

coles



Little
Athletics
Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 202021



CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Management Structure | 5 |
| Life Members | 5 |
| Hall of Fame | 6 |
| Our Mission | 7 |
| Partners | 8 |
| Member Associations | 9 |
| President | 12 |
| General Manager – Operations | 16 |
| Finance Report | 18 |
| Little Athletics Australian Capital Territory | 44 |
| Little Athletics New South Wales | 48 |
| Little Athletics Queensland | 52 |
| Little Athletics South Australia | 56 |
| Little Athletics Tasmania | 60 |
| Little Athletics Victoria | 64 |
| Athletics West | 68 |



Coles Little Athletics Australia would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia where we walk, run, jump, throw and roll. We pay our respects to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their ongoing connection to land and sea.



MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

LIFE MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew Pryor
 Colin Segota
 Jennifer Bryant
 Teresa Finlayson
 Tracey May
 Melanie Woodward (until 31st January 2021)
 Simone Pearce (until 30th November 2020)
 Andrew Gosling (until 15th December 2020)

STAFF

Martin Stillman
 Chief Executive Officer (until 15th January 2021)

Andrew Johnston
 General Manager
 Participation, Development & Projects Manager

Ashlea Watt
 Marketing, Sponsorship & Events Manager

Sara Agnew
 Finance Officer

Phillip Davies
 Legal & Corporate Services Manager

Gavin Macdonald
 One Athletics Program Manager

Todd Williams
 Athletics Operations Manager

Glenn Dennis
 Inclusion Program Manager

Laura McGrane
 LAA/AA Officials Coordinator

LIFE MEMBERS

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1978 | Trevor Billingham BEM* |
| 1978 | Alan Triscott* |
| 1983 | Keith Maughan |
| 1983 | Doug Hancy* |
| 1985 | C P (Paddy) Robinson* |
| 1989 | Don Blyth |
| 1989 | Mal Hastie |
| 1989 | Peter Shinnick |
| 1996 | George Harvey |
| 2001 | David Cramer |
| 2002 | Maxine Boyd |
| 2004 | Anthony Libke |
| 2005 | Grahame Searles |
| 2008 | Brian Newton |
| 2008 | Michael Stubbs |
| 2010 | Alison Quirke |
| 2010 | Gary Mutton |
| 2010 | Marjorie McNamara |
| 2010 | Dennis Goodwin |
| 2012 | Ross Burridge |
| 2018 | Dereck Fineberg |

AWARD OF MERIT

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

MERIT CERTIFICATES

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 1984 | John McCarthy |
| 1984 | John Marsden |
| 1984 | Peter Shinnick |

* Deceased

HALL OF FAME

TRACK & FIELD

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | Nathan Deakes |
| 2009 | Melinda Gainsford- Taylor |
| 2009 | Steve Hooker |
| 2009 | Jana Pittman-Rawlinson |
| 2009 | Amy Winters |
| 2010 | Jane Saville |
| 2010 | John Steffensen |
| 2011 | Darren Clark |
| 2011 | Bronwyn Thompson |
| 2012 | Christine Stanton |
| 2012 | Debbie Wells |
| 2013 | Jane Flemming |
| 2013 | Sally Pearson |
| 2014 | Dani Samuels |
| 2015 | Nicole Boegman- Stewart |
| 2016 | Fabrice Lapierre |
| 2016 | Todd Hodgetts |
| 2017 | Kim Mickle |
| 2018 | Lauren Wells |
| 2018 | Jayden Sawyer |
| 2019 | Alana Quade |
| 2019 | Stuart Rendell |

SPORTSPERSON

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 2009 | Alisa Camplin |
| 2009 | George Gregan |
| 2009 | Nova Perris |
| 2009 | Kathy Watt |
| 2009 | John Worsfold |
| 2010 | Hollie Grima |
| 2010 | Geoff Ogilvy |
| 2011 | Natalie Von Bertouch |
| 2011 | Matt Giteau |
| 2012 | Simon Black |
| 2012 | Megan Marcks |
| 2013 | Kimberlee Green |
| 2013 | Patrick Mills |
| 2014 | Joel Selwood |
| 2015 | Sally Fitzgibbons |
| 2016 | Jackie Pereira |
| 2016 | Liam de Young |
| 2017 | Mitchell Starc |
| 2017 | Jack Riewoldt |
| 2018 | Kimberley Brennan |
| 2020 | Sarah Forbes |
| 2020 | Chloe Esposito |

VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 2009 | Trevor Billingham * |
| 2009 | Doug Hancy * |
| 2009 | Barry Garment |
| 2009 | Helen Moir |
| 2009 | Alan Triscott * |
| 2010 | George Harvey |
| 2010 | Peter Wickes |
| 2011 | Jim Arkins * |
| 2011 | Maxine Boyd |
| 2012 | David Cramer |
| 2012 | Robin Johnson |
| 2013 | Ken Gardiner |
| 2013 | Andrea Harvey |
| 2014 | Professor Marcus Vowels |
| 2014 | Alison Quirke |
| 2015 | Maria McConville |
| 2016 | Kaye Runge |
| 2017 | Bob Cruise |
| 2018 | Wendy Beisiegel |
| 2018 | Ron Keys |
| 2019 | Robert Chalmers |
| 2020 | Gwen Timmins |
| 2020 | Roslyn McAlister |

ACHIEVERS

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 2009 | John Maclean |
| 2009 | Mike Whitney |
| 2009 | Dr. Peter Larkins |
| 2009 | Kirsty Marshall |
| 2010 | Chris Bradshaw |
| 2010 | Janine Shepherd |
| 2011 | Paul Murray |
| 2011 | Brett Rosebury |
| 2013 | Shane Crawford |
| 2014 | Ryan Fitzgerald |
| 2015 | John Pearce |
| 2015 | Lenny Pearce |
| 2016 | Chelsea Roffey |
| 2017 | Rishelle Hume |
| 2017 | Andrew May |
| 2018 | John Phillimore |
| 2018 | Tony Buti |
| 2019 | Jacquelin Magnay |
| 2020 | Amy PejkoVIC |

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

| | |
|------|---------------|
| 2018 | Julie Cousins |
| 2019 | Peter Boden |
| 2020 | Paul Lever |

* Deceased



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

PARTNERS

Coles Little Athletics Australia (LAA) acknowledges the important role played by partners in helping to deliver services and benefits to members and records its appreciation to the following companies for their support.

