



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



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# MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

## EXECUTIVE

Dereck Fineberg	President
Melanie Woodward	Finance Director
Andrew Duncan	Competition and Standards Director
Martin Stillman	Chief Executive Officer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew Pryor	Colin Segota
Craig Scott	Teresa Blackman
Donna Smith	Simone Pearce
Andrew Gosling	Melanie Woodward
Rhonda O'Sign	

## STAFF

Ashlea Watt	Administration and Events Manager
Andrew Johnston	Development and Projects Manager
Sara Agnew	Bookkeeper
Claire Bensemann	Officials Coordinator



# LIFE MEMBERS

## LIFE MEMBERS

1978	Trevor Billingham BEM*
1978	Alan Triscott
1983	Keith Maughan
1983	Doug Hancy*
1985	C P (Paddy) Robinson*
1989	Don Blyth
1989	Mal Hastie
1989	Peter Shinnick
1996	George Harvey
2001	David Cramer
2002	Maxine Boyd
2004	Anthony Libke
2005	Grahame Searles
2008	Brian Newton
2008	Michael Stubbs
2010	Alison Quirke
2010	Gary Mutton
2010	Marjorie McNamara
2010	Dennis Goodwin
2012	Ross Burridge

## AWARD OF MERIT

1999	Alan Letcher
2001	R O (Dick) Healey *
2002	John Crouch
2004	Brian Newton
2004	Arnold Hunt*
2005	Alison Quirke
2007	Don Baker
2008	Marjorie McNamara
2011	Garry House
2012	Pieter Bergshoeff

## MERIT CERTIFICATES

1984	John McCarthy
1984	John Marsden
1984	Peter Shinnick
* Deceased	



# ROLL OF EXCELLENCE

## TRACK & FIELD

2009	Nathan Deakes
2009	Melinda Gainsford- Taylor
2009	Steve Hooker
2009	Jana Pittman- Rawlinson
2009	Amy Winters
2010	Jane Saville
2010	John Steffensen
2011	Darren Clark
2011	Bronwyn Thompson
2012	Christine Stanton
2012	Debbie Wells
2013	Jane Flemming
2013	Sally Pearson
2014	Dani Samuels
2015	Nicole Boegman- Stewart
2016	Fabrice Lapierre
2016	Todd Hodgetts
2017	Kim Mickle

## SPORTSPERSON

2009	Alisa Camplin
2009	George Gregan
2009	Nova Perris
2009	Kathy Watt
2009	John Worsfold
2010	Hollie Grima
2010	Geoff Ogilvy
2011	Natalie Von Bertouch
2011	Matt Giteau
2012	Simon Black
2012	Megan Marcks
2013	Kimberlee Green
2013	Patrick Mills
2014	Jarryd Hayne
2014	Joel Selwood
2015	Sally Fitzgibbons
2016	Jackie Pereira
2016	Liam de Young
2017	Jack Riewoldt

## VOLUNTEERS

2009	Trevor Billingham *
2009	Doug Hancy *
2009	Barry Garment *
2009	Helen Moir
2009	Alan Triscott
2010	George Harvey
2010	Peter Wickes
2011	Jim Arkins *
2011	Maxine Boyd
2012	David Cramer
2012	Robin Johnson
2013	Ken Gardiner
2013	Andrea Harvey
2014	Professor Marcus Vowels
2014	Alison Quirke
2015	Maria McConville
2016	Kaye Runge
2017	Bob Cruise

## ACHIEVERS

2009	John Maclean
2009	Mike Whitney
2009	Dr. Peter Larkins
2009	Kirsty Marshall
2010	Chris Bradshaw
2010	Janine Shepherd
2011	Paul Murray
2011	Brett Rosebury
2013	Shane Crawford
2014	Ryan Fitzgerald
2015	John Pearce
2015	Lenny Pearce
2016	Chelsea Roffey
2017	Andrew May

\* Deceased

coles



## 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**

# SPONSORS

Coles 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 companies for their support.

## NAMING RIGHTS PARTNER

### Coles

At Coles, we're proud to be a major partner of Little Athletics Australia. This is a first for Coles and it is one of the most significant community sport partnerships we've ever been involved in. In addition to financial support, we are donating millions of bananas to little athletes across the country. We are passionate about our fresh food and we think this sponsorship is another way we can support health, fun and fitness in communities across Australia.

The Coles logo, featuring the word "coles" in a bold, lowercase, red sans-serif font.

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS

### ISC

ISC is one of Australia's leading sporting apparel companies and has come on board as the Official Uniform Supplier of the Australian Little Athletics Championships, as well as being worn by LAA Staff, Board and Executive Members of Little Athletics.



### V-INSURANCE

Coles Little Athletics Australia has established a very strong relationship with V-Insurance who have 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 V-Insurance ensures Coles Little Athletics Australia is able to provide athletes, Associations and Centres comprehensive and cost effective insurance.



### Pavement

Specialising in fashion and accessories for boys and girls aged 8 – 16, Pavement has developed a sport inspired, highly fashionable range of Little Athletics apparel that will be sold in its 25 stores nationwide. Also available online, the Little Athletics range is designed to be worn before and after Little Athletics, and other sporting and recreational activities – or simply as leisure wear for active Aussie kids.

The Pavement logo, featuring the word "PAVEMENT" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

## MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



## EXECUTIVE REPORTS



# PRESIDENT

**In preparing my final report for this year's annual report I have focused on key items during the 2017/18 season. However, as this is the end of my term as LAA President I have reflected on significant events over the past 6 years of my tenure as well.**

## Governance & personnel

During the past two years a lot of work has been done in preparing a proposal to change LAA from a federated model and if it is approved, it will be the start of a new era for LAA. It will also allow the State Association Presidents to focus on the role they are elected to without the conflict of national vs state priorities. A huge thank you must go to Simone Pearce, Melanie Woodward, Melanie Woosnam, Amelia Lynch (L&R) and the members of the Governance Working Group for the enormous effort they have put into this project. I wish them good luck with the outcome.

It is exciting to welcome NT back to our LAA family. I hope that together we can assist them in providing a positive experience and see a growth in the number of young NT children participating in LAs.

## Senior Athletics

An historic joint board meeting between LAA and AA was held on the Gold Coast in April this year which was very positive and constructive.

Following this both organisations collaborated on the development of a Onesport policy and Junior Sports Position Statement.

Other initiatives include the joint Officials and Inclusion positions and we continue to be open to further joint initiatives for the overall benefit of our sport.

And, of course the Coles sponsorship has been a wonderful joint sponsorship that continues to benefit both LAA and AA.

## ALAC, ROE, U/15 Camp

One again during the season our ALAC (Gold Coast), ROE (Hobart) and our U/15 camp at AIS were tremendously successful and we look forward to bigger and better next season with the inclusion of additional athletes as a result of the age group changes.

## Sponsorship

Our first year of the Coles LAA naming rights sponsorship has been very successful and widely appreciated across Little Athletics. The many initiatives in the shape of cash, bananas, marquees and other collateral provided great benefits to national, states and centres across the country. The recent shopping bags initiative just announced where centres can apply for funding is a brilliant gesture by Coles. I thank them on behalf of everyone in Little Athletics and hope our partnership continues to be successful for LAA, AA and Coles.

## Standard Rules & Events, Skills programs & Products, Age Groups

Our standard rules and events continue to be strengthened thanks to the efforts of Andrew Duncan and the NTC.

The 2018/19 season sees the pilot of the OnTrack skills development program for the youngest of our age groups by over 30 centres around the country. Pending the review of the pilot it is hoped that this will be implemented nationally from the following season. Further levels of the product will then be looked at for the older age groups. A big thank you to Andrew Johnston in the LAA office, Gemba and the centres and trainers for all their work.

The 2018/19 season sees the change to age groups based on the year of birth rather than month of the year. I know the states and centres have been working very hard to assist athletes with the impact of the changes and we hope it will be successful.

## Reflections - 2012-2018

After 11 years on the LAA board, the past six as President, my term comes to an end.

When I began as President my stated intent was to - continue to foster positive relationships with the senior body, maintain and enhance the positive brand of LAs, work closely with state associations to assist them to provide the best experience for athletes and families and to look at ways of maintaining and strengthening LAA's financial base and commercial opportunities. Overall though, I wanted to make LAA more relevant.

The degrees of success or otherwise of these is for others to decide however, while I will not claim personal credit for any, I am very pleased to see the following outcomes come to fruition.

- The significant Jetstar and Coles sponsorships,
- Changes to ALAC with additional athletes and events,
- Joint initiatives with AA,
- The continued strengthening of our standard rules & events,
- Introduction of the OnTrack skills program,
- LAA board governance changes,
- U/15s camp,
- Continued financial stability,
- Establishment of the NTC, CEO, DO and Joint Management meetings,
- Age group changes,
- Partnership with Bravehearts,
- Re-affiliation of NT.

In closing I sincerely thank the LAA staff including Martin, Ashlea, Andrew and Sara, Exec members Melanie and Andrew as well as former Exec and staff members for all your hard work, friendship and support.

I also thank the LAA board both past and present during my time and all the state associations, for your contribution to our sport and your companionship. Little Athletics continues to be a success thanks to all your efforts.

The experience has been rewarding, challenging, enjoyable and frustrating but overall, I know we are a part of something that is special. I have met many wonderful people during my involvement and for that I am grateful. I will miss the people most of all although I'm sure our paths will cross at times.

I wish my successor, the office staff, LAA board and state associations the very best and sport of athletics especially Little Athletics a long and successful future.

There will always be challenges and opportunities and not everyone will agree all the time but as long as all opinions are respected, and everyone pulls together and makes the best decisions for the right reasons then all will be well.

Thank you all.

## Dereck Fineberg OAM

President  
Coles Little Athletics Australia

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Coles Little Athletics Australia (LAA) has enjoyed another successful year.

During the past twelve months there have been numerous achievements including but not limited to:

LAA again held a very successful Roll of Excellence (ROE) dinner in Hobart Tasmania. The evening was another huge success with the induction of more worthy recipients into the ROE. I would like to extend congratulations to the following inductees into the 2017 Roll of Excellence:

### Track & Field – Kim Mickle

### Sportsperson – Mitchell Starc and Jack Riewoldt

### Volunteers – Bob Cruise

### Achievers – Rishelle Hume and Andrew May

The National U15 camp was held in September 2017 at the AIS in Canberra, 103 athletes participated in the camp, which was an outstanding success. I would like to thank Glynis Nunn-Cearns for all her support in coordinating the camp, I have no doubt the camp's success is largely attributed to Glynis' work with the coaches and the time and effort in coordinating the camp logistics from LAA Staff members Ashlea Watt and Andrew Johnston. The quality of coaches assembled at the camp was simply outstanding yet again and I'm sure the athletes would have learnt a lot from their camp experience. LAA looks forward to continuing to develop the national camp program and is always seeking further improvements for the camp.

Our registration numbers at the end of the year were 86,213. This is a major focus area for LAA and the state associations and we must continue to strive for future growth in our registration numbers. This leads me onto the "Product Review" in 2016/17 the LAA BOD approved a pilot of the success Victorian program "On Track" and during the summer athletics season 2017/18 36 centers will participate in the Pilot with LAA to analyze the pilot and potentially consider national implementation of the 5-8 year old athletics program.

From a governance perspective, LAA had worked diligently for the past 12 months for the members to vote at the October 2018 national conference a potential new constitution and board governance structure. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes and I wish to thank Simone Pearce, LAA Independent Director, for heading up the Governance sub-committee and for Melanie Woodward for her contribution as well leading the Governance project, both directors together with the terrific support from Amelia Lynch Lander and Rogers, Vivienne Corcoran and most recently Melanie Woosnam have done a power of work in this area.

