

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



**Jetstar** 

 **Little  
Athletics  
Australia**



**Little Athletics Australia  
Annual Report  
2013-2014**

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# Management Structure

## **EXECUTIVE**

Dereck Fineberg

President

Edward Fabian

Administration & Finance Director

Charlie Sanders

Competition & Standards Director

Martin Stillman

Chief Executive

## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Tony Reilly

Neil Sandall

Tony Northey

Scott Pitts

Rhonda O'Sign

Steve Ryan

Rob Crockett

## **STAFF**

Ashlea Watt

Administration and Events Manager

Melissa Cowan

National Joint Venture Participation Coordinator

Andrew Somerville

Bookkeeper

# Life Members

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Trevor Billingham BEM\*

Alan Triscott

Keith Maughan

Doug Hancy\*

C P (Paddy) Robinson\*

Maxine Boyd

Grahame Searles

Brian Newton

Alison Quirke

Gary Mutton

Don Blyth

Mal Hastie

Peter Shinnick

George Harvey

David Cramer

Anthony Libke

Michael Stubbs

Marjorie McNamara

Dennis Goodwin

Ross Burridge

## **AWARD OF MERIT**

R O (Dick) Healey \*

Alan Letcher

John Crouch

Don Baker

Garry House

Brian Newton

Arnold Hunt\*

Alison Quirke

Marjorie McNamara

Pieter Bergshoeff

## **MERIT CERTIFICATES**

John McCarthy

Peter Shinnick

John Marsden

# Roll of Excellence Members



## ROLL OF EXCELLENCE MEMBERS

### Track & Field

Steve Hooker  
Nathan Deakes  
Melinda Gainsford- Taylor  
Amy Winters  
Jana Pittman- Rawlinson  
John Steffensen  
Jane Saville  
Darren Clark  
Bronwyn Thompson  
Christine Stanton  
Debbie Wells  
Jane Flemming  
Sally Pearson

### Sportsmen

Kathy Watt  
John Worsfold  
George Gregan  
Nova Perris  
Alisa Camplin  
Geoff Ogilvy  
Hollie Grima  
Natalie Von Bertouch  
Matt Giteau  
Simon Black  
Megan Marcks  
Kimberlee Green  
Patrick Mills

### Volunteers

Trevor Billingham \*  
Alan Triscott  
Doug Hancy \*  
Barry Garment  
Helen Moir  
George Harvey  
Peter Wickes  
Maxine Boyd  
Jim Arkins \*  
David Cramer  
Robin Johnson  
Andrea Harvey  
Ken Gardiner

### Achievers

John Maclean  
Mike Whitney  
Dr. Peter Larkins  
Kirsty Marshall  
Janine Shepherd  
Chris Bradshaw  
Brett Rosebury  
Paul Murray  
Shane Crawford

\* Deceased

**Jetstar** 



## **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

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.

## Jetstar

This year Jetstar became the first naming rights partner of Little Athletics. The partnership reinforces Jetstar's commitment to Australian communities and demonstrates that they stand for more than just low fares.



## ASICS

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



## V-INSURANCE

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 Little Athletics Australia is able to provide athletes, Associations and Centres comprehensive and cost effective insurance.





# EXECUTIVE REPORTS



# PRESIDENT



This past season - the 50<sup>th</sup> for Little Athletics in Australia – was one full of activity. The 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations culminating in the ROE in Geelong the birthplace of Little As held in a wonderful venue. And only a few weeks ago we attended LAVIC's 50<sup>th</sup> function in Melbourne which was also a great event.

The merger discussions brought into sharper focus quite a number of matters that we hope to be able to address in conjunction with AA. The Joint Athletics Management Group made up of representatives of both organisations including state associations will be the vehicle for this. We also note the announcement of a full review of the sport of athletics. At time of writing we have not seen any details however, will take part as appropriate.

Following on from the previous year – an Olympic year - where our regos topped 100,000 was always going to be a challenge. However, while not as high, the total was still one of our highest in a year following an Olympics.

We are especially excited about the announcements of new and renewed sponsorships. The Jetstar naming rights is a first for Little Athletics and the association is a wonderful endorsement of our organization. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship. Also, the renewal and increase in the sponsorship with ASICs for our ALACs is again a vote of confidence in us.

It is also pleasing to see the relationship with Bravehearts moving ahead with the presentations at the various association conferences. This sends a wonderful message to all parents about our commitment to the safety of our young athletes.

With the merger discussions with the ASC and AA put to one side our focus has been well and truly on a number of significant initiatives that were specific to Little As. These include:

- a successful ALACs at Albert Park in Melbourne. Congrats and thank you to LAV;
- another successful coaching camp at the AIS;
- the production of a new Strategic Plan;
- development of a national database;
- continued successful management of LAA's finances;
- constructive and productive Board meetings and various conferences during the year
- a decision to embark on a national advertising program.

We still have many initiatives and challenges ahead of us and if we work together as a team at all levels we will be successful.

In closing I wish to thank Martin and the staff of LAA, my colleagues on the Executive, members of the LAA Board as well as many of the staff and others in the State associations for your continued support. I look forward to continuing our association into the future.

**Dereck Fineberg OAM**

**President**

Season 2013/14 was another successful year for Little Athletics Australia (LAA) as we celebrated 50 years of Little Athletics in Australia.

Twelve months ago I concluded my report with the status of the potential merger with Athletics Australia (AA). On December 13<sup>th</sup> 2013, LAA confirmed with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and AA the LAA Board of Management had insufficient votes to proceed with the intended Heads of Agreement document and advised both organisations LAA would not continue to pursue “the merger”.

LAA and AA have agreed to continue to work closely together for the betterment of Athletics in Australia and recently formed a Joint Athletics Management Committee. The Committee’s charter is to maintain ongoing communication and to consider joint projects and continue to work on important areas such as coaching, officials and age group alignments for example.

Since this decision LAA has been extremely proactive and has provided enormous support and resources to our State Associations to further grow the sport around the country. LAA has provided funding support to five states to assist with the employment of Development Officers (DO) over the next two year period. The employment of these DO’s will assist with the increase of registration numbers and work to transition children from our Little Athletics Program for Schools (LAPS) program into Little Athletics.

After a record year in which LAA exceed 100,000 registered participants for the first time in our history, we maintained a high number of registrations for a non-post-Olympic year and had a national membership figure of 96,266.

The year also saw many other successes and significant achievements, including:

Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) in Melbourne to coincide with our 50 year celebrations and was an outstanding success. We were also able to provide live streaming of the event for the first time in our history, with over 7,500 viewers across the world. The standard of this year’s Australian Championships was outstanding and congratulations are extended to this year’s winners:

Trevor Billingham Trophy (U13) – New South Wales

Alan Triscott Trophy (U13 – Handicap) – Queensland

Dick Healey Trophy (U13 – Smaller Associations) – Tasmania

Life Members Trophy (U15) – Victoria

LAA again held a very successful Roll of Excellence (ROE) dinner this year in Geelong, Victoria - the birth place of Little Athletics. The ROE was a larger event than usual incorporating the 50<sup>th</sup> year dinner. The evening was a huge success culminating in celebrating the history of Little Athletics over the past 50 years together with the induction of more worthy recipients into the ROE. I would like to extend congratulations to the following inductees into the 2013 Roll of Excellence:

Track & Field – Sally Pearson and Jane Fleming

Sportsmen – Patrick Mills and Kimberlee Green

Volunteers – Andrea Harvey and Ken Gardiner

Achievers – Shane Crawford

The national U15 camp was held in October 2013 at the AIS in Canberra. 136 athletes participated in the camp, which was an outstanding success. I would like to thank the convening committee and in particular Glynis Nunn-Cearns from the ATFCA for all her support in coordinating the camp. The quality of coaches assembled at the camp was exceptional and without the high calibre coaches I doubt the camp would be as beneficial for the athletes as it currently is. LAA looks forward to continuing to develop this camp program and seek further improvement into the future.

From a governance perspective, the National Technical Committee (NTC) continues to be advantageous to bring together the states and work through motions and rules/regulations to ensure we are continually progressing in this area. This is the second year since the NTC has been formed and I extend my thanks to all members of the NTC for their time and commitment to the sport.

During the year, LAA modified our sponsorship structures and a number of changes have occurred in this area. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the following LAA partners who have supported us over a number of years:

IGA – to Tracy Wilson and her team, thank you. IGA have been a long time principle partner of LAA and the member associations, and IGA's commitment to Little Athletics has been appreciated.

Beyond Bank – to Peter Rutter and Robert Keogh, thank you for supporting LAA over the past two years.

To our existing partners, without the commitment and financial support of these organisations, LAA would not be able to provide the programs and support to the states as we do currently. LAA would like to convey our sincere thanks to;

ASICS – Simone Bushnell and Brad Moller, thank you for your support of LAA, we are delighted to be associated with your organisation and confirm a three year extension of our partnership with ASICS.

Willis, now V-Insurance Group – to Rob Veale and Sarah Catterick, your guidance and support in this area of our business is greatly appreciated, you continue to provide the very best insurance premium for LAA and other benefits that come with our broker agreement.

Jetstar – to our new naming rights partner who have come on board for 2014/2015 season, welcome to Little Athletics. LAA are delighted to have partnered such a wonderful organisation and to be associated with Jetstar Airways. Jetstar recently committed to the naming rights of Little Athletics Australia for two years with an option to extend for a third year. Everyone associated with Jetstar Little Athletics Australia are excited about this partnership and the benefits to both organisations.

We are also grateful for the strong relationships with other stakeholders of LAA. Thanks are extended to the ATFCA, to CEO Glynis Nunn-Cearns and President Dennis Goodwin, thank you for your assistance throughout the year. To Tony Kopp at Arid Zone thank you for your support during the year.

During the year LAA partnered with Bravehearts. Bravehearts rolled out education workshops held at state conferences in the area of child protection. LAA have been working in conjunction with Bravehearts on this important area of child protection and are currently developing a new national Child Protection policy.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the LAA Executive led by President Dereck Fineberg, Charlie Sanders and Eddie Fabian. I sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and guidance in my role as Chief Executive. To the LAA Board of Management, thank you, again I value your support and assistance in my role and would also like to convey my thanks to your State Boards for their contribution to the sport. To the State CEO's and staff well done again on another tremendous season, work time and effort you put into Little Athletics does make a difference.