NAMING RIGHTS PARTNER

COLES

At Coles, we're proud to be a major partner of Little Athletics Australia. In addition to financial support, we have celebrated the partnership by donating over 3 million bananas to little athletes across the country whilst providing more than \$1.5 million of equipment grants to over 300 grassroots Little Athletics Centre's. We are passionate about our fresh food and we think this sponsorship is another way we can help Australians to lead healthier, happier lives.



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

ISC

ISC is one of Australia's leading sporting apparel companies and has come on board as the Official Uniform Supplier of the Australian Little Athletics Championships, National U15 Camp as well as being worn by LAA Staff and Board of Coles Little Athletics Australia.



V-INSURANCE

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



MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS





COLES LITTLE ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA REPORTS

It is with a tinge of sadness that I present my report for the 2020/21 Annual Report of Coles Little Athletics Australia (LAA), having made the decision to cease my board appointment at the 2021 annual general meeting. I am grateful and humbled at having had the opportunity to lead this wonderful organisation and depart with confidence, knowing that our sport is in highly capable hands.

In commending this report to you, I recognise the report of the General Manager of Operations and have endeavoured to reduce duplication to the extent possible.

RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

I never cease to be amazed by the resilience and positive 'can-do' attitude displayed by volunteers in centres all over Australia as they continue to find innovative ways to keep little athletics alive during the Coronavirus pandemic. The sport is indebted to you for 'stepping-up' in the face of adversity and finding ways for our athletes to continue to participate and compete. At the same time, hard-working staff and volunteers in regional, state and territory offices and boards have battled through the uncertainty and turbulence of on-again, off-again plans, often pivoting to adjust to changed advice or to make the most of a fleeting opportunity. They have had their hands full providing specialist support to centres, such as implementing Covid-safety plans, all on top of their normal roles, at a time when reduced registration income placed extra pressure on budgets. As you will see from the reports of the state and territory presidents, they have found new ways of conducting competitions, development squads, with virtual education sessions for athletes, coaches and officials, and even heart-warming ways of recognising teams.

It's thanks to your efforts that we will have centres in local communities to go back to when life returns to normal. Thank you on behalf of the LAA Board for all you have done to allow our athletes and their families a degree of 'normalcy' in what have been uncertain times.

At the national level, our strong financial position has enabled us to endure a shortfall in registrations due to ongoing uncertainty in the community and still deliver on events and maintain operations. Board meetings and member engagements continue to be virtual. Whereas this has created savings in terms of time and costs associated with travel, it is at the expense of sustaining and building

the relationships that are necessary in national federated models, where many of the significant gains can occur in more informal and relaxed settings. And while there will be lessons learnt and ways of doing business that we might embrace going forward, we must strike a balance and look to a resumption of 'face-to-face' engagement.

THE 2021 AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was with tremendous regret that LAA was forced to once again cancel the Australian Little Athletics Championships which were to be held in Melbourne in April. It is important that I recognise the efforts of staff in the lead up to the cancellation of ALAC, but especially the athletes. We understand and truly appreciate the obvious disappointment for you, the athletes, team management, coaches, officials, and the Little Athletics community that were preparing for, and looking forward to, this year's championships.

In addition to ALAC, state and territory championships and events, winter seasons, cross-country and the National Under 15 camp have been impacted. However, we applaud our member associations, LAA staff and commercial partners for finding new and innovative ways to engage our members in participation and recognition activities, including for ALAC and the U15 camp.

THE UNIFICATION OF ATHLETICS IN AUSTRALIA

At the time of writing, Little Athletics stands poised at the cross-roads of an important milestone in its history, with a motion to be put to members this December that would unify the sport and pave the way for athletics to compete on a level playing field with other Australian sports.

While it is impossible to know what founder Trevor Billingham and the early pioneers of Little Athletics might make of the idea of unifying Little Athletics with the senior body to form a new national sporting organisation, we are reminded that Trevor was an innovator and change agent. A study of the history of Little Athletics reveals change as a constant. Our founders were regularly adapting to changing circumstances and challenges, but always with a focus on the mission, and centred on the interests of the child-athlete. Today is no different.

If the members decide to unite the national bodies, Little Athletics will have gone full circle. Founded to provide opportunities for children that could not be accommodated by an inflexible and traditional 'senior' athletics, Little Athletics has come a long way since it took its first tentative steps in Geelong in 1964. The 'movement' has defiantly and on the back of tremendous individual and community will, forged its own path to be at the forefront of recreational pastimes for Australian children. Today, Little Athletics is one of the most iconic and recognisable sports brands in the community.

It is a confident, influential, independent, and sustainable Little Athletics that engages the senior body in the spirit of partnership and cooperation, and as an equal. Put simply, Little Athletics is too large, too visible, and too significant to be 'lost' in a national sporting organisation. The iconic status of our brand is recognised by Athletics Australia and evidenced by our commercial weight, which is why the name 'Little Athletics' and our mission and vision will be retained into the future.

The Annual Report is not the place to detail the specific details of the business case, but based on feedback from the grassroots, it is clear that many members see, and support, the value and merit of OneAthletics as a logical and progressive path forward.

Where the opportunity lays for the sport of athletics is in a united national body to lead and collaborate with its state and territory members. In doing so, the sport can begin to:

- Defragment the pathway for athletes in whatever stream of the sport they choose,
- Develop clear and consistent world leading products and delivery of the sport for children including a consistent relationship and connection with schools,
- Create a better pathway and education system for coaches and officials,
- Invest more resources into addressing the decline of participation significantly in the teenage years, and
- Create a more efficient body to represent the sport commercially and through a modern governance framework.

It is apparent that none of these challenges can be addressed by the sport without at least the national body becoming one, with a clear strategic purpose.

Much has been achieved on the OneAthletics journey to date. The past 12 months have demonstrated 'progressive actions' in carefully bringing the two national bodies closer together and the staff of each organisation have played essential roles. We agree with state and territory leaders that this is vital for the overall success of Australian Athletics.

While unifying the sport might be intuitive, it is important to understand that the LAA Board is singularly motivated by the objects of our contract with our members, the Constitution. We will continue to support unification with Athletics Australia, as long as doing so aligns with these objects. We are not otherwise bound.

LAA is mindful too that the nationwide groundswell for unification is drawing new attention on the intentions of state and territory member associations, and LAA continues to support state and territory members, all of whom are

at different stages in this process. It is not lost on the LAA Board that our grass roots members have as much if not more interest and desire in unification at state and territory level than they do at the national level. To all the Little Athletics member associations working diligently and in good faith with their senior-body counterparts for the betterment of the sport, we applaud you, wish you well, and stand ready to support you.