In April 2018, the Northern Territory re-affiliated with Coles Little Athletics Australia to make LAA truly national with all states and territories affiliated with LAA. To Kevin Mulvahil and Executive Office Shane Wylie welcome and we look forward to a long and successful working relationship with Athletics Northern Territory.

To our partners beginning with our naming rights partner Coles, I would like to thank in particular, Patrick Hassett, Julia Balderstone, Carmel Horvath and Kemi Lai your support of LAA has been nothing short of sensational and the activations, engagement and promotion of LAA, Little Athletics as a sport and the state associations has been terrific.

LAA also thanks ISC for their association with LAA along with Coles another new partner to Little Athletics Australia in season 2016/17. The ISC apparel looked tremendous at ALAC this year and your support and commitment of LAA in your initial 12 month has been tremendous.

LAA have been indeed fortunate to have a long-lasting relationship with the V-Insurance Group and thanks is extended to Rob Veale and Jess Girling, your guidance and support in this area of our business is greatly appreciated.

LAA has continued to work closely with Athletics Australia (AA) over the past twelve months to develop a "one sport" focus and enhance the sport of Athletics across the country. Recently LAA and AA adopted a One Sport Joint Position Statement and LAA also endorsed the Junior Sports Policy referred to as (Position Statement for Children engaged in Athletics). LAA

are in discussions with AA to update a MOU and are continually looking at efficiencies between both organizations to enhance the sport of athletics. Another fantastic addition to both organizations was the appointment of Claire Bensemann the joint official's coordinator, Claire has made some significant inroads in the officials' area within her first 6 months of employment.

During the year LAA in conjunction with AA engaged industry expert Michael Woods to evaluate LAA, the Member Associations and Centers in terms of Inclusion and compiled a comprehensive report with the LAA BOD for the consideration, which we can improve in this area of our business. Thanks are extended to Michael for his work over the past year and I have no doubt a number of his recommendations will be implemented to the betterment of the sport.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the LAA Executive led by President Dereck Fineberg, Andrew Duncan and Melanie Woodward. I sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and guidance in my role as Chief Executive Officer. A special thank you to Dereck Fineberg as he concludes his third 2 year term as President, Dereck firstly thank you and the board for giving me the opportunity to be CEO of Little Athletics Australia, we built a great working relationship over the past 6 years and your contribution to Little Athletics over a 30 year period has been nothing short of outstanding. I wish you and Lorraine all the best for the future, it's been a pleasure to work with you.

To the Board of Directors, thank you, I value your support and assistance in my role as CEO and your contribution over the past 12 months has been significant. To the State Associations CEO's and staff, well done again on another superb season of Little Athletics. Your dedication and commitment is obvious in everything you do and your efforts really do make a difference to Little Athletics, particularly to the athletes and their parents experiences within the sport.

Special thanks are extended to the LAA staff Ashlea Watt, Andrew Johnston and Sara Agnew, thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year, LAA are certainly privileged to have such enthusiastic and dedicated employees, I enjoy walking through the doors every day and working with you all.

Finally the thousands of volunteers that make it all possible each week thank you, Little Athletics wouldn't be able to operate as efficiently as we do without the support of the volunteers, committees, parents, your time and commitment enables all the participants to have fun each and every week with their friends.

I am looking forward to the challenges of the next 12 months, it's an extremely important time in Little Athletics history as we strive for further enhancements within the sport.

### Martin Stillman

Chief Executive Officer  
Coles Little Athletics Australia



# FINANCE DIRECTOR

## Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2018

Little Athletics Australia finished the year with a net surplus of \$186,224, the cash reserves of the association increased by \$417k to \$1,621,929.

The variations to budget are summarised in the table below and are followed with commentary on the major items of variance.

	Actual	Budget	Variance
REVENUE	A\$	A\$	%
Levies	910,761	910,759	0%
Commercial Activities	135	-	-
Sponsorship	798,205	930,000	-14%
Reimbursements	479,310	479,000	0%
Other Income	78,901	77,482	2%
Interest Received	33,464	25,605	31%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,300,776</b>	<b>2,423,156</b>	<b>-5%</b>
EXPENSES			
Staffing Expenses	381,464	352,994	8%
Office Expenses	107,314	138,878	-23%
Meeting Expenses	121,941	165,799	-26%
Competitions/Programs Expenses			
U15	130,861	147,402	-11%
ALACs	246,628	221,000	12%
LAPS	105,719	143,000	-26%
Management Expenses	463,087	334,120	39%
Administration Expenses			
General	91,568	65,780	39%
Insurance	276,555	393,438	-30%
Projects	189,414	315,000	-40%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,114,550</b>	<b>2,277,411</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>186,225</b>	<b>145,745</b>	<b>28%</b>

### Income

1 – The variance in sponsorship income relates to a timing difference in the Coles sponsorship agreement. The Coles agreement commenced 1 September 2017 hence in the 2017-18 financial year only 10 months of income is recognised, the full 12 months of income was recognised in the budget.

2 – The favourable variance for interest received is due to the higher than expected cash balance resulting in interest received in excess of that which was budgeted for.

### Expenditure

3 – Office expenses has a favourable variance of around \$30k predominantly due to the timing of payments on the website upgrade. Payments were less in 2017-18 than were budgeted for however this expenditure will be incurred in the 2018-19 financial year.

4 – Meeting expenses has a favourable variance of around \$44k. Costs relating to all types of meetings for the association were lower than budget across the board.

5 – The U15 camp has a favourable variance of around \$17k. Airfares, accommodation and meals all cost less than expected.

6 – ALACs has an unfavourable variance of around \$25k. Additional funds were incurred for live streaming and additional expenditure for a variety of requirements.

7 – LAPS funding has a favourable variance due to the timing of distributions to the States crossing over into a different financial year.

8 – Management expenses have an unfavourable variance predominantly due to an additional distribution of the Coles sponsorship funds to each of the States.

9 – General expenses have an unfavourable variance due to increased legal fees in relation to the Governance review.

10 – Insurance expenses have a significant favourable variance of approximately \$115k due to fewer than expected insurance claims.

11 – Project expenditure is well under budget with a favourable variance of approximately 125k. This is a timing difference with these funds expected to be incurred in the 2018-19 financial year.

### Prior Year Variances

When reading the Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2018 please make note of the following commentary.

### Chart of Accounts Re-Organisation

Following the change in Finance Director at the October 2017 a full review of the reporting structure for the association was undertaken. This resulted in a re-organisation of the Chart of Accounts and more pinpointed expense allocation. As a result, there are several expense categories that when compared to the prior financial year, seem to have large variances. The most affected categories of expenses are Office Costs and Meeting Costs. In particular, please note that the JetStar Contra Airfares ceased in the 2017-18 financial year. In the 2016-17 financial year, all costs related to this category were recorded in bulk to one expense category regardless of the type of meeting being held. As such the variance for the Board of Management meetings is unusually large. Whilst there was a reduction in meeting expenses this financial year the predominant cause of this variance is the reallocation of expenses according to meeting type.

### Sponsorship Income

The Jetstar Sponsorship ceased during the financial year and the Coles Sponsorship commenced in September 2017. The ASICs apparel sponsorship also ceased however apparel sponsorship from ISC commenced albeit at a lower rate than ASIC.

### Trade and Other Payables

The increase in Other Creditors and Accruals relates to \$175k accrued distribution to the State Members which was paid in the 2018-19 financial year.

**Insurance**

The premiums for the 2017-18 decreased by 20% in comparison to the 2016-17 financial year. The primary reason for the decrease was due to the combination of the insurance coverage premiums of Little Athletics Australia and Athletics Australia and a negotiated reduction in brokerage fee.

The table below sets out the comparative values for 2016-17 and 2017-18. All values are exclusive of GST.

Class of Insurance	2016-17 Actual	2015-16 Actual	%age Change
Personal Accident	\$80,404.50	\$55,104.50	31%
Public & Products Liability / Professional Indemnity	\$63,904.50	\$55,104.50	14%
Management Liability	\$5,604.50	\$5,604.50	-
Travel Insurance	\$5,781.92	\$2,765.11	52%
Industrial Special Risks	\$52,325.01	\$45,827.24	12%
Cyber Liability	\$1,779.25	\$1,446.50	19%
Motor Vehicle	\$1,937.86	\$1,682.11	13%
Broker Fee	\$71,500.00	\$60,500.00	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$283,237.54</b>	<b>\$227,968.46</b>	<b>20%</b>

**Registrations**

The following table shows the registrations by Associations since 2014-15 together with an average over the last 4 years.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	4 Year Ave
LAAC	3,098	3,014	3,268	2,961	3,085
LANSW	37,698	36,324	39,935	36,005	37,491
LAQLD	14,240	13,568	14,502	13,282	13,898
LASA	7,428	6,920	6,510	5,758	6,654
LATAS	2,539	2,594	2,643	2,344	2,530
LAVic	19,932	18,672	19,422	17,798	18,956
LAWA	8,691	8,398	8,451	8,065	8,401
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,626</b>	<b>89,490</b>	<b>94,731</b>	<b>86,213</b>	<b>91,015</b>

# SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT



**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Directors' Report**

The Directors of Australian Little Athletics Inc ("LAA") present their report together with the special purpose financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the Independent Audit Report thereon.

**Director Details**

The following persons were members of the LAA Executive at the date of this report:

Dereck Fineberg	President
Martin Stillman	Chief Executive Officer
Melanie Woodward	Finance Director and Independent Director
Andrew Duncan	Competition & Standards Director

The Board of Management is made up of the Executive and the following members:

Simone Pearce	Independent Director
Andrew Pryor	LAACT
Craig Scott	LANSW
Donna Smith	LAQ
Andrew Gosling	LASA
Rhonda O'Sign	LATAS
Colin Segota	LAVIC
Teresa Blackman	LAWA

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Association during the course of 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.

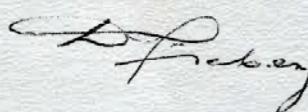
**Significant Changes**

There have been no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

**Operating Result**

The surplus/(deficit) of the Association for the year amounted to \$186,224 (2017: (\$74,717)).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



**Dereck Fineberg**  
**President**

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018



**Melanie Woodward**  
**Finance Director**

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Income and Expenditure Statement**

**For the year ended 30 June 2018**

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
		\$	\$
<b>Income</b>			
Affiliation fees and levies	2	910,761	805,255
Royalties		-	25,000
Merchandise		135	1,382
Sponsorship	3	798,205	794,480
Insurance reimbursement		479,310	458,767
Interest Income		33,464	28,272
Other Income	4	78,901	81,632
<b>Gross surplus</b>		<b>2,300,776</b>	<b>2,194,788</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staffing expenses		381,464	358,294
Office expenses	5	107,313	77,962
Meeting related expenses	6	121,943	244,142
Competition and membership expenses	7	483,208	368,885
Management expenses	8	463,087	539,644
Administration expenses	9	557,537	678,065
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,114,552</b>	<b>2,266,994</b>
Loss on disposal of assets		-	(2,511)
<b>Current period surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>186,224</b>	<b>(74,717)</b>
<b>Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>941,011</b>	<b>1,015,728</b>
<b>Retained surplus at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,127,235</b>	<b>941,011</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Balance Sheet****As at 30 June 2018**

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	1,621,929	1,204,052
Trade and other receivables	11	-	220,671
Other assets		66,650	94,434
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,688,579</b>	<b>1,519,157</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	12	88,805	71,609
Intangible assets	13	14,044	18,726
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>102,849</b>	<b>90,335</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,791,428</b>	<b>1,609,492</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	14	282,446	114,582
Other liabilities	15	330,143	467,666
Provisions	16	41,014	86,233
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>653,603</b>	<b>668,481</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	16	10,590	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>10,590</b>	<b>668,481</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>664,191</b>	<b>668,481</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,127,237</b>	<b>941,011</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		941,011	1,015,728
Current year surplus		186,224	(74,717)
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>1,127,235</b>	<b>941,011</b>