Special thanks are extended to the LAA staff Ashlea Watt and Melissa Cowan, I thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year, LAA are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated employees.

Thanks are also extended to Andrew Somerville on his role as LAA bookkeeper and the support provided to Eddie Fabian and myself in the finance area.

As at December 31 2013, the Joint Venture (JV) concluded. Over the duration of the national Joint Venture, there were a number of major achievements, in particular in the areas of recruitment through new initiatives and the Active After-School Communities program; retention through new competition opportunities, improved dual registration systems and improved transition pathways; and improved relationships at all levels of the sport, from national, state and Centre/Club level.

A number of new initiatives and projects are progressing well and it's worth mentioning their status;

- The development of a common accreditation for athletics officials is almost complete. This is exciting for the sport and will no doubt assist athletics into the future by providing a clear pathway for accreditation and retention of officials in our sport.
- AA's new coaching framework continues to evolve. I would like to thank the LAA steering committee for their assistance in the coaching framework discussions with AA.
- The working relationship between Little Athletics Associations and Senior Associations has improved again over the past twelve months. A number of states have signed a new MOU between both parties or are in negotiations for a new agreement. The goodwill and cooperation between Senior and Little Athletics bodies is evident.

Finally, to the thousands of volunteers that make it all happen, a big thank you, as has been the case throughout the past 50 years, without your contribution week in week out the children just wouldn't be able to get out there and participate and have the fun that they do.

I look forward with much anticipation towards the upcoming season, there is a lot to be excited about in Little Athletics at the moment.

**Martin Stillman**  
**Chief Executive**

# ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIRECTOR



## Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Australian Little Athletics finished the year with a net deficit of \$148,661, which is \$19,905 favourable to budget. The cash balance of the association increased by \$1,182 to \$1,756,880.

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

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>			
Levies & Affiliation Fees	501,351	501,350	1
Commercial Activities	30,283	25,000	5,283
Sponsorship	216,542	182,500	34,042
Reimbursements	474,102	474,100	2
Other Income	166,227	71,000	95,227
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,388,505</b>	<b>1,253,950</b>	<b>134,555</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration	129,191	125,700	3,491
Insurance	337,856	408,700	70,844
Ticket & Achievement Costs	67,945	80,710	12,765
Sponsorship Costs	223,540	110,650	(112,890)
Meeting & Conference Expenses	93,606	112,394	18,788
Roll of Excellence	25,262	28,536	3,274
Little Athletics Program in Schools	221,921	198,000	(23,921)
Salary, Travel and Associated Costs	268,426	230,010	(38,416)
Office Expenses	42,819	35,120	(7,699)
U14 Competition & Hunter Classic	121,521	92,696	(28,825)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,532,087</b>	<b>1,422,516</b>	<b>(109,571)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(143,582)</b>	<b>(168,566)</b>	<b>24,984</b>
Loss on Sale of Motor Vehicle	(5,079)	0	(5,079)
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(148,661)</b>	<b>(168,566)</b>	<b>19,905</b>

### Income

Sponsorship income was \$34,042 favourable to budget mainly due to an increase of \$33,905 in the IGA sponsorship which related to payment for the docket promotions.

Royalties were \$5,283 favourable to budget. The reason for the favourable variance was a catch up in outstanding royalties from 2012-13 included in the 2013-14 income.

Other Income was \$95,227 favourable to budget. Interest Income was \$1,876 unfavourable to budget due mainly to interest rate cuts over the past 12 months. Coaching Camp contributions exceeded budget by

\$53,591 due to a change in accounting treatment. These additional coaching camp contributions are partly offset by an increase in coaching camp expenditure of \$31,825. Recoupment of expenditure totalling \$28,659 was unbudgeted. This substantially relates to reimbursement of expenditure by the Australian Sports commission relating to the proposed ALA/AA merger meetings. Other revenue included sales and expenditure reimbursements of \$9,941 for the Roll of Excellence dinner and copyright royalty revenue of \$4,911.

### **Expenditure**

Administration expenditure was \$3,491 favourable to budget. The major items of variance include:-

- (\$12,892) – Legal Costs. The expenditure included \$14,076 for advice on the merger documentation which was unbudgeted.
- \$15,582 – Business Plan. The expenditure was below budget due to the delayed commencement of the new business plan project. The project has been budgeted to carry over into 2014-15.
- \$7,200 – Legal Costs Trademarks. The budget included funds to expand the registration of our trademarks to overseas. This is still under review.

Insurance expenditure was \$70,844 favourable to budget. The major items of variance include:-

- \$8,873 – Insurance premiums. The total cost of premiums paid for the year were \$178,327 compared to a budgeted value of \$187,200
- \$55,471 – Equipment Insurance claims paid were \$94,529 compared to a budget of \$150,000.
- \$6,500 – Brokerage fees were \$6,500 favourable to budget

Ticket and Achievement Book costs were favourable to budget by \$12,765 mainly due to the savings achieved with the change in suppliers.

Sponsorship costs were (\$112,890) unfavourable to budget. The major items of variance include:-

- (\$83,000) – IGA Contributions totalling \$91,000 were paid to the associations, compared to a budgeted payment of \$8,000 to LATAS. This payment was approved at the May BOM.
- (\$22,918) – Bravehearts Workshops cost a total of \$22,918. This was an unbudgeted item but approved by the BOM
- (\$10,000) – Media Tracking costs which were funded by savings in other areas within sponsorship
- (\$10,478) – Website. Additional expenditure relates to the development of a new national website.
- \$5,600 – Little Athletics Ambassador. LAA decided not to proceed with an ambassador to the current year
- \$5,000 – Public Relations – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Funds were set aside but not utilised.

Meeting & Conference Expenses were \$18,788 favourable to budget. The major items of variance include:

- \$9,375 – Executive meetings. Savings have been achieved in air fare and accommodation costs.
- (\$10,291) – National Technical Committee meetings. These meetings are held twice per year and were unbudgeted in 2013-14. The BOM approved the establishment of the NTC.
- (\$7,193) – ALA / AA meetings. These meetings were mainly unbudgeted and were incurred as a result meetings related to the proposed merger with AA. The costs have been largely recouped.

- (\$6,740) – AGM and Half Yearly Conferences. The adverse variance was as a result of higher than budgeted costs for the Melbourne Conference in May 2014. Some of these costs have been recouped.
- \$25,000 – LAA/AA Joint Venture contribution. The contribution was budgeted but the contribution was not required by the Joint Venture. The funds were redirected to the employment of the Development and Projects Manager

Little Athletics Programs in Schools expenditure was (\$23,921) unfavourable to budget mainly due the the allocation to the states being increased by \$20,000. The number of students delivered with the LAPS program was 142,677 compared to a budget of 125,000.

The Under 15 Camp expenditure was (\$31,825) unfavourable to budget. This is offset by a favourable variance of \$53,591 in coaching camp contributions, which appears in the income side of the statements. The net result for the camp was \$21,766 favourable to budget.

Salary, Travel and Associated Costs were (\$38,416) unfavourable to budget. This unfavourable variance was mainly due to the following.

- (\$25,000) – LAA/AA Joint Venture contribution redirected to the employment of the Development and Projects Manager
- (\$13,142) – Increase in Employee provisions

Office Expenses were (\$7,699) unfavourable to budget. The major items of variance include:

- (\$5,434) – Rent Costs at the new premises are slightly higher than budgeted. The rent for 2012-13 was accrued at 30 June 2013 and paid during 2013-14. This amount was under accrued in 2012-13 by \$2,200.
- (\$2,750) - Cleaning Costs and Other Office Expenses. Costs at the new premises are slightly higher than the costs paid previously and include a pro rata share of the common facilities.

### Cash at Bank

The Net Cash at Bank movement for the year was (\$21,869) unfavourable. This is reconciled as follows:

Last Year		This Year	Movement
\$		\$	\$
	<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>		
32,220	ANZ Cheque Account	7,981	(24,238)
1,064,476	ANZ On Line Saver	150,334	(914,142)
44,035	ANZ V2 Account	24,801	(19,234)
606,009	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit	620,325	14,316
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit # 2	413,187	413,187
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit # 3	250,000	250,000
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit ASC	258,242	258,242
<b>1,746,739</b>	<b>Total Cash at Bank</b>	<b>1,724,870</b>	<b>(21,869)</b>

The movement of (\$21,869) is represented by:

	\$
Net Shortfall of Income versus Expenditure	(148,661)
Plus: Non Cash Expenses - Depreciation	13,378

Plus:	Non Cash Expenses – Cost of Assets Sold	15,079
	Sub-Total	(120,204)
Less:	Fixed Assets Purchases	(47,033)
	Sub-Total	(167,237)
Plus:	Increase in ANZ Business One Visa	1,225
	Increase in Accrued Expenses	71,587
	Increase in Suspense Account	50,000
	Increase in Employee Provisions	13,142
	Increase in National Data Base - ASC	250,000
	Increase in PAYG Tax Payable	1,506
	Sub-Total	220,223
Less:	Increase in Prepayments	(82,550)
	Increase in Debtors	(41,250)
	Decrease in Equipment Insurance Provision	(83,686)
	Increase in GST Paid	(11,554)
	Increase in Proclaim Trust Account	(23,052)
	<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>(21,869)</b>

### Net Assets

The Net Tangible Assets of the Association decreased from \$1,730M to \$1.582M. Even taking into account the decrease this year, the Net Assets have increased by 29.1% over the past five years and by 252.1% over the past ten years.

The table below highlights the net growth in the Net Assets over the past 14 years.

Year Ended	Net Surplus / (Deficit)	Net Assets
31 Dec 2000	\$65,703	\$226,555
31 Dec 2001	\$45,088	\$271,643
31 Dec 2002	(\$21,055)	\$250,588
31 Dec 2003	\$126,099	\$376,687
31 Dec 2004	\$250,640	\$627,326
31 Dec 2005	\$169,272	\$796,598
31 Dec 2006	\$88,503	\$885,101
31 Dec 2007	\$155,706	\$1,040,807
31 Dec 2008	\$183,934	\$1,224,741
30 Jun 2010	(\$84,099)	\$1,140,642
30 Jun 2011	\$180,313	\$1,320,956
30 Jun 2012	\$289,133	\$1,610,089
30 Jun 2013	\$120,263	\$1,730,352
30 Jun 2014	(\$148,661)	\$1,581,691

### Insurance

The premiums for 2013-14 increase by an average of 4.6% over 2012-13. Public Liability Insurance Premium increased by 10.17% and Travel Insurance increased by 249.17%. The table below sets out the comparative values for 2013-14 and 2012-13. All values are exclusive of GST.