Earlier this year, LAA and Athletics Australia appointed Kate Palmer, one of Australia's leading sports administrators and executives, to oversee the OneAthletics body of work. Kate has been outstanding in marshalling resources from across our sport to build the framework for Australian Athletics and give it the best possible chance for success, from day one.

It has been a privilege to lead the OneAthletics Governance Committee and I want to thank and recognise my colleagues in Mark Arbib, Geoff Nicholson, Jane Flemming, Colin Segota and Teresa Finlayson, along with Jeff Cook, Melanie Woodward and Simone Pearce, each of whom retired from the 'GC' in the past 12 months. A special thank you to ASC Board Member Steve Moneghetti, Sport Australia's Matt Treglown and Helen McAlister, LAA's executive staff Andrew Johnston and Phil Davies, and interim-CEO Athletics Australia Peter Bromley. I also recognise departed LAA and AA CEOs Martin Stillman and Darren Gocher for your contributions. It's important we recognise the tremendous work of the Project Team of Gavin Macdonald and Anne Knight, who replaced Penny Johnson, of LAA and AA respectively.

I am grateful to those from all around Australia that have made the time to express what the future of Little Athletics, and athletics more broadly, means to them. I have confidence that the business case prepared by the OneAthletics project team presents a compelling case for change, and I wish the recently nominated Australian Athletics Board to be chaired by Jan Swinhoe and deputy Colin Segota the very best as they chart the course of the new entity. They are the right people for the task, with the right team.

GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The October 2020 AGM brought into effect the next phase in LAA's transition to a skills-based, independent board. The voting members returned directors Andrew Gosling and Colin Segota, and elected Tracey May to the Board. I am grateful at having been appointed to the Board by my peers as an appointed director, and elected president and chair at the first sitting of the 2020-21 board. We farewelled director Steve Ryan, who reluctantly declined the opportunity to stand for re-election so he might focus on his burgeoning business. We wish Steve well and thank him for his service. We also thank and recognise former directors Simone Pearce, Melanie Woodward, and Andrew Gosling, each of

whom have retired since the October 2020 AGM. All were instrumental in the transition to the skills-based board, with significant contributions across governance, financial oversight, competitions, inclusion, and the OneAthletics project. We were delighted to welcome Jayne Ferguson and Darren Black in August as board appointed directors and thank the Nominations Committee for presenting such compelling candidates.

This past year, LAA has continued to transition existing policies and procedures and worked diligently to address priority policy areas. The Board acknowledges its role in establishing a consistent, national policy framework in line with the organisation's objects, and consistent with our shared vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities. Society is changing rapidly and we must work hard to ensure our policy position aligns with our obligations and with community expectations.

FINANCE

I commend to members the Finance Report at page 18 of this Annual Report.

LAA continues to rely heavily on two main revenue sources; sponsorship and levies. The persistence of the pandemic in 2021 has created headwinds for levy revenue, with a reduced number of national registrations keenly felt. This was offset by increases in sponsorship and grant revenue to deliver a small surplus and not the budgeted deficit.

Members are reminded that LAA adopted a financial strategy at the outset of the pandemic that included a series of actions to minimise operating costs and preserve revenue streams to the extent possible. This has minimised financial impacts and promoted LAA's ongoing sustainability and financial viability.

Once again, savings were realised from the cancellation of events such as ALAC, reduction of payments under the Little Athletics Program in Schools (LAPS) scheme, and a reduction in travel and meeting costs due to the reliance on videoconferencing. With our emphasis on delivering national initiatives, events, programs, and services, these are not savings to be celebrated.

LAA's major fixed costs relate primarily to employees and insurance premiums, whereas office expenses make up only a minor component of overall expenditure. Other administration expenses include project activities that could be scaled back if required, but in an environment of decline prior to the onset of the pandemic, the LAA Board has decided to continue to invest in growth strategies such as digital transformation. Embracing digital is an expectation of our commercial partners and a key ingredient for future growth. The 2021-22 budget can be characterised as an investment budget.

Once again, distribution of Coles funding to state and territory Member Associations for activations balance on the expense and revenue side of the ledger.

In terms of liquidity, LAA has sufficient cash reserves to cover business as usual operations for the next twelve months, but if cash reserves continue to diminish, LAA will have limited ability to absorb future financial shocks and increased difficulty in managing cash flow going forward, particularly due to the volatility of levy revenue in an uncertain future. And whereas diminished cash reserves will impact the funding of strategic priorities and projects, it is the Board's intention that investment in growth will be required to position the organisation to emerge from this crisis with positive momentum and not 'flat-footed'.

As I wrote last year, it is appropriate that we prepare for the worst and continue to prioritise responding to issues as they arise, while remaining open to opportunities to discover new and exciting ways of doing business, especially around resilience and the ways in which we communicate.

In summary, LAA maintains a solid financial position with strong cash reserves and a low level of current liabilities. This financial position will provide LAA with the ability to navigate the ongoing disruption to business-as-usual operations but, with the increasing likelihood that business will not return to normal anytime soon, impacts on membership numbers and associated levy revenue will present headwinds to operations going forward.

COMMERCIAL PARTNERS

It is important that we recognise our commercial partners and continue to build meaningful value propositions for them. We are grateful to Coles for being a wonderful national naming rights partner to Little Athletics over the last four years. The activations, promotions and contributions continue to make a remarkable difference at the grass roots level, ranging from the millions of bananas provided to our Little Athletes, to the almost 2 million dollars provided to nearly 400 centres across the country for equipment. We are especially grateful to Coles for supporting events like Coles Round, the Coles Little Athletics National Challenge in lieu of ALAC, and the Monthly Coles Community Award program that acknowledged athletes and volunteers that demonstrate the Little Athletics ethos and behaviours. I thank Coles on behalf of everyone in Little Athletics and hope our partnership continues to deliver on expectations.

I also recognise ISC for their fourth year of association with Little Athletics. To Rob Veale and his team at V-Insurance Group, thank you for your support and guidance during this tumultuous period. Thanks also to Amelia Lynch and the team at Lander & Rogers for your counsel, and to Clare Gleghorn and Jonathon Mahon at Bastion for your expert support to our communications.

THANK YOU

It is with immense gratitude that I acknowledge my colleagues on the Board; Jennifer Bryant, Teresa Finlayson, Tracey May, and Colin Segota. I recognise and thank retired directors Simone Pearce, Melanie Woodward, Steve Ryan and Andrew Gosling. With a reduced number of directors on this Board, directors have had to shoulder a greater than normal workload, compounded of course by the OneAthletics body of work.