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Statement of Cash Flows****For the year ended 30 June 2018**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash receipt from customers			
		1,472,097	1,649,722
Cash payments to suppliers and employees			
		(1,822,468)	(2,148,634)
Interest received			
		33,464	28,272
Sponsorship monies received			
		798,205	550,010
Net goods and services tax paid			
		(33,441)	7,990
<b>Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities</b>	17	<b>447,857</b>	<b>87,360</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for intangible assets			
		(29,980)	(47,590)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(29,980)</b>	<b>(47,590)</b>
<b>Net (decrease) / increase in cash held</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year			
		1,204,052	1,164,282
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	10	<b>1,621,929</b>	<b>1,204,052</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the year ended 30 June 2018****1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

**(a) Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**(b) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment (PPE) is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**(c) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the board reviews the carrying amount of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

**(d) Employee Provisions**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

**(e) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**(f) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**(g) Revenue and other income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(h) Accounts receivable and other debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from associated clubs and team members. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**(i) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**(j) Accounts payable and other payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(k) Comparative figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**2. LEVY INCOME**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Affiliation fees	70	70
Australian Teams Championship Levy	47,933	32,769
Administration Levy	862,758	772,416
	<b>910,761</b>	<b>805,255</b>

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**6. MEETING/CONFERENCE EXPENSES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Executive meetings	8,346	10,091
Board of management meetings	23,093	145,242
AGM & conferences	39,094	44,853
CEO meetings	4,978	5,200
Development officer meetings	8,043	7,054
NTC meetings	11,693	14,223
Roll of excellence	26,696	17,479
	<b>121,943</b>	<b>244,142</b>

**3. SPONSORSHIP INCOME**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Jetstar Airways	150,000	674,480
Apparel Sponsor	56,538	90,000
Media Sponsor	50,000	-
Insurance Sponsor	-	30,000
Naming Rights Sponsor	541,667	-
	<b>798,205</b>	<b>794,480</b>

**7. COMPETITION & MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
U15 camp	130,861	134,180
ALAC	246,628	87,623
LAPS	105,719	147,082
	<b>483,208</b>	<b>368,885</b>

**4. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Roll of Excellence Dinner Contributions	1,100	2,287
Coaching Camp Contributions	66,136	68,866
Other income	5,796	-
Recoupment of Expenditure	5,869	10,479
	<b>78,901</b>	<b>81,632</b>

**8. SPONSORSHIP EXPENSES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Sponsorship expenses	398,000	359,726
Sponsorship support	55,605	166,979
Other expenses	9,482	12,939
	<b>463,087</b>	<b>539,644</b>

**5. OFFICE EXPENSES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Office costs	56,770	47,458
Travel and entertainment costs	11,155	5,628
IT & communication costs	39,388	24,876
	<b>107,312</b>	<b>77,962</b>

**9. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
General expenses	91,568	90,564
Insurance expenses	276,555	430,444
Projects	189,414	157,057
	<b>557,537</b>	<b>678,065</b>

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	1,621,929	1,204,052
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents as stated in the statement of financial position</b>	<b>1,621,929</b>	<b>1,204,052</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents as stated in the statement of cash flows</b>	<b>1,621,929</b>	<b>1,204,052</b>

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

Note	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade payables	94,496	60,253
Other creditors and accruals	187,950	54,329
	<b>282,446</b>	<b>114,582</b>

**11. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade receivables	-	220,871
	-	220,871

All amounts held are short-term. The net carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value.

All of the company's trade and other receivables have been reviewed for indicators of impairment.

**15. OTHER LIABILITIES**

Note	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
PAYG Withholding Payable	6,064	8,804
Superannuation Payable	7,728	7,177
GST Payable	(42,054)	(8,612)
National Database Funding - ASC	250,000	250,000
Unearned Revenue	108,405	210,297
	<b>330,143</b>	<b>467,666</b>

**12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Equipment – at cost	123,280	93,300
Less accumulated depreciation	58,871	53,170
	<b>64,409</b>	<b>40,130</b>
Motor Vehicle – at cost	40,618	40,618
Less accumulated depreciation	16,222	9,139
	<b>24,396</b>	<b>31,479</b>
	<b>88,805</b>	<b>71,609</b>

**16. PROVISIONS**

Note	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for employee benefits: annual leave	31,914	33,543
Provision for equipment insurance	9,100	52,690
	<b>41,014</b>	<b>86,233</b>
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Provision for employee benefits: long service leave	10,590	-
	<b>10,590</b>	<b>-</b>

**13. INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Intellectual Property – at cost	20,000	20,000
Accumulated amortisation	5,956	1,274
	<b>14,044</b>	<b>18,726</b>

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**17. CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with profit for the year</b>		
Profit for the year		
Profit for the year	186,224	(74,716)
<i>Non-cash flows in profit:</i>		
- amortisation	29,580	14,427
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
- (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	213,287	97,990
- (increase) / decrease in other assets	22,653	16,536
- (decrease) / increase in trade and other payables	167,865	99,863
- (decrease) / increase in provisions	(36,820)	(8,761)
- (decrease) / increase in other liabilities	(134,932)	(57,979)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>447,857</b>	<b>87,360</b>

**18. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE**

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial year.

**Australian Little Athletics Inc**

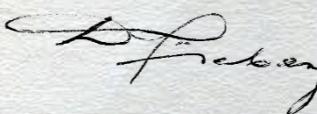
Special Purpose Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

**Declaration**

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AND PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**  
***Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012***  
***SS 94(2)(B), 97(2)(B) and 100(2)(B)***

We, Dereck Fineberg and Melanie Woodward, being members of the board of Australian Little Athletics Inc., certify that:

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Australian Little Athletics Inc. during the year ended 30 June 2018.



**Dereck Fineberg**  
**President**



**Mrs Melanie Woodward**  
**Finance Director**

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018

# COMPETITION AND STANDARDS DIRECTOR

## National Technical Committee (NTC)

The NTC continues to do work together as a sub-committee of the board to review the rules of athletics and make modifications to these rules to suit the ages of athletes in our sport. Over the past 12 months they have been reviewing how the modified rules and processes for Little Athletics will be presented in the future for all levels of competition. This is an ongoing process and it is envisaged these documents will be completed over the next 12 months.

## Officials Education

In February this year saw the appointment of Claire Bensemann as the Australian Officials Coordinator employed by both Little Athletics Australia and Athletics Australia. Claire's initial brief has been to create a national officials' database to coordinate the qualifications and education of Australian athletic officials, regardless of their membership affiliation. Following this work Claire will be working on reviewing the content Australian Athletics Officials Education System. Since the initial review & creation of the online documents about 4 years, there has not been a review of the content. There have been several significant rule changes and processes both at an International level and also a local level which need to be incorporated into the various levels of the scheme.

## Age Groups

The past 12 months have seen the various States and Territories prepare themselves in readiness for the change of the age group cohorts to align to a calendar year. This came into effect after the April 2018 Conference and in conjunction with this change, there has also been changes to some age groups throwing implement weights to align to School Sport Australia for the same age groups.

## National U15 Camp

At the time of writing this report, planning is well under way for 2018 National U15 camp being held from 05-08 October 2018 at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

There will be 97 athletes attending the camp this year, together with 15 coaches, 11 team managers and 4 staff.

Thanks to Andrew Johnson and Ashlea Watt in organising all aspects of the camp and to Glynnis Nunn-Cearns who has once again assembled a selection of the very best coaches from around Australia for the benefit of our athletes.

## ALAC

Congratulations to Little Athletics Queensland on hosting a fantastic ALAC's at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast. Kudos to the convening committee on ensuring the event ran extremely smoothly over the weekend. Many of the officials who officiated at ALAC this year, also officiated at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games as either technical officials or sport specific volunteers in the fortnight prior to the event and brought with them the experience gained at that competition to the ALAC. The level of officiating was outstanding, and it was great to see some of Australia best officials at an ALAC.

The stand at Runaway Bay was full both days, with many family members of athletes making the trip to cheer on their children. For those who could not attend, Live streaming was once again produced for the event and we saw an increase in the audience numbers over previous years. The quality and production were once again excellent.

The winners of each trophy are listed below:

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

1st **New South Wales**

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

1st **Queensland**

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

1st **ACT**

### Life Members Trophy for the Multi- Event Teams Competition (U15)

1st **Western Australia**

There were also several ABP's set on the day.

Congratulations must also go to all the athletes who were selected to represent their Associations. The sportsmanship and respect shown to their teammates, the other teams and the officials was a credit to themselves. I am sure in years to come they will look back and remember with fond memories, what a great time they had.

## On Track Trial Project

Little Athletics Australia have commenced a trial project with several Centres across Australia to gather feedback and test the suitability of the Ontrack product for the U6-U8 age groups. A national skills-based development program is seen as an essential introduction for children into our sport. At the time of writing this report, preparation work is well underway with the first of the trial Centres to commence the program in September.

Thank you

To the LAA staff Martin, Ashlea, Andrew, Sara and Claire, thank you for all the work that you do in supporting Little Athletics in Australia.

To the LAA Executive and Board, Senior Management Teams and their staff, thank you for your input and contributions in assisting to make Little Athletics a pleasure to be involved in.

And lastly, it would be remis of me not to thank my family – Lisa, Patrick & Lucy for allowing me to follow my passion which is athletics and commit my time to Little Athletica Australia over the past year.

## Andrew Duncan

Competition and Standards Director  
Coles Little Athletics Australia

## STATE ASSOCIATION REPORTS



# LITTLE ATHLETICS ACT

## **It is with great pleasure that I present the President's Report for season 2017/18 of the ACT Little Athletics Association, trading as Little Athletics ACT (LAACT).**

### **Registrations**

Final registrations tallied 2,931 for season 2017/2018, a decrease of 7% on 2016/2017. Although this is typical following the years in which Olympic Games are held, we will need to continue to work hard to find innovative ways to maximise retention and attract new members. Once again, Centre registrations went 'live' a month earlier than normal, with an 'early bird' competition that awarded free registrations to lucky winners. Having experienced back to back successes using the early bird system, we will institute this approach going forward.

### **Relationship with Athletics ACT and 'One Sport'**

This year, Little Athletics ACT continued to make great strides in our cooperation with Athletics ACT and ACT Masters Athletics. The three organisations meet on a quarterly basis to progress important work in key strategic areas including competition, officials and coaches, and we are increasingly looking for opportunities where we can share resources. We have commenced work on the first ever joint facilities plan, in close consultation with the ACT Government. It is our shared vision that we create a seamless pathway from Little Athletics, to senior Athletics, and eventually to Masters Athletics. This 'One Sport' approach is designed to eliminate the 'off-ramps' to lifelong participation in sport and it mirrors similar efforts underway across the states and territories and at the national level.

An important One Sport initiative is the decision by Coles Little Athletics Australia (LAA) to align our age groups with School Sport Australia and Athletics Australia. Until now, the Little Athletics age grouping has been unique in that it is based upon a season rather than the calendar year. Consequently, the determination of age groups within Little Athletics has long been a subject of confusion. The alignment of age grouping beginning next season is a positive step toward aligning athletics pathways in Australia. Little Athletics ACT will continue to work closely with our members to ensure that the impacts are minimised.