	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2012-13 Actual	%age Change
<b>Class of Insurance</b>				
Directors & Officers Liability	\$8,200	\$7,516	\$7,424	1.24%
Personal Accident/Professional Indemnity	\$46,000	\$41,696	\$40,304	3.35%
Public Liability	\$70,000	\$69,401	\$62,992	10.17%
Travel Insurance	\$2,000	\$6,372	\$1,825	249.17%
Equipment Insurance	\$61,000	\$53,342	\$55,051	(3.10%)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$187,200</b>	<b>\$178,327</b>	<b>\$167,635</b>	<b>6.38%</b>
Brokerage	\$71,500	\$65,000	\$65,000	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$258,700</b>	<b>\$243,327</b>	<b>\$232,635</b>	<b>4.60%</b>

The insurance premium paid in October 2013 for the 2013-14 covers the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2014. The proportion of the premium covering the period 1 July 2014 to 31 August 2014 was recognised as a prepayment in the accounts and will be brought to expenses in July 2014. The proportion of the premium covering the period 1 July 2013 to 31 August 2013 was recognised as a prepayment in the accounts last year and was brought to expenses this financial year. Consequently, 12 months expenditure is reported in the income statement, that being the two months premium transferred back from prepayments, plus the 12 months premium paid in October 2013, less the transfer of two months premium to prepayments from the 2013-14 payment.

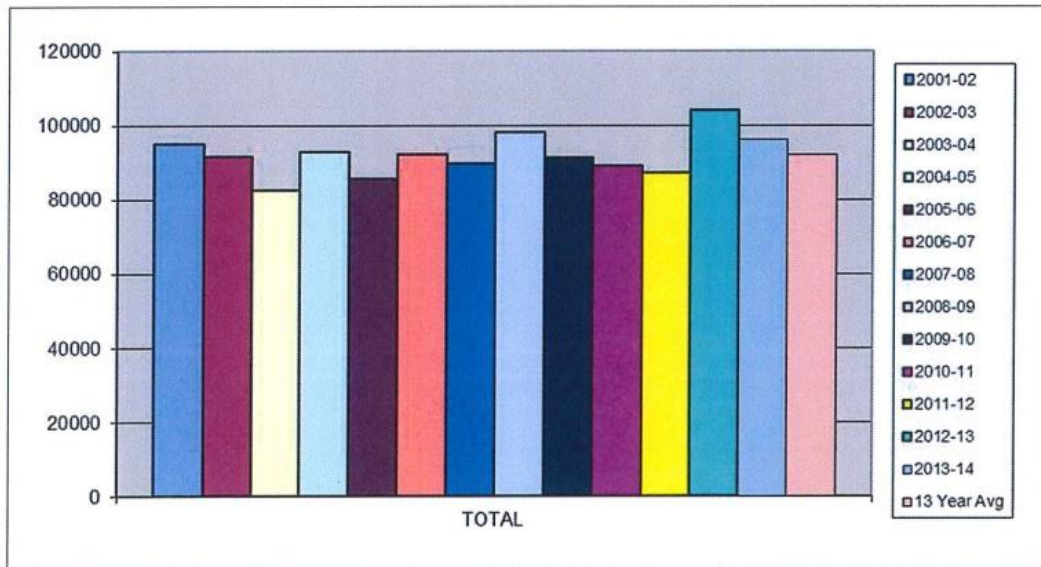
## Registrations

The following table shows the registrations by Association since 2001-2002 together with an average over the 12 year period. There was a decline in each of the three years since 2008-09 which was the last Olympic year.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
LA ACT	3040	2875	2614	2849	2414	2656	2709
LANSW	40200	39276	35900	41128	37451	39476	38440
LA QLD	13217	12921	11150	13288	11697	13121	12926
LASA	5637	6067	5576	5742	5789	6487	6398
LATAS	2599	2561	2400	2717	2454	2606	2470
LAVic	24859	22513	19931	21385	20194	21850	20536
LAWA	5588	5503	4992	5877	5827	6016	6361
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95140</b>	<b>91716</b>	<b>82563</b>	<b>92986</b>	<b>85826</b>	<b>92212</b>	<b>89840</b>

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	13 Year Avg
LA ACT	3227	2792	2942	2794	3451	2975	2872
LANSW	39779	37785	35918	35948	41278	38913	38576
LA QLD	13975	13092	12374	12362	16330	15148	13200
LASA	7338	6602	6621	6322	7943	7272	6446
LATAS	2701	2413	2433	2402	2661	2310	2517
LAVic	23244	21206	21206	19760	23083	20774	21580
LAWA	7809	7279	7613	7591	9316	8874	6819
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98073</b>	<b>91169</b>	<b>89107</b>	<b>87179</b>	<b>104062</b>	<b>96266</b>	<b>92010</b>

Interim numbers for 2013-14 represent registration data as at July 2014.



**Edward Fabian**  
**Administration & Finance Director**



**Hayes Knight Audit**  
chartered accountants · your partners in success

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Australian Little Athletics Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of financial performance for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies.

#### *Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Australian Little Athletics Inc. as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

#### *Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform 1991*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

*Hayes Knight Audit*

Hayes Knight Audit Pty Ltd  
Melbourne

Geoff S. Parker  
Director

Dated this 27 day of July 2014

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Associated Offices : Adelaide | Auckland | Brisbane | Darwin | Melbourne | Perth | Sydney

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

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

---

Your Directors submit the financial accounts of Australian Little Athletics for the twelve months ended 30 June 2014.

**DIRECTORS**

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

Dereck Ronald Fineberg	President
Edward John Fabian	Administration and Finance Director
Norman Charles Sanders	Competition and Standards Director
Martin Stillman	Chief Executive Officer

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

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

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

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

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

**OPERATING RESULT**

The deficit of the Association for the year amounted to \$148,661.

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

On behalf of the Directors:

DERECK FINEBERG  
President



EDWARD FABIAN  
Administration and Finance Director



Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014**

Last Year		Note	
\$			\$
	<b>INCOME</b>		
70	Affiliation Fees		70
	<b>Levies</b>		
22,278	Australian Teams Championship Levy	30,514	
245,047	Administration Levy	470,767	
267,325			501,281
	<b>Commercial Activities</b>		
8,797	Royalties	30,283	
0	Merchandise	0	
8,797			30,283
	<b>Sponsorship</b>		
225,177	Sponsorship	216,542	
0	Association Contribution to Sponsorship Servicing	0	
225,177			216,542
	<b>Reimbursements</b>		
668,304	Insurance Reimbursement	414,102	
60,000	Ticket & Book Reimbursement	60,000	
0	Website Rebate	0	
728,304			474,102
	<b>Other Income</b>		
0	Other Income	4,911	
0	Recoupment of Expenditure	28,659	
0	Roll of Excellence Dinner	9,942	
58,545	Coaching Camp Contributions	70,591	
52,139	Interest Received	52,124	
120,685			166,227
<u>1,350,358</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>1,388,505</u>

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014**

Last Year	Note	\$	\$
		\$	\$
	<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>		
(23)	ALA History	0	
4,800	Audit Fees	3,445	
36,449	Australian Teams Championship	37,107	
4,000	Bad Debts	0	
0	Business Plan	14,418	
4,944	Computer Requirements	5,227	
31,759	Consultancy	7,682	
6,728	Depreciation - Office Equip.	8,125	
8,164	DVD - Introduction to Little Athletics & Officials Coaching	13,692	
0	Entertainment	596	
1,578	Executive & Board Attire	2,516	
702	Flowers, Gifts, Notices etc.	1,037	
1,981	Freight	1,930	
0	Interest Expense	343	
3,800	Legal Costs	17,692	
512	Legal Costs Trademarks	0	
230	Legislative Costs	236	
6,139	Office Expenses	2,886	
32	Postage	211	
7,467	Printing & Stationery	6,985	
1,676	Special Events	0	
0	Subscriptions	2,738	
0	Sundries	81	
1,103	Telephone/Facsimile/Internet	2,245	
122,041			129,191
	<b>Insurance</b>		
7,424	Directors & Officers Liability	7,516	
40,344	Personal Accident & Professional Indemnity	41,696	
62,992	Public Liability	69,401	
1,825	Travel Insurance	6,372	
55,051	Equipment Insurance Premium	53,342	
110,712	Equipment Insurance Claims	94,529	
65,000	Brokerage	65,000	
343,347			337,856
	<b>Ticket &amp; Book Costs</b>		
17,170	Tickets - Printing Costs	11,820	
52,840	Ticket Books - Printing Costs	56,125	
70,010			67,945
	<b>Sponsorship/Projects</b>		
13,183	Sponsorship Servicing	14,652	
0	Sponsorship Contributions to Associations	91,000	
665	Branding	775	
0	Bravehearts Workshops	22,918	
0	Media Tracking	10,000	
4,217	Ambassador	0	
82,222	Promotion/Advertising	84,195	
100,287			223,540

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014**

Last Year		Note	
\$		\$	\$
	<b>MEETING/CONFERENCE EXPENSES</b>		
15,312	Executive Meetings	8,606	
20,732	Board of Management Meetings	23,892	
29,101	Annual & Half Yearly Conferences	29,947	
9,139	Review Committee	13,851	
1,702	AT&FCA Meetings	1,236	
12,475	ALA/AA Meetings	9,913	
712	State Conferences	2,044	
509	ALAC Review Meetings	1,292	
651	Other Travel	1,324	
27,806	LAA/AA Joint Venture	1,502	
118,138			93,606
	<b>Roll of Excellence</b>		
15,151	Airfares, Accommodation, Dinner and Other Expenses	25,262	
23,744			25,262
	<b>U14 Competition/Australia Cup</b>		
59,679	Airfares	68,535	
1,672	Other Travel Costs	4,225	
39,375	Accommodation & Meals	30,314	
15,439	Other Costs	18,447	
116,166			121,521
	<b>National Little Athletics Program in Schools</b>		
96,463	Allocation to Associations	169,991	
2,942	Equipment & Resources	38,548	
6,000	Uniforms	13,382	
105,405			221,921
	<b>Office</b>		
183,315	Salary, Travel & Associated Costs	254,922	
10,074	Motor Vehicle Usage, Parking & Tolls	13,503	
27,278	Rent	31,834	
5,258	Telephone	3,893	
2,010	Electricity	1,560	
0	Cleaning	2,695	
0	Staff Recruitment Costs	1,283	
2,449	Moving Expenses	0	
9,166	Sundry Expenses	1,555	
239,550			311,245
1,230,095	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		1,532,087
	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		
120,263			(143,582)
0	Loss on Sale of Motor Vehicle		(5,079)
120,263	<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>		(148,661)