This Board has been remarkable for the collegial and rigorous way with which it has approached every issue. The Board has worked very hard to balance risk and opportunity in an environment of ongoing uncertainty and volatility. In addition to the monthly and special meetings of the Board, the LAA Directors contribute countless hours to committee duties and engagements. Thank you for the courage you show in leading our sport, and for your ongoing support and friendship.

I thank and acknowledge LAA's recently departed CEO Martin Stillman for his steadfast leadership during the challenges imposed by Coronavirus and for building a high performing team renowned for punching above its weight. I am especially grateful for the partnership we shared since I joined the Board, especially since assuming the role of president in October 2018. Special recognition is owed to Andrew Johnston and Phil Davies for taking on expanded duties since Martin's departure. No challenge has been too great, and both have functioned at levels that continue to defy expectations. Thank you to the LAA staff of Ashlea Watt, Todd Williams, Gavin Macdonald, Laura McGrane, Sara Agnew and Glenn Dennis for their professionalism and commitment. Not only have you continued to work diligently in delivering on your business-as-usual obligations, but you have been instrumental in bringing unification closer to reality by your close collaboration with your counterparts at Athletics Australia. Thank you also to Dennis Clark, Independent Chair of the Audit, Finance, and Risk Committee, for your ongoing counsel and support.

It was with a sense of sadness and pride that we accepted Ashlea Watt's resignation in July. Ashlea, who farewelled the Little Athletics family after 12 years of service, is universally loved and departs with our very best wishes, having been provided an opportunity to pursue her dream of a career in the marketing industry.

It is important that I acknowledge the tremendous impact of OneAthletics chief executive Kate Palmer. Kate's sports governance expertise and energy have been matched by a commitment to engage all of our stakeholders in pursuit of the best possible future for our sport. She has been a tremendous support to the LAA Board and staff, and to me personally.

I want to thank the state and territory Presidents, their CEOs and hard-working staff and volunteers, for all that you do in delivering services and support to our thousands of members across the country, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic, and what has arguably been the greatest ever challenge to face our sport. The sport will be ready for the recovery because of your efforts in enabling your centres to deliver participation and competition opportunities to kids all over Australia. You have, quite simply, kept the sport afloat, and we are indebted to you! You have personified our values, and demonstrated the power of the Little Athletics movement.

It's important too that I recognise and thank the President of Athletics Australia Mark Arbib, his Board and the staff of Athletics Australia for their partnership and commitment to our shared objectives for the sport. I thank them for their friendship and support.

And last but by no means least, a big thank you to all the volunteers that make up our Centre committees and give of their time week in and week out so our children can enjoy all that Little Athletics has to offer, despite the challenges you have faced in the past 18 months. With your support, I am confident that the future of Little Athletics is in good hands.

CONCLUSION

Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, I remain confident that Little Athletics has the right team in place, backed by the resources and relationships, to move to the next phase in our development. We will soon emerge out the other side of the pandemic, and we will be better equipped than ever to embrace the opportunities of the future.

I believe that we are ready to play our part in a new, unified National Sporting Organisation, and embrace all the opportunities before us.

As I reflect on my time on the LAA Board, I am flooded with gratitude at having been afforded the privilege to serve the Little Athletics movement. We are only ever custodians of this amazing organisation, and I am comforted at handing stewardship to such a committed and talented Board. They will serve with aplomb.

I depart with the fondest of memories and friendships that will endure. Thank you to all that I've worked with, and that have supported me along the way. I wish you all, the very best.

Andrew Pryor

President
Coles Little Athletics Australia

GENERAL MANAGER – OPERATIONS

It's been another busy and at times challenging year for Coles Little Athletics Australia (LAA) and our Member Associations (MAs). The 2020-2021 season was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but the resilience and work ethic of everyone in our sport to have the season a successful one was amazing.

Unfortunately, a number of significant events were cancelled throughout the year, including the Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships scheduled for April in Melbourne along with a number of state and territory championships and winter cross-country events.

Even though ALAC was cancelled a majority of the States and Territories decided to name and recognise their amazing athletes that would have competed in Melbourne. It was great of those states and territories that took this opportunity to celebrate this achievement by their athletes.

Whilst Coronavirus has had an impact on a number of areas of our business over the past eighteen months, there have been numerous achievements, including but not limited to those outlined in my report.

HALL OF FAME

Coles LAA coordinated a very successful Hall of Fame (HOF) virtual event which was a major change but the event continues to evolve in prominence and stature. It was still great to see the messages and excitement of the recipients. For the record, I would like to extend congratulations to the following inductees into the 2020 Roll of Excellence:

- Sportsperson: Chloe Esposito (NSW); Sarah Forbes (WA)
- Volunteers: Gwen Timmis (Vic); Robyn McAlister (Qld)
- Achievers: Amy PejkoVIC (NSW)

Congratulations also to official of the year Paul Lever from Western Australia.

UNDER 15 CAMP

The National U15 camp was unfortunately cancelled in 2020. However, a number of online presentations were conducted that saw a significant number of athletes participate remotely.

LAA continues to track the progress of former camp participants, many who have gone on to represent Australia at the Tokyo Olympic Games as well as Commonwealth Games, World Championships, and other international events.

INCLUSION

Little Athletics Australia was granted \$900,00.00 in funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) as part of the Information, Linkages & Capacity Building (ILC) program. The ILC provides funding to organisations to deliver projects in the community that benefit all Australians with disability, their carers and families. Projects aim to build the knowledge, skills and confidence of people with disability, and improve their access to community and mainstream services.

Little Athletics Australia's application was awarded funding over a 3-year period for a True Inclusion Program which would deliver an Australia wide Athletics Inclusion Program to enable children and families with additional needs to benefit from increased opportunities for meaningful inclusion in existing community-based Little Athletics Australia (LAA) clubs.

We all look forward to this project delivering an even greater experience for children with a disability in our sport.

ONEATHLETICS

The LAA Representatives of the Governance Committee have worked extremely hard over the past eighteen months. Under the leadership of Andrew Pryor (Chairman) I would like to extend thanks to Directors Colin Segota and Teresa Finlayson for the time you have dedicated to OneAthletics and the potential merger with Athletics Australia.

Also, the work that Kate Palmer and Gavin MacDonald has been exceptional and I thank them for this and their support.

LAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The LAA Board of Directors experienced some changes to the personal on the Board this year. Andrew Gosling, Simone Pearce, Steve Ryan, and Melanie Woodward made the decision to not continue on the Board in 2020-2021 and we thank them for their contribution to Little Athletics over a number of years. To the remaining Board members, Jennifer Bryant, Teresa Finlayson, Colin Segota and Tracey May, thank you for your ongoing direction and leadership of the sport. In particular, I would like to thank Andrew Pryor for his leadership and guidance during the year.