I am grateful to President Neil Boden and the Athletics ACT Board, as well as Shane Hutchison and the Board of ACT Masters Athletics, for their commitment to the pursuit of mutual objectives and the productive relationship we share.

### **Governance**

In the coming seasons, LAACT will review our own governance arrangements in order to ensure we remain effective and structured appropriately for our operations, and consistent with moves underway at the national level and in other jurisdictions. This transition to a skills based board began this season with approval of constitutional change that provides the board powers to recruit an independent director to address skills gaps in the existing Board.

### **Finance**

After realising a surplus of \$29,908 in 2017, the net deficit for the year ended 30 April 2018 was \$25,913. Our financial performance is dependent on registrations and this year we were down by 7% from 3,162 to 2,931. These headwinds resulted in a drop in revenue of around \$14,000 relative to 2017. We also invested an extra \$40,000 (approx.) in the office and development portfolio. It is our intention that these investments, coupled with new product offerings and national marketing programs, generate increases in registration numbers and improved retention rates going forward. As a 'not-for-profit' organisation, Little Athletics ACT is obligated to invest in participation programs, development opportunities, equipment and programs that improve the member experience, and systems that reduce the burden on our volunteer workforce. As costs across the industry rise, our budgeting will require close attention in future years. We also need to work harder collectively to attract new sponsors. Despite this loss, our cash position remains very strong.

### **Product Developments**

As the Age Group Changes ratified at the national level near implementation, Little Athletics ACT is preparing for these changes with the implementation of an Age Group subcommittee charged with local roll-out, and a focus on minimising impacts to children that would otherwise be eligible to participate in ALAC and the U15 camps. Six centres here in the ACT, almost 40% of our centres, will participate in the 'On Track' pilot program. This represents a bold first step in the journey to

explore how our product might evolve to changing community expectations. It is important we remain leaders in the Australian sporting landscape, and deliver the best possible experience and value, for participants, parents, clubs and our centres.

It's for these same reasons that Little Athletics ACT partnered with Athletics ACT's RunACT series of cross country events, with over 250 little athletes competing across the four event inaugural series in winter 2017. This was followed by an even more successful series in 2018 that culminated in our first ever Cross Country Championships in June that featured around 170 little athletes.

### **Athletics in the Southern Tablelands, NSW**

In season 2017/18, we welcomed the Southern Tablelands centre into our track and field community. We look forward to working closely with the new committee and their members to ensure they are afforded every opportunity to be successful.

### **Relationship with Government**

We continued our fruitful partnership with the ACT Government and Active Canberra. Our key outputs and reporting requirements for 2018 are around the review of our Strategic and Facilities Plans; an update of our Inclusion Policy in partnership with Athletics ACT; our participation in the trial of the 'On Track' program; alignment of the age groups; and the continuation of Board meetings and joint projects with Athletics ACT.

### **Relationship with Sponsors**

I want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors. We welcomed national naming rights sponsor Coles in season 2017/18 and a media partner in the Channel 9 network. Coles has already proven a wonderful partner to LAACT and we look forward to many years of future collaboration. The bananas, caps, and vivid red marquees have been embraced with enthusiasm by our members!

This year we welcomed Capital Chemist, and continued our fruitful partnerships with the Sportsmans Warehouse, People's Choice Credit Union, the ACT Government and Active Canberra, and the Canberra Southern Cross Club. It is wonderful to build partnerships with companies with headquarters in Canberra and solid roots in our community.

Partnerships is an area in which we need to achieve more in the next year to consolidate our financial and community positions without having to continue to increase levies.

### **Recognition**

Little Athletics ACT values the contribution of our volunteers, and so I was delighted to recognise Ruud Van Scheppingen from Corroboree as our recipient of the Michael Spencer Volunteer of the Year Award. Ruud is a tireless volunteer coach, official and administrator.

Congratulations to all of the Centres that won awards this year, especially our Season Champion Calwell and our Small Centre Championship Award winner Cooma. To our Centre of the Year Corroboree, thank you for your wonderful contribution to Little Athletics in the ACT.

Congratulations to all of our former little athletes that represented Australia at the 21st Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast. While Little Athletics will always maintain an emphasis on participation, it is important to recognise the role our high performance athletes play in attracting participants to our sport and healthy life choices more broadly; not just through their public profiles, but their modelling of ideal behaviours and their willingness to make themselves accessible to the public. Former Corroboree athlete Jayden Sawyer, who is more suited to the Javelin having won the F38 Javelin in London last year, finished 4th in the F38 Shot Put with a performance of 12.40m. Eleven time national record holder Lauren Wells, also from Corroboree, narrowly missed the 400m hurdles final, but made the final of the Long Jump and then rounded out her program with a 5th in the 4 x 400m relay. We were in awe of Woden Little Athlete Keely Small's record-breaking run in the heats of the women's 800m. Lined up against eventual winner Caster Semenya of South Africa in the heats, the 16-year-old from Woden set new all-time Australian Under 18 and Under 20 standards to establish herself as a star of the future. The national under 20 mark had stood for 36 years. In the process, Keely ran the fastest under-18 800 metre time in the world for five years, and the ninth fastest under-18 time in global history. We also celebrate national 100m record holder Mel Breen, who showed her class after going into the games nursing an injury but progressed to the semi-finals of the women's 100m. Congratulations all!

### **Roll of Excellence and Coles Little Athletics Australia Conference**

This October, all eyes will turn to Canberra when LAACT hosts the Roll of Excellence and Conference. The Conference, Board and senior management meetings will be held at the QT hotel in the Acton precinct and the dinner and Roll of Excellence will be held at the Village Centre at the National Arboretum. While the majority of the administration of these events will be undertaken by the Coles LAA office, we can expect to play a role in tailoring of the event and the guest list. As we begin preparations for the 2019 ALAC in Canberra, the Roll of Excellence promises to be a special event in our calendar.

**Thank You**

From an administration standpoint, we welcomed Rory O'Sullivan to the Board, while Leanne Nelson, Peter Boden, Jennifer Bryant, and David Lemon continued in their roles. I want to thank them for their hard work and support during what was, at times, a challenging and eventful season.

This July we farewelled Leanne Nelson. As Administration Director, Leanne's attention to detail, her pragmatism, commercial acumen and strong leadership were instrumental in ensuring the Board met its commitments to our stakeholders, including Government and the Association. Under her stewardship, the office rolled out the Timing Solutions registration system that offers better integration of our systems and reduced workload. Leanne was our member on the Coles LAA Constitution Working Group. Leanne will be missed.

As Marketing and PR Director, Rory has delivered new or revamped sponsorship arrangements with Capital Chemist, People's Choice Credit Union and Sportsmans Warehouse, while leveraging the power of social media, including a trial of Facebook at our Championships. Rory's expertise in marketing is an asset to our organisation. His hard work saw LAACT receive exceptional coverage throughout the ACT including radio and newspaper advertising, and on Channel Nine. The first ever sale of merchandise at the ACT championships was a huge hit.

Peter Boden worked tirelessly to tackle an enormous workload in the Competition and Technical portfolio at both local and national levels, the latter through the National Technical Committee. With his enviable experience and knowledge, Peter was ideally placed to navigate LAACT through difficult technical challenges. Peter led our Competition and Technical Committees and supported the Joint Officials Working Group with Athletics ACT. For his part, Finance Director David Lemon managed to deftly balance our scarce resources and invest in outcomes for our membership. His ability to tease out conclusions from complex data has been invaluable in informing the Board's decision making processes. He was also instrumental in delivering the LAACT Cross Country program and is a regular contributor to our committee processes. Jennifer's energy and professionalism in the Development Role was always on display as she expertly led key program delivery and 'stepped up' to cover the gap between Participation and Development Officers.

In summary, the 2017/18 Board will be remembered for its professionalism and fortitude, and the rigour with which it approached each issue that came before it. It's important that Boards consist of diverse perspectives and robust debate, and I am pleased that this was a feature of the 2017/18 Board.

A special thanks is owed to our Executive Officer Renée Cassell for her leadership of the Association, her management of our high performing office, her contributions to the various committees, and her contributions at the national level. Her enthusiasm is matched by her dedication and professionalism. I also want to acknowledge the work of Malcolm Lavender, who joined the team in January in the Participation and Development Officer role. Malcolm is a well-known fixture in the capital region, and brings tremendous experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the role. It gives me great pleasure to highlight the contribution of Mikayla Cruz, a junior athlete and ASBA (Australian School Based Apprentice) student working in the office who has been nominated for a 2018 ACT Training Award. And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Sue for her wonderful support in the office, especially during registration period, carnival organisation, and for bringing together our Gala Dinner. Sue once again drove accountability in centre reporting, and can be counted on to spoil the Board with great fare at our meetings. Thank you to Records Officer Barbara Eddowes, IT Officer Darren Smailes, Health & Safety Officer Ken Hopkins, Officer of Officials Ken Steinman, and Equipment Officer Garry Stevens for your service.

Thank you to our ALAC management team of Jennifer Bryant and Stuart Todd, coaches Ruud van Scheppingen and Nicole Roberts, as well as our selectors. Congratulations to the entire ALAC team for your exemplary conduct and tremendous efforts at the Gold Coast; we could not be more proud of you.

And last but by no means least, a big thank you to all of the volunteers that make up our Centre committees and give of their time week in and week out so our families can enjoy all that Little Athletics has to offer. With your ongoing support, I am confident that the future of Little Athletics in the ACT and south east NSW is in good hands.

**Andrew Pryor**

President  
Little Athletics ACT

# LITTLE ATHLETICS NEW SOUTH WALES

**STRATEGY AND STRUCTURE**

As reported last year, Little Athletics NSW was advised to transfer our incorporation from an incorporated association registered under the Associations Incorporations Act 2009, to a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001. The catalyst for this change was the fact that we have exceeded the annual financial threshold under the current Act. At last year's Annual General Meeting, the Board and the Chief Executive Officer were authorised to prepare and execute all necessary documents and take all necessary actions as are required to register the association under the Corporations Act 2001 as a company limited by guarantee. Work in this area has progressed, albeit slower than anticipated, and we expect to receive notification from ASIC (Australian Securities and Investments Commission) in the very near future, advising of our successful transfer.

The change to a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee demanded significant change to our Constitution. Considerable time and effort was expended in this area and in early 2018, after a successful postal ballot with more than 94% voting in favour, an amended Constitution was successfully adopted.

The move to a company limited by guarantee also provided the perfect opportunity to make a change to the structure of the Board, with the removal of all Director portfolios. Consequently, the necessary detail was included in the new Constitution. Our previous Board structure of seven (7) elected Directors and up to two (2) appointed Directors did not change, but under the new Constitution, there are no Director portfolios. Further, the elected Directors now vote to appoint the Board Chair, from amongst their number, as opposed to the previous practice of the President being elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. These changes follow current best practice and have brought us into line with most other major sporting organisations. The removal of portfolios for Directors enables us to canvass for Board applicants with specific skill sets to complement existing Board composition and supports the shift to a more strategic Board that focuses its attention on future strategic direction and leaves the operational matters to be handled by staff, supported by advisory committees and/or panels, as required.

During the past season, the Board reviewed the Little Athletics NSW strategic plan. In doing so, our commitment to the core values of integrity, innovation, excellence and inclusion, were reinforced. Our strategic objectives were also reassessed with the focus to be on members, organisational capability, governance, athletics products, and recognition. These strategic objectives work in unison with those of the whole of Athletics Strategic Plan, and collectively these plans provide the framework to drive growth and capacity and guide us into the future.