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2014**

Last Year	Note			
\$		\$	\$	\$
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
32,220	ANZ Cheque Account	7,981		
1,064,476	ANZ On Line Saver	150,334		
44,035	ANZ V2 Account	24,801		
606,009	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit	620,325		
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit # 2	413,187		
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit # 3	250,000		
0	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit ASC	258,242		
	Proclaim Management Solutions - Equipment			
8,758	Trust Account	31,810		
200	Petty Cash	200		
1,755,698	Total Cash on Hand		1,756,880	
200	Security Deposits	200		
20,090	Trade Debtors	61,340		
44,460	Prepayments	127,010		
19,416	GST Paid	30,970	219,520	
1,839,864				1,976,400
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
61,285	Office Equipment at Cost	73,502		
33,186	Less: Accumulated Depreciation	41,311	32,191	
31,946	Motor Vehicle at cost	34,817		
15,005	Less: Accumulated Depreciation	3,391	31,426	
45,040	Total Fixed Assets			63,617
	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>			
1	Shares		1	
1	Total Investments			1
1,884,905	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			2,040,018
	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
3,468	PAYG Withholding Payable		4,973	
1,092	ANZ Business One Visa		2,316	
27,303	Accrued Expenses		98,890	
13,975	Provision - Employee Entitlements		27,117	
108,647	Provision - Equipment Insurance		24,961	
0	National Data Base Funding - ASC		250,000	
70	Suspense Account		50,070	
154,553	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>			458,327
1,730,352	<b>NET ASSETS</b>			1,581,691
	<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
1,610,089	Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) Brought Forward			1,730,352
120,263	Surplus (Deficit) this period			(148,661)
1,730,352	<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			1,581,691

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

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

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

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT). The directors have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

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

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

#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

#### **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment are 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.

#### **Employee Benefits**

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 benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

#### **Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

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).

## AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS Inc. (ACT)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

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#### 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 Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

#### Trade and Other Payables

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

#### 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.

#### Note 2: Provision for Equipment Insurance Claims

Australian Little Athletics has National Property and Equipment Insurance, which provides cover of up to \$75,000 per event for every centre and Association. The policy is an aggregate deductible policy which currently requires Australian Little Athletics to pay the aggregate of the first \$150,000 of claims. Any claims in excess of this sum will be met by the insurer.

A requirement of the policy is that Australian Little Athletics deposit funds into a trust account to meet any claims made under the policy, current or past. The current policy expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and a provision of \$24,961 has been made for unsettled claims as at the balance date and events which may occur between the balance date and the expiry date of the policy. This figure represents the value of \$4,020 in unpaid claims for 2012-13 and \$20,941 in unpaid claims for 2013-14 identified by Proclaim Management Solution.

For the insurance year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014, a total of \$225,000 has been deposited to the trust account. The funds deposited, less costs to date, are reflected in the Statement of Financial Position as "Proclaim Management Solutions – Equipment Trust Account". Claims paid for the year out of the trust account include \$82,467 for 2013-14 and \$112,669 for 2012-13 and prior years.

The value of future claims against the policy is unable to be quantified, however Australian Little Athletics recognises the probability of future claims being received and has provided for this eventuality.

# COMPETITION & STANDARDS DIRECTOR



## **National Technical Committee**

A National Technical Committee (NTC) was created in 2012, with the express purpose of acting as experts in the technical, rules and specification aspects of Little Athletics. The Committee will make recommendations to be considered by the Little Athletics Australia (LAA) Board of Management (BoM) regarding rules, by-laws, event specifications, standard events, age groups and other technical areas of the sport. *The recommendations will be for consideration of ratification by the BoM.* These recommendations will be based on what the NTC believe to be best practice for the sport nationally. The National Technical Committee (NTC) met twice during 2014, in January and in June.

- High jump - standardisation of styles by age groups.

Input was received from National coaching leaders to assist the members of the committee with valuable expert information regarding styles and recommended starting ages for these styles. Equipment, techniques and implementation are being considered.

- Implications to Little Athletics of new IAAF rules (2014/15).

The committee reviewed the notified changes and considered the impact on Little Athletics. Recommendations were sent to the Board for inclusion or non-inclusion of the changes.

- Presentation of “Rules for Competition” format.

A proposal was placed before the NTC to reformat the Rules for Competition in the form of IAAF, highlighting exceptions relating to the modified rules for Little Athletics.

- False start rule standardisation.

The NTC are considering current False start rules and a National standard rule for Little Athletics by age groups.

- Standard events.

As Standard events are set for 9's to 15's, is there a need to recommend events for 6's, 7's and 8's? LAA has a responsibility to have some guidelines for competitions and a table of “Core events” and “Must not events” was compiled.

- Age group alignment.

The NTC considered several formats for age group alignment with other athletic groups, the Executive have sent this back to the Associations for their consideration.

- Terms of Engagement.

A Terms of Engagement document for the NTC was drawn up and presented to the Executive for consideration. These have been accepted.

## **Australian Little Athletics Championships**

The ALAC was hosted by the Victorian Little Athletics Association at the Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park, Melbourne on the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The event was convened by a very organised committee led by Colin Segota. The committee are to be congratulated for providing a great team of officials and additional helpers. A fine day prevailed and athletes, coaches and managers enjoyed a

wonderful day of competition. Congratulations to all athletes who competed on a fabulous 2014 Championships.

Little Athletics were privileged to have been able to “Live stream” the entire event. This was well received and reported that it had viewers Australia wide and also from around the world. Congratulations to the entire team who put this together at very short notice and to the team of “script writers” who assisted with the compilation of results to allow event packages to be put together post the event.

**2014 Asics Australian Little Athletics Championships  
Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne - 3/05/2014  
Results - Australian Teams Championship**

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

<b>Place</b>	<b>Team</b>	
1	New South Wales	675.50
2	Victoria	659
3	Queensland	625.50
4	Western Australia	578.50
5	South Australia	481.50

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

<b>Place</b>	<b>Team</b>	
1	Tasmania	399.50
2	Australian Capital Territory	380.50

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

<b>Place</b>	<b>Team</b>	
1	Queensland	929.50
2	South Australia	928.50
3	Tasmania	905.50
4	Australian Capital Territory	895.50
5	Western Australia	881.50
6	New South Wales	872.50
7	Victoria	867

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

<b>Place</b>	<b>Team</b>	
1	Victoria	259
2	New South Wales	236
3	Queensland	207
4	Western Australia	198
5	Tasmania	163
6	Australian Capital Territory	133
7	South Australia	122

**National coaching camp**

At the time of writing this report, the Jetstar Little Athletics Australia 2014 National U15 Camp is well advanced in preparation. The camp will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. This will be the third LAA National Camp which has become a premier event on the Little Athletics Calendar.

The live-in camp provides athletes with the opportunity to improve their athletic skills; increase their knowledge in a range of areas and socialise with athletes from all over Australia. This year sees the inclusion of "Multi event athletes", a group of 18 athletes. This group will receive training in all aspects of Multi events. There will be 140 athletes in total attending the camp who represent each of the 7 associations, all athletes have achieved the national qualification standard and fulfilled the state selection criteria.

They will have 4 coaching sessions and 5 workshops (strength and conditioning, stretching, self-massage and injury prevention, recovery (including hot and cold pool recovery), nutrition and sports psychology) over a period of two and a half days. They will be in the capable hands of some of the Nations most experienced coaches and presenters. We must extend our thanks to Glynis Nunns-Cearns for her most able assistance in procuring these people again for us. Athletes will also get the opportunity to meet some senior elite athletes who will talk about their time in Little Athletics, pathways through to seniors and what it takes to become a top elite athlete.

The camp also provides an opportunity for two team managers from each state who travel with the athletes to learn and work alongside Australia's elite coaches in their chosen event. Each team manager will have the chance to increase their knowledge and expertise in their chosen event to take back home and implement in their own coaching sessions.

In conclusion I need to thank all of the members of the BOM, past and present, for their assistance and friendship over my 3 terms on the Executive. In addition to the BOM, I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to all members, again past and present, of the staff at the LAA office for the assistance and professional approach to all tasks placed before them.

**Charlie Sanders**  
**Competition and Standards Director**





# State Association Reports

# LITTLE ATHLETICS ACT



It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of the ACT Little Athletics association for 2013/2014.

## **Membership issues**

Our membership in 2013/2014 was down to 2975, a decrease of 14% from our previous year record of 3460. This was disappointing, but broadly consistent with other States and across all our centres. All our centres now offer on-line registration.

## **Working with Athletics ACT**

We have long had a good relationship with Athletics ACT but in the year just gone, our two Associations have begun working even closer. In September 2013, we jointly employed Alex Van der Meer as our participation and development officer to work with both Associations to grow the sport. In February this year, we had an historic joint board meeting at which we agreed on strategies that we could pursue together for the good of the sport. We took that one step further at our Annual Conference, hosting a joint workshop with Athletics ACT board members and member clubs on how best to encourage our athletes to stay in the sport. From that, we established a joint working group to develop jointly useful strategies. Athletics ACT offered us a place on their board, which I took up from May 2014 to represent our members' interests. We are mindful that there may be conflict situations but none have arisen yet. There is always much work to be done to improve the way our sport is run but as I write this, I can honestly say that there have never been more people with a clearer understanding of what we need to do to prosper than we have as we go into our 51<sup>st</sup> year.