LAA STAFF

It was with great sadness that Little Athletics said goodbye to our CEO of nearly 8 years Martin Stillman and I wanted to congratulate his achievements over the years. His commitment to Member Associations and wanting the best for little athletics can't be questioned. I thank him for his support and guidance and wish him all the best.

I would also like to convey my thanks to the small but dedicated LAA Staff of Phillip Davies, Ashlea Watt, Gavin Macdonald, Laura McGrane, Sara Agnew, Glenn Dennis

and Todd Williams. Thank you for your hard work and support throughout the year.

LAA also saw Ashlea Watt move on from little athletics after 12 years and we wish her all the very best in her change of direction.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

To the Member Association CEOs and staff, your hard work and commitment is well recognised. Little Athletics is indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful people involved in the sport. I would also like to convey my thanks to the State Presidents for all your support during the year.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The National Technical Committee (NTC) continues to do exemplary work in tailoring the rules of athletics to ensure age appropriateness for little athletes in difficult time when we are looking at the merger. Over the past 12 months, the NTC continued reviewing how the modified rules and processes for Little Athletics will be presented in the future, for all levels of competition including regulations for multi-class athletes. Thanks are extended to Todd Williams and all representatives of the NTC for your tireless work. It is envisaged that the NTC will be very busy over the coming twelve months, with our renewed focus to make athletics accessible to more children across the county, and consistent with our expanded cooperation with partners such as Athletics Australia.

PARTNERS

Thanks are extended to our loyal partners beginning with our naming rights partner Coles. I would particularly like to thank Patrick Hassett and Kemi Lai. Your support of LAA over the past four years has been nothing short of astonishing. The activations, engagement and promotion of Little Athletics, including the state and territory associations, has been enormous. The support to the grass roots centres and clubs has been amazing and they are very appreciative.

Having Coles commit for the 2021-2022 is such a great endorsement for the sport and the hard work of the all involved.

LAA also thanks ISC for their association with LAA. ISC has been associated with LAA for five years now and they are greatly appreciated

LAA has been fortunate to had a long-lasting relationship with the V-Insurance Group and thanks is extended to Rob Veale, Jessica Girling and Shauna Hewitt. Your guidance and support in this area of our business was greatly appreciated.

To Amelia Lynch at Lander & Rogers, your support and guidance was again appreciated during the year.

VOLUNTEERS

Finally, to the thousands of volunteers, parents, carers, officials and coaches that contribute to the sport each week, 'thank you!' Little Athletics wouldn't be able to operate without your passion and commitment.

THE YEAR AHEAD

There is no doubt that the next 12 months will present many new challenges for Little Athletics, especially as we continue to work our way through the impacts of COVID-19 and the potential merger with Athletics Australia. It will be imperative that we embrace change and the opportunities to enhance the sport and grow our membership. Little Athletics continues to occupy a very special place in the hearts and minds of Australian families, and we have an obligation to make it more accessible than ever. But one thing is certain: with the dedication and commitment of the member associations in partnership with Coles Little Athletics Australia, the future of the sport is in very good hands.

Andrew Johnston

General Manager – Operations
Coles Little Athletics Australia

Directors' Report

The Directors of Little Athletics Australia Limited ("LAA") present their report together with the combined financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the Independent Audit Report thereon.

Director Details

The following persons held office during the year ended 30 June 2021:

Mr Andrew Pryor

Chairperson / Company Secretary

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Biography:

Andrew is the Director of Business Development for Northrop Grumman Australia. Andrew has over 25 years' experience in business development, strategy, program management, and aerospace engineering. Andrew is also a qualified Track & Field official, has been a director of LAA since 2015 and was formerly the President of Little Athletics ACT.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering, member of Institution of Engineers Australia, and a Graduate of the AICD Company Directors' Course.

Special Responsibilities:

Chairperson & Company Secretary, member of Audit & Risk Committee

Ms Simone Pearce

Appointed Director / Company Secretary

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Resigned:

19 January 2021

Biography:

Simone is a lecturer in Law at USC. Prior to starting with the University 5 years ago, Simone worked for 20 years as a lawyer in a prominent local legal firm, 15 of those years as a partner. Simone researches in the areas of discrimination, children, disability and women relating to sport, and has expertise and interest in areas of governance. Simone has extensive experience in Board governance, including as Company Secretary, for various not for profit and sporting organisations.

Qualifications:

Masters of Law, currently undertaking a PhD

Special Responsibilities:

Company Secretary

Ms Melanie Woodward

Appointed Director

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Resigned:

31 January 2021

Biography:

In her executive role, Melanie is the Chief Financial Officer for Orange Sky Australia. Prior to this Melanie held roles as the Chief Financial Officer for COSOL Australia and prior to that Director Operations for a funds' management business. Melanie is an experienced Director, CFO and enterprise risk management specialist with over 25 years' professional experience. Melanie is currently the Deputy Chair of QLeave and the Chair of their Audit and Risk Committee. Melanie has been a director on the LAA board since 2016.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Business (Acct), FCPA, FGIA, GAICD

Special Responsibilities:

Member of Audit and Risk Committee

Ms Jennifer Bryant

Elected Director

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Biography:

Jennifer is a public servant with over 25 years' experience in public and private hospitals. She holds qualifications in nursing, education and contract management. Jennifer is passionate about children's sport and the health benefits of life long exercise. Jennifer has held a directorship on the ACT Little Athletics Board and National Health Coop. Jennifer has been on the board of LAA since October 2018.

Qualifications:

Director – MN (Clinical Ed), BN, Grad DipEd, Dip Contract Management

Ms Teresa Finlayson

Elected Director

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Biography:

Teresa is the Deputy Chief Information Officer at Monash University with oversight of a large division that delivers strategic projects across the institution. She is an experienced change management practitioner with over 14 years' experience in advising, executing and managing the alignment of strategic goals to the culture and values. Teresa has been on the board of LAA since October 2018.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Applied Computing

Mr Andrew Gosling

Elected Director

Appointed:

27 April 2019

Resigned:

14 December 2020

Biography:

Andrew has been a member of the South Australian Police Force since 1986. He has diverse experience ranging from operational police work, family violence investigations, drug action teams, community policing and crime prevention. Andrew currently works in Prosecutions in the field of Juvenile Justice. Andrew has been a director of LAA since April 2016 and has also served on the board of Little Athletics South Australia.