Little Athletics NSW maintained a close alliance with other NSW Athletics providers this season due to the mutually beneficial outcomes. The Joint Working Party, consisting of representatives from Little Athletics NSW, Athletics NSW, NSW Masters Athletics and the NSW Office of Sport, continues to work on strategies associated with the delivery of athletics as a united sport. Through the Joint Working Party, we have now endorsed a Human Resource Strategy, Participation Growth Strategy and a strategy for Coach and Official Development Frameworks. A Membership Model Review is well-progressed and due for completion in late October/early November and work has commenced on developing a Marketing and Communication Strategy and a Competition Strategy. Discussions have also continued in relation to the establishment of an 'Athletics in New South Wales Headquarters' to house the staff of all Athletics providers together under the one roof.

The area of staffing is recognised as being a critical component for the successful achievement of our strategic objectives and a key factor in 'future-proofing' our sport. We are fortunate to have had the assistance of a consultant from Left Field Sports Solutions to help devise a blueprint for a future staff structure and to guide progress towards that structure. As at July 2018, the total number of staff working for Little Athletics NSW stands at 19, of which 14 are shared employees with Athletics NSW, with the greater percentage of the combined workforce now working for both organisations, across the whole sport. Of specific note in relation to staff changes in the past year is the: appointment of an Operations and Administration Manager; successful filling of the Regional Athletics Support Officer positions (Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Tamworth and Newcastle); appointment of both a Marketing and Communications Manager and a Marketing and Communications Coordinator; appointment of a Participation Coordinator and a part-time Participation Advisor; and the reallocation of roles for staff in what was previously the Coaching and Development department, to have one person

specifically devoted to each of the four key areas of Coach and Volunteer Development, Schools and Community, Athlete Development, and Diversity and Inclusion.

Another area recognised as being crucial to the growth of our sport, is that of facilities and over the past 12 months we have continued to work with local councils and the NSW Office of Sport, to ensure that Athletics is considered in the future infrastructure initiatives being considered as part of an extensive planning process currently underway. Feeding into the planning process via the NSW Office of Sport, was a joint Sports Facilities Priority list representing the aligned viewpoint of Little Athletics NSW and Athletics NSW on key facility projects across NSW. The continued joint input from Little Athletics NSW and Athletics NSW ensures that Athletics is in a strong position to achieve our goals in relation facility upgrades and development, in the near future and beyond.

In 2019, construction of two new synthetic athletics tracks will be completed in the regional towns of Tamworth and Maitland. Several councils across NSW have also submitted applications for funding under the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund and the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, for new and upgraded Athletics facilities. Support for the construction of a synthetic athletics track within their jurisdiction has been expressed by the Shoalhaven, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Lismore, Port Macquarie, Griffith, Penrith, Hornsby, Riverwood, and Hills local councils.

Work has also just begun on the development of a comprehensive 'Statewide Athletics Facility Strategy'. This joint Athletics project is being led by a consultant and is being partly funded through a NSW Office of Sport grant.

#### **FINANCE, GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

In line with changes to the Board and staff structures, the financial management of Little Athletics NSW also changed somewhat during the past season. The day-to-day financial tasks and preparation of monthly financial reports, now rests with the CEO and staff, as does the preparation of the annual operating budget.

A Finance and Audit Committee was established to provide oversight of financial management on behalf of the Board and to make recommendations on the strategic financial objectives. One of the first tasks undertaken by the Finance and Audit Committee was a review of external auditor due to some concerns around timing the previous year. As a result of this review, KMPG were appointed via a Special General Meeting, as the new Little Athletics NSW auditor.

Our income and expenditure budget for the year was working towards a deficit of \$258,646.00, to allow additional staffing resources to be deployed, specifically in regional areas, and to fund the implementation and roll-out of some of our strategic initiatives. More than half of the budgeted deficit was to be underwritten by a larger than expected surplus in the prior year. The income and expenditure deficit for the year came in greater than the budgeted deficit by \$40,793.00 meaning the total deficit for the year was \$299,439.00. The cause of the greater than projected deficit was lower than expected revenue. A decrease in registration numbers from the previous year resulted in registration income being \$102,742.73 (5.5%) less than budget. In a pleasing result, expenditure was also less than the amount allowed for in the budget. Overall, the current financial position of Little Athletics NSW remains strong, giving us the ability to continue to fund our strategic objectives going forward, and return to a balanced budget by the 2019/2020 season.

We are grateful to the NSW Office of Sport, for project-based funding received in addition to our baseline grant funding, via the NSW Sport Development Grant Program. We are currently progressing four separate projects made possible via this funding, being: - development of a suite of video resources; licensing and delivery of the UK Fundamentals of Movement Skills Workshop; introduction of various inclusion and diversity initiatives; and the development and roll-out of a new risk management plan. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a further four project submissions.

Little Athletics NSW once again offered several of our own assistance programs for members. Through the Athlete Assistance Program, we covered registration fees and uniforms for 34 Little Athletes (\$3,500) and through the Country Athletes Support Program, 44 Little Athletes from regional areas were provided with financial assistance (\$12,000) to attend the State Championships in Sydney. Through the Centre Grant Scheme, we supported 11 centres (\$51,000) with equipment and facility upgrades. Our major corporate partner, McDonald's, also provided \$10,000 in equipment grants for centres.

#### **MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP**

Through new shared staff arrangements with Athletics NSW, we were fortunate to gain the services of two new staff members to help look after our marketing and communications requirements. These two full-time employees work together as the NSW Athletics 'marketing team', delivering the marketing and communications objectives of both organisations.

The marketing team had an immediate impact upon the quality and effectiveness of both our office communication and our promotion of Little Athletics. Email communications were professionalised, and email capabilities enhanced, through use of the MailChimp platform. This also allowed Little Athletics NSW and Athletics NSW to have some uniformity between our communications.

The general focus of our Communication Strategy was the delivery of relevant, timely and engaging content across all channels, including Facebook, Twitter, email, YouTube and Instagram, through the use of segmentation and targeted content. As a result, activity on Little Athletics NSW social media services and pages experienced significant growth and continues to do so. The volume of information communicated via social media and the subsequent increase in positive engagement with members was reflected in the yearly metrics. Facebook saw an increase in page likes of 134%, whilst the Instagram page had a slightly higher increase in followers with 143%.

From a traditional advertising perspective, our marketing team created a new television commercial and with the support of Prime 7, secured some great placements during the Commonwealth Games in April and during our peak registration period in August. Once again, the Prime 7 Network provided fantastic in-kind support by providing approximately \$1.50 worth of free placements for every \$1 spent and securing the best possible placement of all paid spots.

Our corporate support continued to be strong with generous backing from our state partners McDonald's, The Athletes Foot, Nordic Sport, SportsTG, Instant Photos Australia, GA Millers, Prime 7, and National partner Coles. We welcomed Nordic Sport onboard for their first season as a corporate partner and offered our sincere thanks to Hart Sport, who ceased as a partner after an amazing 20 years. Without the commitment and financial support of these businesses, Little Athletics NSW would not be able to provide the programs and services that we do – thank you. We also thank our many other partners; whose support helps us with various aspects of our operation. These include: Athletics NSW, NSW Office of Sport, Sport NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority; and ACT/NSW AFL.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Registrations for the 2017/2018 season saw a decrease of almost 10% from the previous season to 36,017, bringing the total back to around the figure of two seasons ago, before the increase off the back of the Rio Olympics last year. This trend of rising and falling in line with the Olympic Games needs to be addressed and halted, if we are ever going to experience real growth, year on year.

On a positive note, new centres operated at The Ponds (in Sydney's North West) and Harrington (on the Mid North Coast), with The Ponds having over 500 members in their inaugural season. A further three (3) new centres have been established in readiness for the start of the upcoming season: Bundeena Maianbar (Southern Sydney), Scone (Upper Hunter) and Euro Coast (Batemans Bay - South Coast).

The number of families paying for their registration via the SportsTG system continued its upward trend, with more than 65% of members electing to register and pay online. Centres have been advised that from this coming season all registrations and payments must be made through the online registration portal and no manual registrations or payments will be accepted.

Once again, every athlete who registered with Little Athletics in the U12 to U17 age groups, automatically received a 'Dual Athlete Membership' with Athletics NSW, at no extra cost and were issued with a 'dual athlete registration number/bib' enabling them to wear the same number/bib whether they were in a Little Athletics NSW event or an Athletics NSW event. Through this initiative, every athlete in the U12-U17 age groups was eligible to participate in any Little Athletics NSW or Athletics NSW event, which did lead to an increase in dual registered participants at several Athletics NSW events.

#### **VOLUNTEER AND ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT**

A total of 20 coaching clinics/camps were held throughout the season, with over 800 members taking part. Venues included: Bathurst, Maitland, Orange, Dubbo, Singleton, Wollondilly, Ku-ring-gai, Terrigal-Wamberal, Narrabeen, Sydney Olympic Park, Narrabri, Yetman, Inverell, Tamworth and Gunnedah.

Of special note was the Western Plains Clinic held in Dubbo in November, which attracted 80 athletes, who were all thrilled to have Australia's Fastest 100m runner, Patrick Johnson, there to pass on his valuable knowledge and experience as an Indigenous athlete. Two additional event-specific throws clinics held in January, at Balmain and Sylvania, were also special opportunities for the 130 athletes who were there to be coached by Kim Mickle and Amanda Murphy.

A total of 32 NSW athletes attended the National U15 camp, conducted by Little Athletics Australia in Canberra in October.

Little Athletics NSW staff also assisted at the Blind Sports NSW camp, held at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen. Two of our experienced para coaches were in attendance to coach 30 blind students in some of the athletics events. Little Athletics NSW has also contributed to a number of Sport NSW Activate Inclusion Sports Days, where participants have the opportunity to spend 20 minutes at a time experiencing a variety of sports, athletics being one.

Between our promotional school visit program, "Desire to Inspire", and LAPS (Little Athletics Program for Schools), we managed to reach only 25,000 students last year, which unfortunately is our lowest number ever. We believe that there are several reasons for this poor result, some of which we have the ability to address and some that are beyond our control. The programs that we conduct in schools, and the way we interact with schools, will be reviewed as part of our overall participation strategy. We have also initiated communications with the NSW School Sport Unit who have agreed to meet regularly to explore ways that we can better work together. They have offered some assistance already, including the provision of editorial/advertising space in a school sport newsletter sent to all NSW schools on two occasions each term.

A total of ten (10) Introduction to Coaching Courses were delivered throughout the state during the 2017/2018 season. Five of the courses were conducted in metropolitan areas and five in regional areas, for a total of 139 participants.

During the past season, Little Athletics NSW staff member Darren Wensor was trained as the lead presenter of the "How to Coach the Fundamentals of Movement Workshop", developed by UK Coaching. Little Athletics NSW is the first organisation outside of the UK to be licensed to conduct a UK Coaching Course and distribute the associated resources. The first full workshop in Australia was held in January 2018 at the Sydney Academy of Sport and had 15 attendees. News of the course being delivered in Australia was featured in the Spring 2018 issue of UK Coaching's "Coaching Edge" magazine, which is distributed quarterly to all UK Coaching members, currently traversing over 90 different sports.

#### **COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 2017 State Relay Championships were held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on 18-19 November with over 1,300 teams (up by nearly 40 on the previous year) entered. The junior day had 697 teams, which was an increase on the previous year and the senior day had 623 teams, which was down on the previous year.

All 23 Zone Championships (U7-U17) were conducted in the first half of the season (in late November/early December) for approximately 11,550 athletes. This number reduced to approximately 8,300 athletes (U8-U17) for the 8 Region Championships conducted during late January and February, and then just under 2,900 athletes, from 163 centres, qualified for the pinnacle event, the State Track & Field Championships on 23-25 March.

A total of 47 para athletes competed across the four multi-class events (800m, Discus, Long Jump and 100m) at the State Track and Field Championships. This was the highest number of para athletes in attendance at any State Championship to date and a pleasing trend that we hope will continue.