## **Governance**

It has been an enduring pleasure this year to work with people on the board of management who have brought new energy and imagination to their roles. We had three new directors: Andrew Pryor (Woden, administration director), Jennifer Bryant (Belconnen, competition and technical director) and Michael Spencer (Weston Creek, development director). Each of them has been an asset to the board. I also want to acknowledge Helen Hopkins (Ginninderra, finance director) and Fiona Elliott (Gungahlin, marketing and public relations director) who retired from the board after 4 years and 3 years respectively. David Lemon (Ginninderra, finance director) and Rebecca Tanner (Gungahlin, marketing and public relations director) joined the board in June 2014, so all board positions are filled and all metropolitan centres have met their obligations to the governance of the Association.

Our new strategic plan, which was adopted and published in September 2013 after the work done at last year's conference and then advanced by a sub-committee under the direction of Andrew Pryor, gives us clear direction. For the first time, we published a strategic plan action sheet along with the directors' reports to show what we are working on. In future, we anticipate that directors will update this report quarterly to provide better transparency over their work on behalf of the Association.

We cleaned out and updated our Constitution and by-laws at our conference in June.

## **Finance**

Our strategic plan requires us to maintain financial reserves at least 1 x annual turnover. Consistent with this outcome, we have now run deficits for a couple of years in a row and we have absorbed costs without raising centre levies since 2005. At our annual conference in June, we raised the centre level modestly.

## **Woden Park**

The laying of the new synthetic track at Woden Park has been delayed until November 2014 because it cannot be laid during winter. That means that our Woden centre will not be returning there until December or possibly January 2015. We will continue to work closely with Woden to minimise the disruption to their members.

In June 2014, we reached an agreement with ACT Sport & Rec that they will build a new office for us at Woden Park, which will become the home of Little Athletic in the ACT. This is a very exciting development for us, which also includes the potential for a small revenue stream for us to charge users for training during the week. They say the building will be ready before Christmas 2014.

## **Relationship with government**

Our funding from ACT government has increased to a triennial grant of \$26,000 per annum. In addition, the ACT government has provided a grant of \$60,000 over two years to us, Athletics ACT and ACT Veterans Athletics for equipment at Woden Park. We have a good relationship with the Minister and with ACT Sport & Rec, who have been very pro-active in relation to developments at Woden Park, also in assisting Woden during their temporary relocation at Boomanulla and in response to specific issues we have raised about the amenity of the grounds we use.

## **Relationship with sponsors**

We have recently ended our sponsorship relationships with The Athletes Foot as our preferred footwear supplier. This was a long term relationship which had run its course and we parted on good terms. I am delighted that Nick Walshe from The Runners Shop has agreed to be our preferred footwear supplier from June 2014 and will also be our bib sponsor in 2014/2015.

Our relationships with IGA and Beyond Bank have also concluded on good terms. We are working to replace them. The Canberra Southern Cross Club remains a good sponsor for us.

## **Marketing**

We ran radio ads on FM radio around registration time in 2013. We were advertised on the sides of Canberra buses for the whole year. We participated in the NAIDOC Sports Day and the Get Active Expo and we worked with Companion House which looks after refugee families in Canberra and the YWCA. We are once again offering LAPS programs to schools after several years of not doing so.

## **Our regional centres**

I have been saying for some time now that we need to do more for our regional centres. In 2013/2014, we offered to assist with radio and other advertising around registration time. Alex visited the regional centres as one of his first priorities when he started last September and is continuing to work with the regional centres to provide coaching and mentoring opportunities. By September, I am hoping the

regional centre representatives are able to attend our Association meetings by Skype. It was fantastic that we were able to name Goulburn-Mulwaree as our Centre of the Year, on the back of strong registration numbers, outstanding attendance and performances at Association carnivals and strong involvement in the work of the Association, including Damien Stanberg's involvement in the strategic plan sub-committee.

Our Batemans Bay centre will be back on line in 2014/2015 after lying dormant for two seasons.

*Participation officer*

I already mentioned that we and Athletics ACT jointly employed Alex Van der Meer from September last year to help improve participation. Alex has been busy talking to schools and other sporting and community groups. We have had great feedback from the work he has done in schools and with Companion House and he is proving very popular with our older athletes.

I commend all our centres on their achievements in 2013/14. Particularly, those centres who are working hard to improve the quality of our product. All the good governance in the world, all the sponsorship arrangements, all the government grants, all the Conference presentations, all amount to nothing unless athletes know they are going to have a good time when they turn up to compete at their centre. Their experience is in Centres' hands.

**Tony Reilly**  
**Chairman- LAACT**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS NEW SOUTH WALES



It gives me great pleasure to present this, my second annual report as President of LANSW for the 2013/14 Little Athletics season.

## **Registrations**

We can reflect upon another solid year with almost 39,000 athletes again registering for skills development and competition at the 190 or so affiliated Little Athletics centres. Whilst this represents about a 6.5% decline in the record level of registrations in the prior season, following the London Olympics, it is nevertheless a good result based on previous post Olympics seasons.

There were nine re-formed centres this season becoming operational again after a period of recess. They were: Blayney; Bourke; Brewarrina; Condobolin; Coonabarabran; Dungog & District; Kotara South; Rutherford; and Tumbarumba; who between them had a combined registration of over 900 athletes.

It was pleasing to see continued increase in the number of centres promoting the online registration system as the preferred method of registration and as a result we saw an increase in the number of athletes registering via this means. We had approximately 14,600 athletes (37%) register and pay online, which shows an increase of 18% from the previous year. This ensures that contact details are current and accurate immediately following renewal of registration, allowing communication and engagement to be promoted from the outset. There are benefits in this for members, centres and the LANSW.

## **Facilities**

We continue to look at possible centres in growth areas and in the last 12 months discussions have taken place with a number of councils. The Centre Liaison Officer, Chief Executive Officer and Membership Development Director have been working with local councils on the following proposed new facilities/centres.

- Blacktown City Council: the development of a new facility to be used by a new centre at 'The Ponds', an area of significant growth in Sydney's North West. The facility is currently under construction and due for completion for the start of the 2015/2016 season.
- Camden Council: the development of a new facility and potentially a new centre in Sydney's fast growing South West. Discussions are currently at the stage of funding allocation and DA approval.
- Dubbo City Council: installation of a synthetic track, which is due for completion in October 2014.
- Penrith City Council: installation of a synthetic track at St Mary's in Sydney's West. The proposal has received council approval and is at the stage of obtaining funding. Plans of the proposed facility have been developed and a site confirmed.
- The Hills Shire Council: establishment of a new centre through a partnership with William Clarke College at Kellyville, in Sydney's North West. This is part of a pilot program where the local council allocates the school's sporting grounds for use by community groups to address the shortage of available council owned sporting facilities in a major growth area.

## **Zone Coordinators**

All 24 zones held their Annual General Meeting and bi-annual elections in April/May, which resulted in 9 zone coordinators new to the role. It is great to see people stepping up to this position, which means 'new blood' and new ideas in this important role. We do however have 2 zones without a zone coordinator at this point in time.

## **Championships**

Reviewing our year in a championships sense, we can reflect once again upon the successful completion in 2013/2014 of 24 Zone Championships, 8 Regional Championships (4 metropolitan and 4 country), State Relay Championships, State Multi-Event Championships, as well as State Cross Country and Road Walks.

Attendance at all of these major events was strong. The State Relay Championships saw 1,247 athletes participating from 58 centres (638 on the junior day and 609 on the senior day); the Region Championships saw a total of 8,212 athletes across the 8 regions; the State Multi-Event had 919 athletes from 103 centres and the State Championships had the largest entry ever, with 2,839 athletes from 161 centres taking part.

Particular appreciation is extended to the hearty competitors as well as officials who endured particularly appalling weather conditions whilst successfully competing or officiating in the State Multi-Event on a very wet and stormy weekend in Shellharbour.

## **Coaching & Development**

As always, our Coaching and Development staff were busy throughout the past season conducting various activities across the state for both members and prospective members. A total of 27 coaching clinics and 2 live-in camps were offered, utilising around 40 casual coaches, for approximately 1,400 athletes. For the first time this year, LANSW and ANSW conducted 'joint' coaching clinics to cater for all ages at the one venue.

Over 20,000 students at 106 schools received presentations as part of our 'Desire to Inspire' school visit program and 48,000 students received coaching via the LAPS program, which this year utilised 21 casual coaches.

In terms of coach education, LANSW conducted 17 Introduction to Coaching Courses on behalf of ATFCA, for 248 new coaches.

LANSW also welcomed promotional opportunities at the V8 Supercars at Sydney Olympic Park, the Weetbix TRYathlon, the Lithgow Flash Carnival and Panthers on The Prowl at Penrith.

## **AGM & Annual Conference**

This year our Annual General Meeting and Conference was held at the Cessnock Leagues Club in the heart of the Hunter Valley wine region, with 181 members in attendance. The theme of the conference was "Unity through Identity – More than just 'Belonging'", which aimed to place a focus on the connection and strength of members, which does not come through merely 'belonging' to the membership, but by coming together and acting as one identity.

Dual Olympian and two-time World Champion, Jana Pittman, was the opening guest speaker and set a positive tone for the rest of the conference to follow. Various workshops were held over the course of the two days and included: CPR instruction; applicable first aid for an athletics environment; risk management considerations for centres; possibilities for athletes with disabilities; beginner Clubs Online; advanced overview of the capabilities of the IMG platform; developing centre best practice; developing an effective centre coaching program; turning a group of individuals into a team; and practical ways to teach throwing skills to large groups of children.

## **Board of Management & Staff**

Trevor Hinwood did not seek re-election as the Membership Development Director at the 2014 AGM in July and we are pleased to welcome Mavis Godber to this role. Mavis comes onto the board after being a long serving zone coordinator for the Lake Macquarie area. Michael Gray resigned his position as Business Development Director in August 2014 due to increased work commitments. The LANSW board

has decided not fill this casual vacancy for the remainder of the term, which is due for election at the 2015 AGM next July.

