The real issue confronting us continues to be that regarding the retention of athletes. This will be particular focus at the forthcoming Chairman & Secretaries Conference and during the forthcoming season will be a focus on incentive rewards for Centres.

Our capacity to improve our retention performance will go a long way to underpinning the Association’s BEHAG of achieving 10,000 registrations by the 2016/17 season.

A key platform to underpinning our future success in regard to both retention and growth of athlete registration numbers, still remains in my view, 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.

## **Finance**

Our financial position for 2010/11 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.

## **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 please to advise has been extended through to 2017.

Last year saw IGA continue and increase its sponsorship of our sport at a State level via its support of State Relay Championships. We are continuing negotiations with IGA in respect to their sponsorship support for the 2011/12 season.

### **Administration & Development of Centres**

During the past season, Sonia Stafrace joined the Board and has been extremely busy in attending Centre meetings and assisting Centres in completing their Incorporation-Constitutional documents.

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 Rob Crocket was successful in nominating and being voted into this portfolio.

Whilst it was regretted that due to a lack of support from members, the PB Challenge Day in November was cancelled, overall our State Events last season were quite successful – many thanks to all our volunteers who assisted in the successful running of these events.

Rob is currently reviewing some aspects of our State programs to look at some minor improvements thereto.

Next season will also see us working closely with AWA in holding our Multi Event Competition on the same day as they host the National AA Tour Event in Perth. This will provide our athletes and parents the opportunity to see some of the Country's best open age athletes perform live at the WA Athletics Stadium.

### **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 Kuala Lumpur 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 Sydney National Championships was certainly very credible and a great experience for Team members.

The International Team comprising of some 64 athletes attain some sensational performances, inclusive of some records being broken.

As an aside to Frank's portfolio, it is pleasing to advise that last year, we delivered athletic related programs into over 120 schools through our part-time Development Officers coordinated by Lee Hartley.

### **Officials Education & Development**

Frank Bertoli again fulfilled new portfolio last season, 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 again 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 has again during the past season fulfilled this 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.

### **Publicity**

Leanne Pratley joined the Board in this portfolio last year and she has been active in curating news items from Centres, together with reviewing the format of our annual PMH fundraising day initiative.

In addition to the promotion of our Common Registration Day via the west Australian, we also last year arranged for the promotion of the Associations' Common Registration Day to be promoted in the various Community Newspapers, an initiative which we are looking to repeat this year.

We have also enhanced our relationship with McDonald's publicity providers to seek ways in which we can leverage off their publicity of our sport via their communication channels.

**In closing:**

As this will be my last Association report, I wish to acknowledge the support of everyone associated with the sport over my past 6 years as Chairman and prior thereto in my role as Administration & Development Officer.

My period as a Board Member, whilst at times extremely challenging has been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding, nonetheless, I am firmly of the view that it is time for change and renewal to assist the Association to continue to prosper and move forward with new and fresh ideas.

My time being involved on the Board would not have been possible without the support of my wife and family who have supported me, notwithstanding the sacrifices they have endured associated with my time involvement.

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

Hopefully, I can retain some minor involvement within the sport in the future and I will look forward to the success it achieves.

Thank you.

**Pieter Bergshoeff**  
**Chairman**  
**Little Athletics Western Australia**





*Little Athletics Australia*  
Suite 2, Level 5  
14 Queens Rd  
Melbourne VIC 3004  
03 9867 7800  
[admin@littleathletics.com.au](mailto:admin@littleathletics.com.au)