The State Multi-Event Championships were held on 3-4 March at Jubilee Oval, Wagga Wagga. Approximately 560 athletes from 96 centres across NSW competed at what is widely considered our best family, fun event.

The winter season saw our two 'whole of sport' events, being the combined State Road Walk Championships (Little Athletics NSW and Athletics NSW) held on 17 June at the Penrith Lakes Regatta Centre (U9 to 75yrs+) and the State Cross Country Championships (Little Athletics NSW and Athletics NSW) held on 8 July at Dapto Cross Country Park (U7 to 75yrs+). As a fully integrated events, all age groups up to and including U11 were conducted under standard Little Athletics age groups and U13 and above were conducted under Athletics Australia age groups (no U12, as they all became U13). There were 110 entries for Road Walks, with 76 being of Little Athletics age (U9 to U17) and 660 entries, of which 426 were of Little Athletics age (U7 to U17) for the Cross Country.

A Little Athletics NSW team of 80 athletes from the U11 and U12 age groups, travelled to Auckland in January 2018, for the Trans Tasman Challenge. The athletes were accompanied by 30 officials and spent 12 days enjoying and experiencing a range of activities in and around Auckland, culminating in a great day of friendly competition at Mt Smart Stadium on 14 January, which resulted in many PB's and many new friendships.

At the 2018 Australian Little Athletics Championships, held on the Gold Coast on 28-29 April, the Little Athletics NSW team was successful in retaining the Trevor Billingham trophy for overall points, for the third year in a row, as well as placing 3rd in the handicap points for the Alan Triscott trophy, and 2nd in the U15 Multi-Event Life Members trophy. Over the weekend of competition, the NSW team members achieved a total of 37 PB's (personal bests). Our congratulations are extended to every member of the team for their contribution to these results.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU**

We would like to extend congratulations to Peter Barnes, who was awarded Life Membership of Little Athletics NSW at the recent Annual General Meeting.

Life Member Ian Adams, official Jordan Ashby-Brigand and zone coordinator Emily Jordan, are also to be congratulated for their nominations in the NSW Community Sports Awards. The NSW Community Sports Awards are focused on community and grass roots sport, recognising the contributions largely carried out by a volunteer workforce. Ian Adams was awarded a Distinguished Long Service Award for his outstanding 30+ years of involvement with Little Athletics. Jordan was a finalist for the Young Official of the Year award, and Emily was a finalist in the Community Sports Administrator of the Year category. A further 14 of our long-standing officials were acknowledged through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program, a program introduced to recognise the contribution that volunteers make towards strengthening our communities.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank outgoing Director, Greg Dickson, for the significant contribution he has made to Little Athletics NSW. Greg chose not to renominate for the Board this year due to ongoing health concerns.

On a personal note I have enjoyed my initial season as President of Little Athletics NSW and certainly have a greater appreciation of the overall responsibilities involved. I look forward to contributing further to our continued development in the years ahead.

#### **Craig Scott**

President  
Little Athletics NSW

# ATHLETICS NORTHERN TERRITORY

## 2018 has been a year of change for Northern Territory Athletics. On the positive has been our reaffiliation with Little Athletics Australia which will prove to be fruitful and prosperous for both parties.

We have continued our strong relationship with Athletics Australia and have worked very closely with both parties as the only state or territory that has a united sport approach. Both organisations continue to push towards unity.

Strategically, Athletics NT sought to create opportunities for our developing athletes and coaches. 3 coaching courses have been coordinated this year with the costs being subsidised very heavily for participants. This saw a total of 32 new coaches gain their accreditation.

Our developing athletes have been exposed to a range of new competitions with BIMP-EAGA being staged again this coming December and a recent trip to Singapore for 16 athletes resulting in many personal bests. It is very important for the sport that athletes are continually exposed to differing types of competitions and cultures.

On that note Athletics is a banner sport for the upcoming Arafura Games. It was an election promise to bring these Games back to Darwin and whilst the build up has been slow, athletics has been an integral component in the planning. From April 27 to 30 of 2019 Athletics will hold centre stage at these Games which will again host a Para component. Hopefully we see the best para athletes in Australia use this as a qualifications trial for their upcoming European and World Championship adventures.

Athletics NT has also been very active in our remote and indigenous communities having conducted clinics in over 30. The tyranny of distance is real in the NT but we firmly believe there are champions out there waiting to be found.

Not all has been sunshine however. Our sport has seen a drop in registrations of almost 20%. This is something the sport will have to look at collaboratively to come up with new and engaging ways to encourage participation. The role of Athletics NT will need to evolve in order to cater to this and I firmly believe that cross registrations and dual activations across sports will eventuate.

On that note I believe athletics as a sport will need to look at similar options for mass participation events. The Lottoland Mitchell St Million Dollar Mile is an excellent example of an event that encompasses more than one sport with the cycling criteriums splitting the road races. Our other events, The Mother's Day Classic and City 2 Surf have seen even numbers for several years now whilst still being very successful, but both could do with an injection of innovation.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the board. I took on the role with a firm direction to remove the board from operations and to have them focus their knowledge and guidance on the big picture. I truly believe this has been a success for Athletics NT with the office handling operations and the board handling strategy and guidance.

**Shane Wylie**  
Executive Officer  
Athletics Northern Territory

# LITTLE ATHLETICS QUEENSLAND

## On behalf Little Athletics Queensland, we are pleased to present the following report.

### Registrations

Registrations for the 2017/2018 season closed at 13,282 athletes. This is a decrease of 1,220 athletes from the corresponding period last year. A New Centre was formed at Bribie Island who enjoyed their first successful season with 155 registrations.

Winter registrations are currently 1,291 which represents a decrease of 180 from last season.

### Competitions

The number of athletes competing at Association competitions in the 2017/2018 season decreased by 937 from the previous year.

This season, the Winter Championships were conducted in Townsville with a slight increase in the number of athletes attending.

### Officials

With the slow change across to online accreditation programs, the number of officials completing accreditation has dropped to only 28 since the start of the year.

### Development Programs and Coaching Clinics

Coaching Clinics have been delivered locally at individual centres this year rather than at regional hubs. So far this year, there have been 11 clinics delivered with 427 athletes in attendance.

### Little Athletics Program for Schools (LAPS)

LAQ Development staff have delivered significantly more LAPS school programs throughout the year with 28,107 to date. This has come at a significant cost though, with the increase in use of additional contracted coaches.

### Introduction to Coaching Courses

During the year, 177 people have participated in one of the 12 courses held throughout the State. More courses are planned for the remainder of the Summer season.

### FAST Program

The FAST Program has been delivered in 2 locations so far this year (Millmerran & Nth Mackay). Seven new locations are due to come on line later this year (Hamilton Island, Blackbutt, Augathella, Samford, Bluewater, Kalbar & Moore Park).

### Gaming Machine Grant

LAQ was successful in obtaining a Gaming Machine Grant to purchase a new Photo Finish Camera. This will be brought into service in late September.

### Annual Conference & AGM

A very successful Annual Conference and AGM was held at Peppers Resort Noosa. Record numbers of delegates and observers attended and all re-standing Directors were re-elected. A casual vacancy was filled at the August Board meeting.

Discussion groups and workshops were provided, which included: the State Facilities Plan, Technology & Coaching, Timing Solutions, Weight Training & Kids, Governance, Athletics 3D App, Inclusion and Regional Boundaries.

### Corporate Support

All LAQ sponsors remained as partners for the year.

**Queensland Government Support – State Facilities Plan**

Little Athletics Queensland received \$50,000 to complete a State Facilities Plan for athletics. This was presented at Conference and then later made available to all Centres. Several recommendations were proposed and will be actioned by the Board.

**Regional Boundaries Review**

All Centres were surveyed with the results presented at this year's conference. Two models have been developed and sent to all Centres for feedback and discussion at regional meetings. Changes, if any, will come into effect in 2019/2020.

**Donna Smith**

President  
Little Athletics Queensland



# LITTLE ATHLETICS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Season 2017/18 was a busy one for Little Athletics SA, with significant work behind the scenes to further our mission of developing children of all abilities by promoting positive attitudes and a healthy lifestyle through family and community involvement in athletics. This mission can be distilled down to the three words of our motto: fun, fitness and family.**

Our focus on fun and positive attitude, encapsulated by the phrase - be your best - has led to our recognition by the State Government Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (OSRS) as the peak recreational athletics body in South Australia.

Achieving this mission doesn't come without its challenges. We need to keep pace with the fast changing landscape of junior sport where we face increased competition from other sports targeting younger children with innovative versions of their sport, focussing on girls joining their sport, and providing options to participate all year around in their sport.

In response to these challenges we continue to seek participant feedback on their view of Little Athletics and use this information to formulate and implement strategies for improvement.

The feedback confirmed that there is no fun in waiting for events, including one parent who timed their child doing only a few minutes of activity over a 90 minute session. To address this we have led the way in establishing 2 exciting programs to provide constant activity for children at Little Athletics sessions:

This season we entered phase 2 of the Tiny Tots program after completing trials last season. This program was introduced to provide a fun and educational offering for what is often the first experience children and their parents have with Little Athletics. And first impressions count. Many centres across the state adopted the program and have now provided feedback, along with the participants, so it can be fine-tuned for next season.

South Australia also spearheaded a national push to investigate the best option for providing game based activities to keep children active during waiting times for events, whilst at the same time providing opportunities for athlete skill development. I am pleased to report that the Little Athletics Victoria "On Track" program was selected for national roll out after being recommended by external sports consultants who conducted a review of the many junior game based athletics programs available internationally. The On Track program has already been adopted by some centres in SA and has been offered in Victoria for number of years. Five centres in each state have been selected to test the program with under six athletes in the coming season with a view to a national roll out in future years. Flexibility in the delivery of this program will be essential to its success in addressing waiting times and inactivity, whilst still satisfying the desire of many children to participate in the events they see at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

We were also successful in lobbying for the appointment of a national inclusions officer. This role is jointly shared by LAA and AA and seeks to ensure that people of all abilities are given the opportunity to participate and compete in athletics, whether the restriction is physical, financial, ethnic or any other reason.

The announcement of State Government funding for a new track in Salisbury, which Northern Districts, Salisbury Little Athletics and Ingle Farm Little Athletics will share, was a fantastic development for athletics given our reliance on Mile End as the only track in the state. The involvement of the three little athletic centres was crucial in convincing the State Government and the Salisbury Council to support what will become a fantastic resource.

One Sport, has taken a significant amount of Board and management time. We continue to strive to ensure that our little athletes have pathways to continue in the sport as they get older. The stronger athletics is at all levels, the more willing children and their parents will be to get and stay involved. For this reason we remain committed to the One Sport initiative. As part of our discussions it became clear that for some athletes, continuing in the sport after turning eighteen meant doing that at their centre, and for many parents that meant participating at the centre with their children. This led to the introduction of the Recreational Athlete category of membership for the first time this year. Hopefully over time this will not only keep more participants in the sport as a recreational activity but also further enhance the family aspect of our sport.

At club level, Mount Barker and Districts Little Athletics also affiliated with ASA and Henley Little Athletics and Western Districts are merging. Sharing of resources will make for stronger athletic clubs.

Funding from ORSR has been approved for marketing and communications in the One Sport space. This project will seek to provide a similar platform for all marketing and communication with current and potential members across all athletics organisations in South Australia. This will allow communication of available events to all members and of all the pathway options for participating in athletics.