We had one staffing change during the past 12 months, this being in the area of coaching and development. In August 2013 we accepted the resignation of Nick Bromley from the position of Greater Western Sydney Development Officer and we were pleased to appoint Youcef Abdi to the role in November 2013. With the completion of funding for the role of GWS Development Officer through the 'Joint Venture', Youcef has been retained as an employee by LANSW in the more generic role of Coaching and Development Officer, with a specific focus however, on growing the dual registration age group and increasing transition between LANSW and ANSW. Youcef is a dual Olympian and finalist, and a three times Commonwealth Games representative. He is an accredited athletics coach with wide experience coaching athletes of all abilities and has already proven to be a great asset to LANSW.

#### **Regional 'Community Development Officers'**

We have taken the decision to grow our development efforts for the sport by employing additional 'development' staff to be located in regional areas, so we can provide additional on the ground support for local capacity building and to grow our participation through a more focused and better distributed series of development initiatives. The appointment of these additional personnel will be gradually phased-in over time, with the first two appointments scheduled to occur in the latter half of the upcoming season. It is envisaged that these officers would be located within the regions, and in conjunction/liaison with the zone coordinators, drive programs to increase local community participation in Little Athletics. They will be involved in the education and support of centres, athletes, volunteers, officials, and community coaches, to ensure the athletic environment is safe, enjoyable and facilitates participation. Further details about the specific tasks of the role will be 'fine-tuned' as we progress this initiative over the coming months.

#### **Working With Children Check Legislation**

The new online NSW Working With Children Check commenced in June 2013, however the new requirements are being phased-in over a 5-year period, according to industry sector. Sport is being phased in in 2015. This means that only new paid personnel are required to complete the check until April 2015 when it will be extended to volunteers and existing personnel. As a result of the staggered phase-in, LANSW has implemented its own declaration for volunteers, in the interim period until the 2015 commencement.

In preparation for the 2015 phase-in and to ensure that all centres are aware of the requirements under the Act, the LANSW is conducting a series of seminars across the state, which requires mandatory attendance by representatives from all centres. A total of 18 seminars will be conducted throughout the months of August to November 2014, with the first two having already taken place at Narrandera in the Riverina and Springwood in the Blue Mountains. The presentation has been prepared by the CEO and takes around 2-2 ½ hours.

#### **Financial Position**

The financial position of LANSW remains strong with a healthy level of fixed assets and more liquid reserves - the latter safely and prudently invested and available to be drawn upon as required.

The 2013/2014 financial year again saw growth in the financial position of the LANSW and in the strength of net assets of the organisation. Income was \$123,388 or 5.2% above budget. Increased income was generated from LANSW run programs and interest generated from our investment policies and there was some additional ASC funding for the joint venture.

Positive growth in income was seen in coaching camps and clinics through increased participation. Expenditure was \$64,617 or 2.7% below budget for the year.

The latest valuation on our land and buildings has shown an increased valuation of \$355,000 which has increased the valuation of Land and Buildings with an offset increase in the Asset revaluation reserve. We became aware of some issues with the building in Harris Park which will require maintenance and other work to our major asset and consequentially we have shown a contingent liability of \$50,000 as well as a provision of \$20,000 in the accounts.

The net surplus of \$143,770 has meant that as a state organisation we have been able to hold registration fees at the current level for the coming financial year.

### **Financial Assistance Programs**

The past season saw increased levels allocated to our individual assistance programs. Total funding across all programs increased by 44% over the previous year to \$51,830. This increase was approved in order to accommodate a greater percentage of applications under the Athlete Assistance Program and the Country Athlete Support Program. Total funding was comprised of the following: \$12,830 to 52 athletes as part of the Country Athletes Support Program, providing financial assistance to talented young athletes from country areas of NSW to attend the State Championships; \$14,000 to 100 Little Athletes as part of the Athlete Assistance Program, helping with registration expenses; and \$25,000 for 10 centres via the Centre Grant Scheme, for equipment and facility upgrade.

### **Sponsorship**

I take this opportunity to again thank our wonderful partners McDonald's, The Athletes Foot, Hart Sport, IMG STG, Coca-Cola Amatil and GA Millers. Without their support we would not be able to operate as we do. IGA have parted ways with LANSW after years of support, however we have had encouraging dialogue with two new sponsors that we are hopeful of having on board in the future.

In closing, I look forward to working with everyone again in the 2014/2015 season to continue the great family sporting tradition that is Little Athletics.

**Neil Sandall**  
**President – LANSW**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS QUEENSLAND



In Queensland, the winter season is now drawing to a close and the summer season is in the process of signing on. Registrations have remained the same in winter regions in recent years due to the competition for members from Athletics North Queensland. This had been a growing issue over a number of years, and it is crazy that we have two junior athletic groups in North Queensland. This is a problem that will have to be sorted out sooner rather than later, as it is affecting both organizations.

## **2014 Conference**

This is the first Conference for some time where we have incorporated the AGM with our conference. This went really well, and meant the Board is elected in June and not just before State Championships in March as we have done in previous years.

We had workshops and presentations, which included Bravehearts, IMG and Timing Solutions. We also had workshops on coaching, officials, finance and more. All of these were very well received by our members.

## **Queensland Athletics**

We are still working very closely to QA, with our State Relays being combined once again. This was one of the best combined competitions we have held, due to working together before the event, and learning from our mistakes from past years. As we held State Championships in Cairns this year, we were not able to have a joint meet on Saturday, but will definitely look at what we can do again this season.

## **Sponsorship**

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our sponsors this year, being Bendigo Bank and IGA. This was very disappointing as they have both been long term sponsors, and have done a lot for Little Athletics in Queensland.

To cover the two lost sponsors, we have had McDonalds come on board with an extra \$50,000 and will now have naming rights with our State Relays and Championships. We also have two new sponsors in Quest and Schweppes amounting to \$20,000 cash and contra.

## **Board**

As mentioned, we held our AGM at our Conference in June. I was elected as President for the next two years, we also had Todd Williams and Adam White re-elected, and Paul Langton elected for the first time. Prior to Conference, we asked Donna Smith to fill a casual vacancy on the Board, which Donna agreed to, so is also back on the Board.

Darryl Dickson was elected as Vice President, Todd Williams was elected Chair of competition, Donna Smith was elected Chair of Officials, and Adam White was elected chair of development and coaching

## **Staff**

Once again, our staff has done a tremendous job this year, being another record year for a post-Olympic year. We have also decided to keep the two RSO's, which were previously funded by the State Government, on full time, partly funded by the \$25'000 from Little Athletics Australia. One will be based in South East Queensland, and one in North Queensland.

We also had a development officer change, with Gerrard Keating starting with us this year.

**In General**

We have had a slight loss of numbers in our Winter Centre's this year, but with a great Commonwealth Games, we are confident of increasing our registrations in our Summer Centre's.

We also have a number of Centre's using IGM on line registration for the first time this coming season, so hopefully we will get the bugs ironed out for a full roll out next season.

In Closing, it has been a pleasure and an honour leading Little Athletics Queensland, and I look forward to working with my Board, as well as Simon and his staff without the distraction of mergers.

**Tony Northey**  
**President- LAQ**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS SOUTH AUSTRALIA



It is my pleasure to present on behalf of Little Athletics SA our report to the Annual General Meeting and Conference of Australian Little Athletics.

## Administration

- Athlete Registrations for 2013/2014 were less than 10% down on the previous year which had a record number of 8004 athletes. This resulted in 7272 athletes which met our budgeted numbers and is better than historic figures following Olympic Games year.
- The second year of trials of on-line registrations with IMG was carried out at nine of our centres this year. Following a few teething issues and subsequent system changes we believe the system is ready to be rolled out to all centres in the 2014/2015 season. From all reports the system was found to be of great help to centres and resulted in a vast reduction of administrative time to the registrars.

## Education

- This past year has seen significant change to the Coaches and Officials Clubs. A thorough review was undertaken by the CEO and Board in a search for a better way forward. The review highlighted a couple of significant weaknesses in the delivery and retention of current practices.
- Although it is encouraging to see so many new Officials and Coaches being educated during the season, there is a need to address the retention of this valuable resource. Congratulation to all attendees and a very big thank you to all of the presenters who volunteered their time.
- A positive outcome of the review was the decision to merge the Officials and Coaches clubs. This merger will reduce duplication of resources and improve communications.
- The schools development program is maintaining a presence within the school community and also remains one of our top marketing strategies. We were provided an increase of funding by LAA as well as the board approving increased budgeted funding thereby enabling us to promote our organisation across a greater number of school children this year. This resulted in us being able to employ Brittany Winter as a full time Development Coordinator as well as Joel Fraser as casual Development Officer. Unfortunately Joel has since left the organisation to continue his teaching career; this has enabled us to employ Gaynor Garnish, Mitchell Thorpe and Steven Marotti in casual positions. Well done and to all the Development team on the large increase of student participation this year.
- The Under 13 age group Star Squad program has continued again this year following great success in the previous season. This resulted in the participants achieving excellent personal improvement and an excellent result by our team at the ALACS.

## Sponsorship

- IGA have continued to financially support our Volunteer awards, it is very satisfying that we can continue to show appreciation to the most important part of our organisation (our volunteers).

We are very thankful for the involvement of IGA with Little Athletics and look forward to further growing this relationship as we progress.

- South Australian Government through the Office for Recreation and Sport have been a tremendous supporter of our Association as they recognise we are the base for any sport young people may wish to pursue as well as a feeder to the sport of Athletics We continue to work with them in promoting the many important Health and Safety messages, ensuring we have as many people actively participating or volunteering in the community. We are appreciative of the continued funding grant for our core business and growth opportunities.
- McDonalds have continued to be the sponsor of our winter Cross Country Program, State Cross Country Championship, Age Patch, Multi-Event Championships and Travel Grants for Country Athletes.
- Beyond Bank have continued their second year of sponsorship, I have been very pleased of how our two organisations have been working together in a mutual goal of providing support into the community.
- A big thank you to our National Sponsors:
  - Asics
  - V Insurance
  - IGA
  - Beyond Bank.

On behalf of the 7272 athletes and their parents, we thank these Sponsors for their belief in our organisation.