Qualifications:

Advanced Diploma in Policing, Certificate IV in Child Abuse Investigation

Ms Tracey May

Elected Director

Appointed:

28 October 2020

Biography:

Tracey is the Director of Workplace Relations and Business Partnering at the Country Fire Authority (CFA) with responsibility for a team of human resources specialists and consultants who provide a range of services to CFA employees and volunteers. Her experience spans areas such as organisational and cultural transformation, change management, executive coaching, learning and development, strategic planning, employee relations and HR consulting. Tracey has been on the LAA Board since October 2020.

Qualifications:

Graduate Diploma Human Resources

Mr Steve Ryan Elected Director

Appointed: 27 April 2019
 Resigned: 28 October 2020
 Biography: Steve has been an active member of Little Athletics for over 20 years. During that time he has served in executive positions at his local Centre (now a life member of Werribee Little Athletics Centre), within Western Metropolitan Region, a Board member and State President of Little Athletics Victoria and now an appointed Board member for Little Athletics Australia. His community involvement extends well beyond Little Athletics, having been an active and now life member of Apex Australia for 25 years. Steve is currently a director and co-owner of ShutterTech Australia, a wholesale manufacturer of residential and commercial roller shutters situated in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Mr Colin Segota Elected Director

Appointed: 27 April 2019
 Biography: Colin is business & project management professional with over 30 years' experience in a number of industries including Food & Beverage, Banking & Finance, Telecommunications, Water & Travel. Colin has been actively involved in all levels of Little Athletics and has held Centre & Region President roles. Colin has been a director of LAA since October 2018 and has also served on the board of Little Athletics Victoria as President. Colin is passionate about sport and the benefits that sport can deliver to children and adults alike.
 Qualifications: Masters Business Management (MBM), Diploma in Project Management, Certified Scrum Master – Agile Project Management, PRINCE2 – Foundation & Practitioner
 Special Responsibilities: Member of the Audit and Risk Committee

Principal Activities

The principal activities of LAA during the course of the financial year were:

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

Short-term Objectives

LAA's short-term objectives are:

- To promote financial viability and sustainability in response to the ongoing uncertainty caused by the COVID pandemic
- To mature the national policy and procedural framework
- To build relationships and implement effective communication with key stakeholders, especially Member Associations, sponsors and commercial partners, and Athletics Australia

Long-term Objectives

LAA's long-term objectives are:

- To pursue unification with Athletics Australia to create a new National Sporting Organisation with a clear and logical pathway for athletes, coaches, and officials throughout their life in the sport
- To develop a new and innovative product and flexible delivery models to increase recruitment and retention

- To promote LAA as the principle and preferred deliverer of athletics to children across Australia
- To deliver a digital experience that engages, grows and informs the entire little athletics community

Directors' Meetings

During the financial year, 18 meetings of Directors and 3 meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee were held. Attendance by each director is listed in the table below.

| Director | Board Meetings | | Audit and Risk Committee Meetings | |
|--|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | Held | Attended | Held | Attended |
| Jennifer Bryant | 18 | 18 | - | - |
| Teresa Finlayson | 18 | 18 | - | - |
| Andrew Gosling | 12 | 8 | - | - |
| Tracey May | 9 | 9 | - | - |
| Simone Pearce | 12 | 11 | - | - |
| Andrew Pryor | 18 | 18 | - | - |
| Steve Ryan | 9 | 1 | - | - |
| Colin Segota | 18 | 17 | 3 | 3 |
| Melanie Woodward | 13 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| Dennis Clark (Independent Member Audit & Risk Committee & Chairman) | - | - | 3 | 3 |

Contribution in winding up

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a Company Limited by Guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member state is required to contribute a maximum of \$1.00 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2021, the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the Company wound up is \$7.00.

Rounding of amounts

LAA is a type of Company referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191* and therefore the amounts contained in this report and in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

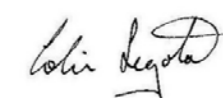
Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s.307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is included in page 6 of this financial report and forms part of this Director's Report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Andrew Pryor
Chairperson



Colin Segota
Director

Dated this 28th day of September 2021

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 to the Directors of Little Athletics Australia Limited

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd
Melbourne



Geoff S. Parker
Director

Dated this 28th day of September 2021

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2021

| | Note | Year ended 30 June 2021 | Year ended 30 June 2020 |
|--|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue and Other Income | 4 | 2,848,329 | 2,762,989 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | - | (5,227) |
| Gross Profit | | 2,848,329 | 2,757,762 |
| Staffing expenses | | 569,442 | 494,435 |
| Office expenses | | 73,128 | 79,478 |
| Meeting related expenses | | 72,392 | 118,964 |
| Competition and membership expenses | | 312,239 | 224,775 |
| Management expenses | | 834,477 | 648,073 |
| Administration expenses | | 980,753 | 825,859 |
| Total expenditure | | 2,842,431 | 2,391,584 |
| Loss on disposal of assets | | - | - |
| Surplus before Income Tax | | 5,898 | 366,178 |
| Income tax expense | 1(d) | - | - |
| Surplus for the Year | | 5,898 | 366,178 |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the company | | 5,898 | 366,178 |

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

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2021

| | Note | 2021 \$ | 2020 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5 | 2,813,000 | 2,859,482 |
| Trade and other receivables | 6 | 8,946 | 355,888 |
| Inventories | 8 | 568 | 568 |
| Other assets | 11 | 59,993 | 233,915 |
| Total Current Assets | | 2,882,507 | 3,449,853 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 9 | 43,145 | 57,871 |
| Intangible assets | 10 | 5,924 | 7,898 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 49,069 | 65,769 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 2,931,576 | 3,515,622 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 12 | 188,366 | 84,892 |
| Provisions | 13 | 64,057 | 187,011 |
| Other liabilities | 14 | 821,855 | 1,375,621 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 1,074,278 | 1,647,524 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provisions | 13 | 18,115 | 34,813 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 18,115 | 34,813 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 1,092,393 | 1,682,337 |
| NET ASSETS | | 1,839,183 | 1,833,285 |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Retained earnings | | 1,833,285 | 1,467,107 |
| Net income | | 5,898 | 366,178 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 1,839,183 | 1,833,285 |

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2021

| | Retained Earnings \$ | Total Equity \$ |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2021 | | |
| Balance at 1 July 2020 | 1,833,285 | 1,833,285 |
| Comprehensive Income | | |
| Profit for the year attributable to members of the Company | 5,898 | 5,898 |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the company for the year | 5,898 | 5,898 |
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | 1,839,183 | 1,839,183 |
| 2020 | | |
| Balance at 1 July 2019 | 1,467,107 | 1,467,107 |
| Comprehensive Income | | |
| Profit for the year attributable to members of the Company | 366,178 | 366,178 |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the company for the year | 366,178 | 366,178 |
| Balance at 30 June 2020 | 1,833,285 | 1,833,285 |