One of our objectives as a Board is to make the role of centre volunteers easier. The first step was moving to an electronic membership registration process. After some early teething problems caused by the payment gateway, the registration database was successfully rolled out. Having had to use the new LASA database and the old STG database I can attest to the massive improvement the new membership system is. We also took over claiming the Sports Vouchers this season to reduce the administrative burden on centre volunteers. The introduction of the Centre Portal created a central accessible location for information to be stored so it can be accessed by multiple committee members and remain available to future committee members.

Funding has also been approved by ORS to roll out risk management policies and volunteer management for centres which will provide a resource to protect committee members from risk and enhance Star Club applications.

We are constantly seeking to improve our communication with our centre and individual members, providing opportunities for centres to communicate with and help each other including creating a Centres Facebook group, Team App, mail chimp and good old face to face meetings.

None of this could have happened without the tireless work of our CEO Sue Bowman and the staff, Deb, Meg, Steve, Laura, Owen and Tess. Centres are often telling me how much they have been helped by the staff and how they take the time to get to know them and make them feel welcome in Little Athletics. They all show amazing passion for Little Athletics and deserve a very big thank you for often going above and beyond for Little Athletics.

I would also like to thank the Board; Andrew, Peter, Greg, Nadia, Patrick, Shane, Trevor and Christian. The Board members give so much of their time and valuable expertise to help Little Athletics SA. A special congratulations goes to Greg Peterson who received an Order of Australia Medal for his services to Little Athletics.

A very big thank you also goes to our sponsors and partners for the past season, Health Partners, SA Power Networks, Toyota and Adelaide Brighton Cement. Boileau Business Technology, Blackchrome Sportswear and Snap Printing Hilton/Parkside who make so much possible for our little athletes.

Thank you also goes to our State Government funding body Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing. CEO Kylie Taylor and the staff have been a wonderful support.

And last, but not least, thank you to all the Centre committee and other volunteers helping to make this a great sport for all athletes and their families.

**Andrew Gosling**

Vice President  
Little Athletics South Australia

# LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

## It gives me pleasure to present this report on behalf of Little Athletics Tasmania.

We continue to face the biggest challenges faced by Little Athletics here in Tasmania and nationally, that being a declining membership. With the sporting environment becoming extremely competitive in terms of choices, it is becoming increasingly challenging for us to hold our ground in terms of membership numbers.

Unfortunately we saw quite a significant decrease of year of 12%. Our Development Team has been working closely with several of our smaller Centres to source committee members, offer training and officials resources, and encourage members to attend the ITC and Coaching Clinics conducted by LATas.

Our Membership Strategy was reviewed to look at strategies to grow the participation in Tasmania. One of the key areas already identified, is aligning with many of our winter junior sports. Our Development Officer has worked tirelessly in this area and we see a huge benefit for all junior sports involved.

### Product Review – Age Alignment

We head into Season 2018/2019 with several changes, one significant, that being the new age alignment; the other being a trial by three of our Centres of a new product for our Under 6 to Under 8 athletes – On Track. North Launceston/White City, Burnie and Huon Valley will all trial the program, and we look forward to their feedback. Much discussion has been held regarding the age alignment, and many documentations delivered to our members. To that end, we envisage a smooth transition into the new season.

### One Club Model Committee

The board of Little Athletics Tasmania supports the One Club Model concept and during the 2017/2018 season we worked collaboratively with Athletic Tasmania on initiatives that saw three Centres trial the program – St. Helens and Circular Head, and Huon Valley. These Centres are able to offer athletics for all ages – from Under 5 through to 100+, and enables those athletes who would otherwise not continue with athletics, or due to logistics in travelling to a senior club, the ability to have a smooth transition into seniors. We will be working with Athletics Tasmania to determine other areas within the State, where this model would be successful, and benefit to athletics in Tasmania.

In 2018/2019 we welcome East Derwent Little Athletics as a One Club Model Centre.

### Inclusion

Little Athletics Tasmania is proactive in reaching out to the disability sectors, and attending various forums to talk to parents and children about how they can become involved in our sport. Leading into the new season, we have had the pleasure of attending Tasmania's premium disability expo, Gearing Up. The Expo connects people living with disability, their families, and carers with local products and services. Little Athletics was the only state sporting organisation in attendance, and we were fortunate to speak to many parents and their children about the product that Little Athletics offers. We have also partnered with New Horizons. The organisation provides sport and recreation opportunities for people living with disabilities. Up until 2018, the organisation was northern based only. This year sees it expand into the South. We are fortunate to have the opportunities of attending their inaugural day in the South and again, promote our sport and inclusion to the disability sector.

### Government Relationships

We continue to have a strong partnership with the Tasmanian Government. We are fortunate to again, be funded through the Communities Sport and Recreation Major Grants Program. Our key performance indicators and reporting requirements are focussed on participation, inclusion, coach and official development, communication and marketing. LATas has developed a marketing and communications strategy which clear vision of marketing of our sport, and communicating to the broader community, and in turn increase participation. Areas of marketing include, but not inclusive to – our coaching clinics, delivery of our LAPS program into primary schools, paid television advertising, paid radio advertising, LAA promotional material, instore McDonald's promotion, social media, website, and the attendance by our Development team at external youth and disability forums.

#### Officials / Itc

Several years ago our Development Director undertook to compile an officials training video. This, coupled with face to face training workshops across the state, has augered well for an increase in the number of qualified officials we have. The success of the workshops is evident by the large number of members who attend each year, either to have a refresher course or as a beginning wishing to gain knowledge to then attain their accreditation.

Three ITC Courses have been scheduled to be held at the three main regional areas across the State. Centres can also apply to have these conducted at their own Centre.

#### Camps / Clinics

Each year in September, free regional coaching clinics are held – Hobart, Penguin and Launceston. Sponsored by McDonald's, the clinics offer skill development and coaching in a variety of track and field events. This year we were fortunate to have ex Little Athletes Jack Hale and Hamish Peacock attend the clinics. Not only were they able to pass on their knowledge and skills advice, they spoke highly of their time in Little Athletics, and the opportunities the sport gave them to progress to a higher level.

The Under 12 / 13 Coaching Camp is a four day live-in camp held at Port Sorell each year. The Camp is designed to provide coaching in all Little Athletic events and to develop closer ties between all athletes and other Centres. A maximum of 70 athletes can attend the camp. Such is the popularity of this, that the 2018/2019 camp was fully booked with a week of the application form being placed online in early September.

#### Sponsorship

We have always had great support from our sponsors, and I thank McDonald's, Department of Sport and Recreation, RACT, Nordic Sport and Medal Mania.

LAA have previously given advice that the following are out of bounds for States to seek sponsorship support through - banking, telecommunications, travel, airlines. Accordingly, this also applies to Centres and we ask that you refrain from seeking support through those areas mentioned.

#### Australian Little Athletics Championships 2019

Tasmania will host the 2019 Australian Little Athletics Championship at the Domain in April 2019. This is an exciting time for us to showcase our State and our officials. Much planning has been done to date, and the convening committee and the Board look forward to welcoming visiting athletes, State representatives, and members of the LAA Board and Staff to Tasmania.

#### Latas Board Of Management / Staff

We went into the 2017/2018 season with a full board of six, all of whom have worked extremely hard during the past twelve months to ensure the success of our sport. I thank them for their dedication to ensuring that we continue to offer such a wonderful product to children in Tasmania. Much time is spent at Board Meetings looking at strategies to further enhance our sport, to increase our marketing opportunities, and to give our members value for money. I believe our Board is fully transparent in all areas of operation, and this in turns, ensures that our members are informed at all times.

It is with regret, that we lose two excellent Board Members this year. Ferdie Kroon has been a valued member of our Board. His knowledge of everything regarding WHS, risk management and technical, is second to none. Whilst he is leaving the board to concentrate on his many other commitments, he is not lost to us as he has agreed to head our risk management/compliance sub committee. Kay Knee also leaves us this year, after a total of seven years on the Board of Management. Kay may also be continuing to assist the Board moving forward when we identify further sub-committees which will support the operations of the Board.

In the office, Tracy has continued to grow into the position of Administration Officer, and has been a valuable resource for many of our Centres. This role can be extremely difficult at times, often reliant on information from third parties to enable her to complete tasks.

Simon Bennett resigned from the role of Development Officer in December. Simon was a great asset to us and was well respected by all our stakeholders, particularly the staff at the schools where he presented our LAPS program. We found another great asset in Josh Mason. This is a new position for Josh and one he has taken on board and ran with. He has established good contacts with the schools, and has several new initiatives to align our sport with many of the junior winter sports.

In January 2017, the Board determined that to appoint a new role to our organisation. It was recognised that the National Senior Management Meetings were becoming more frequent, and accordingly putting more onus on our already busy Administration Officer. In that regard, former Board Member Roger Hosie was appointed to fulfil the role. The terms of

reference include representing LATAs at National Senior Management meetings and forums, and other delegated meetings; and to provide expert advise, feedback and recommendations following his attendance at such meeting.

Thank you to all the board and staff for your continuing support and dedication to Little Athletics.

We are all indebted to the large numbers of volunteers, coaches, officials, club, and centre executives who have put in numerous hours to support LATAs. We gratefully acknowledge and thank you all, as without you, we do not have a sport. Do not underestimate your value, and I urge you to continue to bring others along with you. All too often we tend to rely on the few; encourage succession planning, and spread the load. The more we do this, the more we can continue to grow as a successful and sustainable sport.

I'm very proud to be the President of Little Athletics Tasmania and I looking forward to working with my fellow board members and staff to grow and improve this fantastic sport that we are all involved with for the betterment of our athletes and their families.

I take this opportunity to wish you all success for the upcoming season.

#### Rhonda O'Sign

President  
Little Athletics Tasmania



# LITTLE ATHLETICS VICTORIA

## The 2017/18 season was certainly an interesting one was one that passed very quickly.

During that time the board, and the team in the LAVic office faced into a number of challenges that have certainly ensured that it will a year that won't be easily forgotten.

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM), a number of constitutional motions were passed by the members in attendance that allowed the Board to better align with the VicSport Good Governance Framework and simultaneously structure and equip itself better to achieve the best outcomes for Little Athletics now and in the future. In terms of what's transpired over the past year, I'm pleased to provide the following update:

### New Directors

At the 2017 AGM the membership approved a constitutional change that allowed the Board to appoint two Independent Directors taking the number of Directors to nine - seven Elected and two Independent Directors. The appointment of the Independent Directors was finalised in February 2018 when Tracey May & Amanda Booth were appointed to the Board. These appointments not only addressed several identified skills gaps but also increased our female directors from one to three. In addition Ross McIlveen was appointed into an existing, vacant Board position and has provided valuable insights into the issues faced by our country centres & Regions.

### LAVic Governance Framework.

In September 2017, the LAVic Board engaged Anthony Bowd (Manager Strategic Projects) from VicSport to undertake a review of the following governance aspects:

- The LAV Board policies and procedures.
- Completion of a LAVic Board Skills Audit.
- Review of the LAV Regional governance structure.

The skills audit was completed late last year and was used as input in the recruitment of the two new independent Directors. In addition the Board implemented a revised governance structure & framework that aligns to the best practice model advocated by VicSport. This was a significant piece of work that was undertaken by the LAVic Board however it raised the profile of Little Athletics in Victoria and we are frequently referenced by VicSport as an Association that has taken positive steps to implement a more progressive, best practice governance model.

### Region Governance Review

In terms of the Region Governance Review, representatives from all Region Executives were engaged and provided input and feedback on a wide variety of issues. The final report identifying eleven key issues and associated recommendations was tabled at the May 2018 LAVic Board meeting. The LAVic Board is looking forward to working with the Regions to constructively address the identified issues for the benefit of the sporting community, our Region Committees, Centres and the Association as a whole.