### **General**

- A majority of the past year has been absorbed with the Australian Sports Commission's proposed merger between Little Athletics Australia & Athletics Australia. Although the merger did not go ahead the discussions during the merger have resulted in an improved relationship between Athletics SA and SALAA, including improved pathways for athletes and some new initiatives which will hopefully be rolled out next season. It is very pleasing the relationship between our organisations has improved greatly. I thank Joe Stevens and Adam Bishop for working with us in an effort to improve the relationship and communication between our organisations. A historic milestone was recently achieved with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations; this will result in a clearer understanding of each organisations responsibility, athlete's pathways, and will be of great benefit to the sport of athletics. I look forward to working further with Joe and Adam ensuring that our organisations continue working together ensuring minimal issues so that our sport continues to grow and prosper.
- Many of our Centres have again benefited from the Active Club Grants that are available twice a year. These grants are an excellent way of ensuring that our centres continue to have all of the equipment and facilities that are required to operate successfully. The ongoing support of these grants from the government is greatly appreciated.
- This season was the 50<sup>th</sup> season of Little Athletics in Australia. From its humble beginning in Geelong, Victoria to the iconic Australian brand that it is today. It is very satisfying to be involved in such a wonderful organisation, we should look forward to continuing the success of our organisation and to make it even better in the future.
- It was with great sadness that our Executive Officer of the past 31 years, Pamela Fay Sard passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Pam dedicated her life to Little Athletics and will be sadly missed by

all of us, her legacy of what she has done within our organisation will never be forgotten and will live on forever. Our organisation held a memorial at Santos Stadium on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to celebrate the life of Pam and to thank the family for everything their family has done for the organisation.

- Recruitment for a replacement Executive Officer resulted in a flood of applicants having remarkable qualifications and experience. Our organisation is very well regarded in the community which is highlighted by the level of candidates we have received. As a result of an exhausting interview process it was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome Sue Bowman into the role in October 2013. During her initial 10 months of employment Sue has shown a great passion for our organisation and has been instrumental in some exciting changes. I am confident that we have made a very wise choice in her employment and look forward to continuing to work with her to further improve our organisation.
- I would like to welcome David Baker onto the Board of Directors as our Marketing Director. David was elected by the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy as it has been a number of years since we have been able to fill this position. David will be a great asset to our organisation considering the vast corporate knowledge and governance that he brings with him.
- At the AGM our Finance Director of the past 6 years Mrs Kylie Gibbons stepped down from the position. This resulted in 2 applications for the position which is the first time a board position has been challenged for over 10 years. I would like to welcome Stephen Camilleri onto the Board of Directors as Finance Director.
- We recently employed a part time Bookkeeper to assist the Finance Director and reduce the vast amount of time required by a volunteer in this role. This should assist us in developing improved financial controls.
- The Office for Recreation and Sport have recently announced funding for two programs for the improvement of our sport. The first program is a review into the churn rate of athletes within Little Athletics. The second is a joint development position between Little Athletics SA and Athletics South Australia. It is very exciting to be provided these opportunities of which I am sure we will see great benefits for the sport of athletics.

With so many positive changes undertaken this past year I am extremely encourage and excited about the year ahead. With the passion and dedication of our Board of Directors, employees and volunteers I am positive of an excellent outcome and successful season.

It has been a great privilege to serve as a member of the SALAA board over the past 9 years, and to work with such a dedicated team of members. Thanks to all who have assisted during this time, ensuring that our sport has been a success. The reward of being involved with the success and appreciation of the athletes has been well worthwhile. Even after such a long term on the board my passion for the organisation and the positive changes that can be made continues to grow.

I look forward to another challenging year of 'Family, Fun and Fitness' at grass roots level.

**Scott Pitts**  
**President- LASA**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA



I am pleased to present my report for the 2013 / 2014 Season, and reflect on the past 12 months, recognising the efforts and dedication of so many that make Little Athletics a successful sporting option for over 2,500 young children in Tasmania.

We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Whilst we have seen quite a few changes over the years with the introduction of several new events, new Board structure in line with good Governance practices, and the formation of new policies and procedures, in the main we remain unaffected by time. We are a fully family orientated sport, Centres still rely heavily on parental assistance each week, we are still totally inclusive, we encourage our athletes to “Be their Best” and reward them for their efforts – a very good recipe which needs little or no added ingredients.

As always during this season a number of initiatives have been undertaken and progressed as the Board continue to look at the operational and strategic areas of our sport.

These include:

- The continuation of the Regional Committees. I thank Peter Weldon for organising these meetings. At times the attendance by Centres was low, but I believe it is important to continue with these meetings and give Centres the opportunity to discuss upcoming state meetings, or other Centre related issues.
- Increasingly successful Cross Country competition and championships. Special thanks to Paul Mommers in the South and Simon Phillips in the North for organising the respective weekly competition.
- The Little Athletic Regional Clinics and combined coaching clinics with Athletics Tasmania which have proved to be very popular.

The LATas Board is both a Strategic and Operational Board. Each individual Board member fully engages in all areas relating to their portfolio, and assists other Board members when required. Our Administration Officer is responsible for day to day office management, and implementing decisions made by the Board. This structure varies from State to State, especially in the larger States where CEO's are employed to fully implement the operational decisions made by their respective Boards, and to have considerable input into these.

Being a smaller State, Tasmania has neither the financial resources, nor the requirement to have a CEO in place. Our current structure of having a board that is strategic and operational is the best fit, and ensures that we are all aware of all aspects of our sport, whether it be a minor issue at the grass roots level, State or National.

Online registrations continue to be a little frustrating at times, with our previous Administration Officer Simone, spending many hours working with Centre Registrars sorting out the various issues, mainly due to family registrations. IMG have advised us that these problems are now completely fixed, and Centres should have no issues with the system at all. It is interesting to note that no other State had the same problems, and are all very happy with the system. The Board is committed to continuing to work with IMG to enable our members a quick and easy method of registering for the new season.

## **LATas Office**

The office has undergone several changes over the past 12 months. We appointed Simone Fitzgerald to the position of Administration Officer, replacing Anita Silva. Simone quickly made herself very welcomed by the Centres. Her customer services and willingness to assist wherever possible was much appreciated by all.

Unfortunately for us, Simone moved onto a position where she had more contact with people on a day to day basis. We welcomed Joanne Traynor to the position in April. Joanne has worked with Hockey Tasmania for 17 years in a very similar office role, and also as acting CEO for a period.

## **LATas Board**

We welcomed to the Board Brett Johnstone to the position of Development Officer, with Peter Weldon moving to the position of Competition Officer. Brett has been very proactive in his role in Development. In addition to his involvement with the Little Athletics in Schools Program, Brett has attended many Centres to assist with coaching, and attended various forums throughout the season.

I had the pleasure of attending several of the forums with Brett, and I believe these are invaluable to the Association. I especially found the Schools Conference to be an excellent forum for speaking to teachers from Schools around the State, particularly with respect to our school visit program.

Peter has settled well into the Competition Role. This is a very demanding position, and with assistance from the office and the Board, we have seen very well run State competitions for the past season.

I do thank all Board members for the many hours they put into roles each year. I very much appreciate the great assistance I receive from Garry, Peter, Kay, Brett and Roger. Thank you all very much.

## **Little Athletics Australia (LAA)**

Throughout the season I have attended a number of Australian Little Athletics (ALA) Board Meetings, two conferences, and the Annual General Meeting.

Several meetings were in conjunction with Athletics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission with respect to a proposed merger of Little Athletics and Athletics Australia. As we are all aware, the merger did not progress, however all States are committed to working with their senior bodies to assist with transition of our athletes to senior competition.

Little Athletics Australia undertook to determine which Policies each State Association had in place. Due to the large number of duplications occurring, LAA have committed to develop National Policies, where applicable. Each State will have the ability to custom these polices to State legislations.

A new website has been rolled out at National level and at State Association level. At the time of writing, Little Athletics ACT is the only state to go live. LA Tas has been working on loading our publications onto the new site, with a view of going live at the end of June.

A new full time staff member has been appointed, Melissa Cowan in the role of Development and Projects Manager.

## **Sponsorship**

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

- RACT
- McDonald's
- IGA Tasmania

- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Medalmania
- Zone3
- Enotified
- Robbie's Confectionery
- Southern Cross Television

Again this season, we saw Centres undertake fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House (RMH), and I sincerely thank those Centres who participated by holding a Relaython or other activity.

A total of \$4,600 was raised for the RMH, and I know that this is so very well received and welcomed by those involved in running this great charity. This year, the funds were going towards the renovations of the bathrooms at the Charity House.

Zone 3 provided our great registration bags which each registered athlete received, and also the many Zone 3 vouchers presented to Centres throughout the Season. Zone3 also sponsor our Welcome Back Day Badge.

IGA continue to be an excellent supporter of Little Athletics, and we saw the continuation of the IGA Awards system with award covering several areas - Top Centre, State Officials Incentive, New Officials Incentive, Athlete Participation, Growth, Retention, and the IGA Docket Competition.

Medalmania continues to support the Association being the sponsor of the Personal Best Day Badge. The Company is also the preferred supplier of the Association's medals and ribbons.

We welcomed RACT as a valued sponsor, replacing Aurora Energy as our Name and Age Badge sponsor. Several Centres welcomed RACT staff to their meetings and competition days. This is a part of RACT's community liaison program, and we are looking forward to expanding on that this coming season.

With a change of sponsor for our Name and Age Badge, LATAs will be looking to film a new advertising campaign for the new season.

### **Registrations**

Total registrations were down this season, as depicted in the figures tabled within this report. Many factors contributed to this, not in the least, the very wet weather which the South of the State experienced in early October / November.

This is very detrimental to registrations, especially to new families looking to enter into Little Athletics for the first time.

We had pleasure in welcoming our 20<sup>th</sup> Centre – Peninsula Little Athletics. Thank you to Brett Johnson for the many weekends spent at the Centre in assisting them setting up, and helping with their coaching. We look forward to seeing their progression in the coming years. The Centre is a very close knit community, with an excellent committee who are dedicated to ensuring the success of the Centre.

### **Athletics Tasmania**

A previously mentioned, over the past several years, we have worked with Athletics Tasmania to host joint regional coaching clinics. Through funding provided by a Joint Venture we also saw several former Little Athletes attend local Centres and provide coaching clinics for the athletes.

A new initiative this season was the introduction of Swedish Relay Championships. These were held at the Domain Athletic Centre prior to Athletics Tasmania conducting their Briggs Classic event. This event was very successful. Competing athletes had the benefit of a running commentary during each relay event (much to the delight of their families), and had the opportunity of participating prior to a National

event. We will be working with Athletics Tasmania again this coming season to further promote and enhance this event.