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2021

| | Note | 2021 \$ | 2020 \$ |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Cash receipts from customers | | 1,834,743 | 1,520,948 |
| Cash payments to suppliers and employees | | (2,923,877) | (2,373,758) |
| Interest received | | 4,885 | 28,485 |
| Sponsorship monies received | | 1,018,406 | 1,495,449 |
| Grant funding received | | 261,224 | 533,672 |
| Net goods and services tax received | | (241,863) | (123,502) |
| Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities | 16 | (46,482) | 1,081,294 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payments for tangible assets | | - | (9,906) |
| Net cash (used in) investing activities | | - | (9,906) |
| Net (decrease) / increase in cash held | | (46,482) | 1,071,389 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year | | 2,859,482 | 1,788,093 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | 5 | 2,813,000 | 2,859,482 |

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2021

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The combined general-purpose financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*, Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. A statement of compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) cannot be made due to the Company applying not-for-profit specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards.

LAA is a Public Company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The address of its registered office and its principal place of business is Ground Floor, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park VIC 3206

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 28th September 2021.

(a) Basis of preparation

Historical cost convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

(b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised when control of the goods or services are transferred to the customer and any obligations associated with those goods or services has been satisfied. Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration that LAA is entitled to in exchange for those goods and services.

Levies and related contributions revenue are recognised in the period in which the service is provided.

Sponsorship revenue is recognised evenly over the term of the sponsorship agreement.

Revenue from organising and hosting events is recognised in the period in which the events are held.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

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

(c) Contributions, Government Grants and Donations

A non-reciprocal contribution or grant is recognised when the entity obtains control of the contribution or grant and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company, and the amount of the contribution or grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions attached to the contribution or grant that must be satisfied before the company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of contribution or grant as income is deferred until those conditions are met.

A non-reciprocal donation is recognised when the right to receive a donation has been established. When the entity receives grants but is obliged to give directly approximately equal value to the contributor, recognition of grant income will be deferred until the delivery of service.

(d) Income Tax

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

(e) Inventories

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(f) Financial Instruments

Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument, and are measured initially at fair value adjusted by transaction costs, except for those carried at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities are described below.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets

Except for those trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component and are measured at the transaction price, all financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable).

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets other than those designated and effective as hedging instruments are classified into the following categories upon initial recognition:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
- Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit or loss are presented within finance costs, finance income or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables which is presented within other expenses.

Classifications are determined by both:

- The entities business model for managing the financial asset
- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit and loss are presented within finance costs, finance income or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables which is presented within other expenses.

Subsequent measurement financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVPL):

- They are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect is contractual cash flows
- The contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The company's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Impairment of Financial assets

AASB 9's impairment requirements use more forward-looking information to recognised expected credit losses – the 'expected credit losses (ECL) model'. Instruments within the scope of the requirements include loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables and loan commitments and some financial guarantee contracts (for the issuer) that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

LAA considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between:

- Financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk ('Stage 1') and
- Financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition whose credit risk is not low ('Stage 2').

'Stage 3' would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date.

'12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category while 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second category.

Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

Trade and other receivables

LAA make use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and receivables and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. In using this practical expedient, LAA uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses using a provision matrix.

LAA assess impairment of trade receivables on a collective basis as they possess credit risk characteristics based on the days past due. LAA allows 1% for amounts that are 30 to 60 days past due, 1.5% for amounts that are between 60 and 90 days past due and writes off fully any amounts that are more than 90 days past due.

Classification and measurement of financial liabilities

LAA's financial liabilities include borrowing and trade and other payables.

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs unless it designated a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss.

Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for derivatives and financial liabilities designated at FVPL, which are carried subsequently at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss (other than derivative financial instruments that are designated and effective as hedging instruments).

All interest-related charges, if any, and, if applicable, changes in an instrument's fair value that are reporting in profit or loss are included within finance costs or finance income.

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(h) Impairment of assets

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136. Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired.

An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

(i) Employment benefits

Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

Contributions made by the company to Superannuation funds are charged as expenses when incurred.

(j) Leases

LAA in its capacity as lessee has one arrangement in place for lease of office space. Under current terms of the arrangement LAA continues to lease the property on a month-by-month basis, subject to annual increases in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Payments associated with the lease arrangement have been recognised as a short-term lease within the financial statements on the basis that:

- the lease arrangement has no fixed, non-cancellable term remaining and
- LAA has the right to terminate the lease at any time without penalty.

Short term rent payments of \$24,046 for the current financial year have been disclosed as part of office expenses within the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

(k) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

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

(l) Comparative figures

The current year financial statements cover the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The comparative financial statements cover the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Certain accounting estimates include assumptions concerning the future, which, by definition, will seldom represent actual results. Estimates and assumptions based on future events have a significant inherent risk, and where future events are not as anticipated there could be a material impact on the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities discussed below.

(a) Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

3. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT OPERATIVE AT 30 JUNE 2021

There is not expected to be any significant impact on the Company's financial report as the initial application of Australian Accounting Standards issued at reporting date but not yet effective.

4. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Affiliation fees | 70 | 60 |
| Administration Levy | 714,077 | 932,030 |
| Donations | - | 5,000 |
| Merchandise | 6,750 | 7,800 |
| Sponsorship | 1,228,689 | 1,056,174 |
| Insurance reimbursements | 381,594 | 470,647 |
| Grant Funding | 401,824 | 133,028 |
| Interest income | 4,820 | 28,485 |
| Other income | 110,505 | 129,766 |
| | 2,848,329 | 2,762,989 |

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Cash at bank | 2,207,459 | 2,254,500 |
| Short term deposits | 605,541 | 604,982 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents as stated in the statement of financial position | 2,813,000 | 2,859,482 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents as stated in the statement of cash flows | 2,813,000 | 2,859,482 |

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Trade receivables | 8,946 | 355,888 |
| | 8,946 | 355,888 |