### Age Group Change

The most significant challenge faced by the association many years was the Age Group change as the initial constitutional motion to adjust the age group determination date was defeated at the 2017 AGM and left LAVic in the precarious position whereby we could not affiliate with Little Athletics Australia. The LAVic Board recognised and acknowledged that this was an emotive issue for many parents and centres however our position to support this motion was one that was based on what was best for the association from a long term, and not a short term perspective. The motion to amend the age group determination date was ultimately passed at the Special General Meeting in December 2017.

### One Sport

This is a topic that has been floating in the background since it was first raised several years ago however over the coming twelve to eighteen months we are expecting to see more developments in this space. The LAVic and AV Boards have commenced exploring further opportunities to leverage off our respective skills and experience to deliver improved product and services to our respective members. To keep the communication channels open a member of the LAVic & AV Board member is attending their counterparts Board meeting in an observer capacity.

### Membership

Our 2017/18 membership numbers peaked at 17,814 – a decrease of just over 1600 members from the 2016/17 season. The membership decrease was not isolated to Victoria with most state associations recording a decrease. To ensure our ongoing viability, both at a state and national level we must take action to halt, and ultimately reverse the current trend. To that end we must lead the way and ensure that key fundamentals such as governance, investments in marketing and sport promotion, and support resources are in place so that our product remains relevant and attractive both to our current and future members. As a starting we have for the forthcoming season set all centres a challenge to increase their 2017/18 membership numbers by a minimum of 10 to 12 athletes per centre. If this goal is hit then we will claw back in excess of 1000 members and be close to our 2016/17 membership level.

### Product Development

During the 2017/18 season LAVic commenced the trials of the "Community Kids Athletics Program" (the product was formerly known as the Fast Track Program) in partnership with Athletics Australia. The project is funded by VicHealth and is currently working with refugee children with a disability from Special Schools in Melbourne's south-east. We have received positive feedback from the schools involved in the program, the facilitators and also from VicHealth and we look forward to continuing to develop the program over the coming twelve months.

### Social Media & Livestreaming

LAVic continues to use its social media networks to connect with members and the broader athletics community. During the 2017/18 season the Association saw the largest growth in the Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube channels. In particular the growth in our Facebook followers saw LAVic become the third largest Australian Athletics body on the network, sitting behind Athletics Australia and Athletics Victoria. On the Livestreaming front, the Association has continued to invest resources into "Livestreaming" as it provides a unique opportunity for LAVic to not only provide an added service to our membership, but is also a powerful advertisement for the sport, bringing it out of the confines of the host stadium and broadcasting it to the world. During the 2017/18 season we successfully Livestreamed the State Relay and Track & Field Championships with these attracting 35,000 and 40,000 views across both our Facebook and YouTube accounts respectively.

### State Championships

Our State Championship events were again well supported and our Competition team continue to deliver well organised events. This year we introduced a standalone State Teams Cross Country Event and this event was extremely well supported and will be back in the 2018/19 season.

### Looking Forward

The 2018/19 season will be another challenging season and the Board will focus on delivering our strategic plan. This will involve a continued focus on our governance structures & Board operational processes. A focus on member retention and attraction will need to be delivered to address the current trend in our membership numbers. Finally, our "One Sport" journey will continue as we work with Athletics Victoria on delivering products that will attract and retain athletes whilst provide a smooth, seamless transition for athletes, officials and coaches as they undertake their athletic journey.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to not thank my fellow LAVic Board Members for their ongoing efforts. I would particularly like to thank the team in the office for their ongoing commitment and dedication to Little Athletics.

On that note its goodbye to the 2017/18 season and bring on the 2018/19 season.

### Colin Segota

President  
Little Athletics Victoria

# LITTLE ATHLETICS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Over the last 12 months Little Athletics WA (LAWA) has embraced many changes, refined programs and expanded our communication and reach, throughout the wider WA community following a period of significant change.

This period of development and consolidation has also encompassed the requirement to conduct continuous review and improvement to provide the best product, services and delivery to our members. LAWA has only been able to achieve this through a team of dedicated, dynamic and innovative staff, ably led by our CEO Mr Vince Del Prete and with the assistance of teams of dedicated, and enthusiastic volunteers.

This year marked the 50th year celebrations for Little Athletics in WA. The first Little Athletics competition in WA was held on 17 February 1968 at Perry Lakes with 200 athletes in attendance. 50 years later we have grown to include 36 Centres across regional and metropolitan WA with over 8000 members and many thousands of volunteers, coaches and officials. This growth will continue in 2018/19 with potential new centres expected to be established in some form in Derby, Exmouth, Jurien Bay, Kununurra and Pannawonica.

The celebratory year was launched at the LAWA State Conference in 2017 with the assistance of our mascot, Cheego. In the following months an introductory video was released, and various functions were conducted at each State event where previous athlete award winners were acknowledged. Each State medal winner throughout the season will have a memento to last a lifetime, after being awarded a limited edition 50th anniversary medal. The premiere celebratory event for the season was the formal 50th anniversary function where 20 inaugural recipients were inducted to the Little Athletics WA Roll of Achievers. Each inductee has achieved at a high level in their chosen sport, profession, occupation or community service and has acknowledged how Little Athletics has contributed to their success and made them who they are today. I congratulate each recipient on their award and thank them all again for their contribution and service to Little Athletics and to the wider community.

LAWA has commenced a 'Whole of Sport' approach to athletics in Western Australia. Through workshops, and member consultation, a Joint Strategic Plan between Little Athletics WA and Athletics WA was developed and released in November 2017. The Strategic Plan outlines a blueprint for the sport and will guide the agenda and decision-making framework focusing on enhanced collaboration and growth within the sport of athletics in WA. Both athletics Boards have declared their commitment to achieving strategic objectives aiming to create efficiencies, and to contribute to the sports success, strength and sustainability into the future. The next step is a joint organisational review to be undertaken in 2019, which will scope opportunities to ensure that both Little Athletics WA and Athletics WA have the right governance and/or organisational structure, resources and workforce in place, to capitalise on, and meet the challenges of the contemporary sporting environment.

Ongoing engagement with the wider WA community has exceeded planning expectations and has significantly increased the brand awareness, profile and professional standing of Little Athletics in WA. LAWA has formed partnerships with other sports, working together to achieve mutually beneficial aims such as an introduction to fundamental movements with gymnastics through the delivery of the Urban Jungle and the LAWA Nature Play Trail developed in partnership with Nature Play. Wider community engagement and partnership development is ongoing with Little Athletics involvement via community sectors, Local Government, inclusion providers, disability providers, multicultural engagement including Harmony Week and aboriginal partnerships including NAIDOC week. Our schools athletics program continues its reach into the community as we visited over 12000 students across 59 schools.

With many events and competition being accessible to metropolitan members throughout the year, we must also remain cognisant of the needs for our regional and remote members. The Country Championships were held over the Australia Day Long weekend in 2018 with athlete representatives from all 17 regional centres! A sincere thank you and acknowledgement to Bunbury LAC for hosting and to the City of Bunbury and Sports Marketing Australia who provided financial and logistics support to enable a fantastic event to be delivered.

At the LAA Roll of Excellence awards held in Hobart, we were excited and proud that WA nominees Kim Mickle and Rishelle Hume were inducted. As former Little Athletes, Kim was nominated for her outstanding performances in Athletics and Rishelle was inducted to the Achievers category. They are both outstanding members of the community and mentors for all within the sport.

I wish to acknowledge Dr Tony Buti, MLA for his support in the role of Patron of Little Athletics WA over the past year. Dr Buti was a former little athlete and understands the value and importance that sport has on the growth, development and health benefits for athlete and volunteers. His support and attendance at events over the year has been appreciated and we thank you for your continued advocacy.

This was the first year of our successful partnership with Healthway and I wish to acknowledge and thank them for their ongoing support. It has been a pleasure to be in partnership with a likeminded organisation who has been able to assist in promoting the healthy lifestyle message out to our community.

Thank you to WA Government agencies who have provided assistance to the ongoing support and education to our members over the year. We are also very grateful for the financial investment through grants, which has enabled us to progress our reach and education to aboriginal communities, inclusion communities and for the development of the youth leadership program.

We were also fortunate during the year to have several Little Athletics relay teams participate in the Queens Baton Relay celebrations at the Athletics WA Stadium as the baton passed through WA on its way to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

A special thank you to Rishelle Hume and Des Headland who have both been proactive ambassadors within the aboriginal communities and instrumental to the success of targeted come and try events. Thank you to City of Cockburn and Special Olympics for their assistance in coordinating targeted inclusion come and try events early in the season.

We are pleased to be associated with several proud and like-minded WA businesses over the past year. Our partnerships have enabled us to continue to deliver the best services and education to our members state-wide. Thank you to Landmark for enabling us to reach our remote and regional communities; ISC as our uniform supplier; Keep on Running as our footwear supplier; Prime Podiatry for support services at State Events; World Wide Printing for ongoing printing support and collaboration of our 50th anniversary publication; AFSG for your financial services and advice; OZ Athletics Kids for local equipment support; Fortescue Mining, Rio Tinto, North West Shelf project, City of Karratha, Karratha LAC, Coles and LAA for contribution to the North West Championships. It is also important to recognise the contribution of the West Australian Newspaper who have provided exposure via articles written by former little athlete Steve Butler.

We are also proud to have shared partnerships with a wide variety of organisations including Perth Children's Hospital, Nature Play WA, Gymnastics WA, WA Football Commission, Volunteering WA, Inclusion WA, Office of Multicultural Interests, Communicare, Edmund Rice Foundation, and state including Lotterywest and Healthway and local government.

Thank you also to the staff and Board of AWA for your ongoing commitment to increasing growth, capacity, relevance and effectiveness of athletics in WA. Thank you to Martin Stillman, LAA CEO and his management team for their support of the sport in WA.

It has been a pleasure to continue to Chair a Board of Directors that possess a diverse mix of skills and expertise, a passion for junior sport, and the strategic vision for the sustainable future of the sport. I would like to sincerely thank each of the Directors, Bruce, Megan, Fiona, Lee, Ryan, Alison and Graham, for their personal contribution and support throughout the year and ongoing commitment.

I also want to acknowledge and praise the CEO, Vince Del Prete and the entire Little Athletics WA staff for their contribution, leadership, and innovation throughout the year. The significant contribution and personal investment each member have dedicated to deliver, develop, and grow the sport is highly commendable. My personal thanks to our current team Vince, Emma, Heather, Danny, Jake, Rebecca, and Debbie for all you do for the sport. I also wish to acknowledge Karen Price's contribution to the Association who Karen departed in March 2018 after five years' service. We also farewelled Michelle Duffield, Sport Development Manager in September 2017, and we thank her for the contribution made to the sport.

To the Little Athletics WA community, athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers, thank you for all that you have contributed to ensure the collective success and ongoing support for the sport. The hours that you all dedicate to ensure the sustainability of the sport and allow our young athletes to compete each week is commendable. We gratefully acknowledge and thank you all, as without you, we do not have a sport. Do not underestimate your value, and I urge you encourage others to compete, assist and be part of a whole of family community activity.

Finally, the past year has been a period of growth, development and consolidation. The pace and expansion of activities will undergo a period of consolidation and sustainment over the next year and we look forward to progressing our relationships, enhancing our structures and further exploring efficiencies across the whole of sport.

**Teresa Blackman**  
President  
Little Athletics Western Australia



**Coles Little Athletics Australia**  
**Ground Floor, 31 Aughtie Drive**  
**Albert Park, VIC 3206**  
**[admin@littleathletics.com.au](mailto:admin@littleathletics.com.au)**  
**03 9682 1511**  
**[littleathletics.com.au](http://littleathletics.com.au)**