In addition to the above, LATas will be looking at other areas where the two bodies can work together for the betterment of the sport of Athletics in Tasmania.

My appreciation goes to all our hardworking committee members, parents, volunteers and officials. Our sport requires a high level of volunteer contributions from participating families. Our collective contributions are precisely what make a difference to individual centre success and to the effective delivery of our sport to its participants.

As we head into our 41<sup>st</sup> season, I wish all Centres the very best for a successful season.

**Rhonda O'Sign**  
**President- LATAS**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS VICTORIA



It's amazing how fast a year goes by, having commenced in the position 12 months ago, taking over the reins from Gordon Major. With well over 30 year's experience in Little Athletics, the challenge was there for me to step forward and steer your association in the right direction. Special thanks and appreciation goes to Gordon for his commitment and dedication to Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic) for almost four decades.

This year marks an enormous milestone as we celebrate 50 Years of Little Athletics in Victoria. A fantastic achievement and something we should be proud of. All athletes received the commemorative shoe bag and key ring as part of their registration; we hosted our Open Day and Region Challenge at Landy Field in Geelong, have provided a number of merchandise items to commemorate the occasion and will end our celebrations hosting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October. All centres are encouraged to book a table or two, invite their past members, Life Members and current families to be a part of this special celebration.

The year started with a focus on the potential merger between Athletics Australia (AA) and Little Athletics Australia (LAA), driven by the Australia Sports Commission. After much deliberation, workshops, meetings and discussions, looking deeply into the governance structure and benefits of the proposal, the Australian Sports Commission were advised in December that Little Athletics were not supportive of the proposal. Since then both LAA and AA have commenced working together to not only improve relationships between our organisation, but to look at adopting a number of initiatives identified during the merger process to improve the overall product across all age groups, especially the youth / transition age groups. Here in Victoria we can claim to be well advanced in terms of integrated programs and officiating. Our shared office with Athletics Victoria (AV) has provided us with many benefits and I look forward to further integration, consistency in product and improvements with our transition ages groups.

This year all Centres have been advised they must be incorporated. The regulatory environment sporting organisations and not for profits operate in today means greater protection of our Centres and their Executives is paramount. Whilst the process over the past 12 months may not have been the smoothest, it is heartening to see many of our Centres have worked hard and have lodged their forms.

Our state championship events this year created a number of challenges. Cross Country at Lardner Park (Warragul) and State Relay Championships at Lakeside (Albert Park) went off with minimal fuss and everyone appeared to enjoy the days. Our State Multi Event Championship in Bendigo was held under extreme weather conditions. Consideration was given to postponing the event, but in the end the decision was to proceed "with caution". Whilst temperatures soured into the 40's a solid push to get through the program saw us wrap up earlier than scheduled. A number of heat relief initiatives were offered and were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. We also invited AV U14 and U16 athletes an opportunity to compete with our U14 and U16's. This added a few more challenges to the weekend. We then hosted our State Track and Field Championships at Lakeside at the end of March. The event was pushed out a week to give us our first opportunity to host this championship at Lakeside following the Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

In April, our Association Planning involved more than just our Staff and Board. Meetings were held with AV and a number of representatives from all seven regions were invited to be a pivotal part of our planning for the coming year. This was a four day event and ever so important in our planning process. Over the coming 12 months, strategic projects we will be looking to are;

- **wrapping up incorporation of Centres,**
- **improve the delivery of our product at all levels,**
- **deliver policies and processes for extreme weather, child protection and other governance requirements and**
- **maintain a close working relationship with AV**

These are just a few of the area we will be looking at.

The Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC's) were hosted this year by Victoria, as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. A special thanks to the organising committee, who ensured every level of detail, was covered and the event set an extremely high bar for Western Australia, who will be hosting ALAC's in 2015. This was also hosted at Lakeside on 3<sup>rd</sup> May under the threat of poor weather, but the day turned out really well with just a couple of storms passing through in the early afternoon. Live streaming of the event by IMG saw in excess of 2000 viewers from across the globe tune in throughout the day.

As you can see, it's been an extremely busy year and our focus on the future will not see the pace slow down. Special thanks go to everyone involved in making Little Athletics Victoria such a great Association. The Board of Management and many State Committees, the Staff, our Region Executives, our Centre Executives and their committees are all major contributors to our success and I am truly proud of how we all work together for the betterment of our sport and to make Little Athletics so much fun for our most important people – our athletes and their families.

One of the main projects over the coming years will be implementing effective programs at Centre level that encompass flexibility, reduced down time and streamlined schedules in an effort to attract more athletes to the sport, retain them, and keep the majority of our participation based members enjoying weekly routines. Other projects include;

- **Structured weekly programs (Centre level) throughout Victoria based on Centre size**
- **Streamlined age groups at all Centres offering U6-U16 competition**
- **Compressed competition schedule (2 to 2.5hours total)**
- **Maximum 5 events (preferably 3 track and 2 field)**
- **Inter Centre competition**
- **Dedicated Association Rounds (ie: Opening round, Multi-Event round, Rivalry round, Royal Children's Hospital Round, Personal Best Day, Centre Championship Round, etc)**
- **Statewide points structure for Centre awards with flexile options**
- **Coaching and development assistance at centres**
- **Centre Liaison efficiencies in conjunction with the LAVic office**

I have truly enjoyed the year gone by and look forward to the many challenges ahead. I am grateful for the support of my family - Leanne, Chris, Paul and Matthew, all of whom keep me on track and help me stay organised.

**Steve Ryan**

**President- LAVIC**

# LITTLE ATHLETICS WESTERN AUSTRALIA



We have had another impressive year. Our registrations have remained steady with 8723 registrations in 2013/14, and whilst we have not maintained the numbers of an Olympic year they have been greater than predicted and our retention rate has increased.

We started the year off with increased participation numbers in our junior athletes at our Teams Challenge event, which is only in its second season. The youngest athletes in our state get the opportunity to compete at the State Athletics stadium and be part of a day of fun. This year we turned it pink in support of the McGrath Foundation and raised awareness in our athletics community of the good work they do in support of the fight against breast cancer. This was emulated across many centres throughout the season.

The next major event on our Calendar was the “kids for kids day” which is a centre based fund raising day to support the PMH foundation. We raise funds each year to support the great work that the foundation does in providing support services and equipment for WA’s Children’s Hospital. This year we raised over \$17,000.00 which went towards the artist in residence program, assisting young and adolescent children who are both long stay and short stay patients at the hospital. Providing them valuable respite from treatment.

Our last event in 2013 was the Beyond Bank state relay championships, which, as named was generously sponsored by Beyond Bank and saw a sea of purple emerge as all our volunteers wore the beyond bank officials shirts for the day. This was once again a successful day and saw teams participate from Denmark in the far south to almost all our Metro centres.

We stepped away from tradition this season for our Multi event Championship in February as the new track completion at our stadium was too close to call and took the event to the suburbs. Gosnells Centre hosted us at Langford Oval, and whilst the numbers were down, those who attended did very well and everyone had a great day. March saw the culmination of the season with our State Championships qualifying heats and Quarter finals. The weekend was well attended in all four zones and the competition for qualification in the McDonalds State track and Field championships was high. The season culminated in our McDonalds State track and Field championships semi-finals and Finals, As usual this was a well-attended event. We encountered some technical difficulties outside of our control and despite the long-time delays in some events, the weekend was a success.

We introduced a new life member to the Association in Mr Pieter Bergshoeff former Little Athletics WA Chairman and member from the Hamersley Centre.

With the summer season completed we embarked on the selection and training for the Asics Australian Athletics Championships held in Melbourne, all our athletes selected did very well under some extreme circumstances with the unpredictable Victorian weather. Some of our athletes had never experienced such cold weather before.

Next was the training and preparation for our state team for the International trip to Singapore to compete in the International Little Athletics Championships between Singapore, Malaysia and WA. This season saw 73 U14 and U15 athletes travel to Singapore for the competition. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the whole experience of the food, the culture, language and the humidity, as well as the competition, for which despite a very long wait (4 hours) due to an electrical storm was

participated in by all countries with enthusiasm. With little to do for the time delay the athletes mingled with the athletes from the other countries and friendships were formed and lots of “selfies” were taken. Our Winter Cross country and Race walk season got underway and we had over 100 new registrations to add to our summer registration numbers. The winter season culminated in the two championship days at Rockingham and Cockburn and were a huge success.

Once again we partnered with Athletics WA to participate in our Community Athletics Council (CACWA) whilst much of the year was taken up with the merger we were able to improve our school ambassadors program, reaching over 65 schools and the interest for this coming season has already exceeded that, proving to be highly regarded and sort after. We also reached over 12,000 school children with our Little Athletics Program for schools (LAPS). We have worked again successfully with Inclusion WA and with the local communities to spread the message of Little Athletics to marginalised communities.

We have also seen the transition process take shape for our athletes participating in an invitational Challenge competition as part of the strive meet and this was well attended and afforded our athletes an opportunity to have fun, compete and mingle with the senior athletes, before embarking on senior competition themselves. This initiative has come through work with CACWA and has grown in popularity, exposing our athletes to competition and events not traditionally done at Little Athletics e.g. Steeple chase and hammer throw.

Our Biggest Success this year has been the creation of 3 new Centres, which comes off the back of regional development work conducted last season.

We have new Centres ready to start the 14/15 season in Port Hedland and Newman in our regional North West and one new Metro centre ready to start on the new season. With two more metro centres on the planning phase.

We have embarked on the process of rewriting our constitution which is still in the consultative phase but should ensure a much clearer direction for the sport going forward.

There have been many changes within the Association this season in terms of personnel, and we have faced many challenges along the way. The Board of management and the staff have coped well under difficult circumstances at times and this has brought us together to make us stronger as a team.

We have taken the plunge and undertaken some much needed renovations to our state offices.

Which will not only provide a better and more practical working environment for our staff but also provide us with a much nicer place for our athletics community to come to visit?

We look forward to the new season ahead and welcoming everyone to Perth in 2015 for the Asics Australian Little Athletics Championships in April.

**Rob Crockett**  
**Chairman- LAWA**





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