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

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

7. FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a. Categories of financial assets and liabilities

Note 1(f) provides a description of each category of financial assets and financial liabilities and the related accounting policies. The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in each category are as follows:

| | 2021 | Note | Amortised Cost \$ | Total \$ |
|--|------|------|----------------------|------------------|
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5 | | 2,813,000 | 2,813,000 |
| Trades and receivables | 6 | | 8,946 | 8,946 |
| Total Financial Assets at 30 June 2021 | | | 2,821,946 | 2,821,946 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 12 | | 188,366 | 188,366 |
| Total Financial Liabilities at 30 June 2021 | | | 188,366 | 188,366 |
| 2020 | | | | |
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | | 2,859,482 | 2,859,482 |
| Trades and receivables | | | 355,888 | 355,888 |
| Total Financial Assets at 30 June 2020 | | | 3,215,370 | 3,215,370 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | | | 84,892 | 84,892 |
| Total Financial Liabilities at 30 June 2020 | | | 84,892 | 84,892 |

8. INVENTORIES

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| At cost: | | |
| Inventory | 568 | 568 |
| | 568 | 568 |

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Equipment – at cost | 132,854 | 132,854 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (101,065) | (89,636) |
| | <u>31,789</u> | <u>43,218</u> |
| Motor Vehicle – at cost | 40,618 | 40,618 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (29,262) | (25,965) |
| | <u>11,356</u> | <u>14,653</u> |
| | <u>43,145</u> | <u>57,871</u> |

10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Intellectual Property – at cost | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Accumulated amortisation | (14,076) | (12,102) |
| | <u>5,924</u> | <u>7,898</u> |

| | Intellectual Property | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 2021 | | |
| Balance at 1 July 2020 | 7,898 | 7,898 |
| Additions | - | - |
| Amortisation charge | (1,974) | (1,974) |
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | <u>5,924</u> | <u>5,924</u> |
| 2020 | | |
| Balance at 1 July 2019 | 10,528 | 10,528 |
| Additions | - | - |
| Amortisation charge | (2,630) | (2,630) |
| Balance at 30 June 2020 | <u>7,898</u> | <u>7,898</u> |

11. OTHER ASSETS

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Prepayments | 53,281 | 183,465 |
| Accrued income | 6,711 | 50,450 |
| | <u>59,992</u> | <u>233,915</u> |

12. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Trade payables | 79,657 | 30,324 |
| Other creditors and accruals | 108,709 | 54,568 |
| | <u>188,366</u> | <u>84,892</u> |

All above liabilities are short-term. The carrying values are considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value.

13. PROVISIONS AND EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| Provision for employee benefits: annual leave | 64,057 | 52,274 |
| Provision for equipment insurance | - | 134,737 |
| | <u>64,057</u> | <u>187,011</u> |
| Non-Current | | |
| Provision for employee benefits: long service leave | 18,115 | 34,813 |
| | <u>18,115</u> | <u>34,813</u> |

| Analysis of total provisions | Employee Benefits | Equipment Insurance | Total |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 2021 | | | |
| Opening balance at 1 July 2020 | 87,087 | 134,737 | 221,824 |
| Additional provisions raised during the year | 63,275 | - | 63,275 |
| Amounts used | (68,190) | (134,737) | (202,927) |
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | <u>82,172</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>82,172</u> |
| 2020 | | | |
| Opening balance at 1 July 2019 | 51,217 | 13,400 | 64,617 |
| Additional provisions raised during the year | 57,639 | 134,737 | 192,376 |
| Amounts used | (21,769) | (13,400) | (35,169) |
| Balance at 30 June 2020 | <u>87,087</u> | <u>134,737</u> | <u>221,824</u> |

14. OTHER LIABILITIES

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current | | |
| PAYG Withholding Payable | 12,660 | 49,780 |
| Novated Lease | 1,104 | - |
| Superannuation Payable | - | 14,219 |
| GST Payable | (30,945) | 121,703 |
| ASC Funding for OneAthletics | 100,000 | 166,972 |
| ECP Program Grant Funding | 410,044 | 483,672 |
| Unearned Revenue | 328,992 | 539,275 |
| | 821,855 | 1,375,621 |

15. TRANSACTIONS WITH KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the company, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that company is considered key management personnel (KMP). The totals of remuneration paid to KMP of the company during the financial year are as follows:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| KMP Compensation | 440,978 | 214,810 |

16. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with profit for the period | | |
| Profit for the period | 5,898 | 366,178 |
| <i>Non-cash flows in profit:</i> | | |
| - amortisation | 16,700 | 21,128 |
| <i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i> | | |
| - (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables | 390,682 | (365,959) |
| - (increase) / decrease in other assets | 130,184 | (112,889) |
| - (decrease) / increase in trade and other payables | 103,472 | 19,389 |
| - (decrease) / increase in provisions | (139,652) | 157,207 |
| - (decrease) / increase in other liabilities | (553,766) | 996,240 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | (46,482) | 1,081,294 |

17. MEMBER'S GUARANTEE

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member state is required to contribute a maximum of \$1.00 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2021, the number of members was 7.

18. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

Pandemic

LAA notes that due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Australia, a human biosecurity emergency (pandemic) exists.

LAA has continued to enact appropriate elements of its Business Continuity Plan, its Pandemic Plan and its COVID-19 Safety Plan, and continues to follow relevant Commonwealth and State / Territory Government directions.

LAA's risk management framework has continued to operate effectively in the context of this matter.

LAA's Board has reviewed forward cash projections under various conservative scenarios and has concluded that LAA is a going concern.

Merger Proposal

Consistent with the One Sport objective, the Group is involved in ongoing discussions of a proposed unification of Athletics Australia and Little Athletics Australia. If the unification vote is successful, it is anticipated that the assets and liabilities of Athletics Australia and Little Athletics Australia will be transferred to a new entity. It is also anticipated that a new board of five former directors of Athletics Australia and five former directors of Little Athletics Australia will be appointed and/or elected to the Board of the new entity. A Business Case including the strategic rationale for the unification and other matters has been developed for consideration by Member Associations. Further information on this exciting development, including in relation to the proposed timetable and the significant benefits anticipated to accrue for all participants and stakeholders in the sport of athletics in Australia, can be found on the One Athletics website.

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

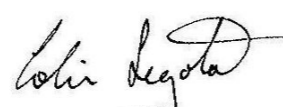
Directors' Declaration

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Little Athletics Australia Limited, the directors of the company declare that:

1. The combined financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 7 to 21, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, and:
 - a. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements;
 - b. Give a true and fair view of the combined financial position of the company as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Andrew Pryor
Chairperson



Colin Segota
Director

Dated this 28th day of September 2021

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of Little Athletics Australia Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Little Athletics Australia Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

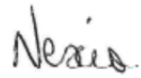
In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.augasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd

Melbourne

Dated this 28th day of September 2021



Geoff S. Parker

Director





MEMBER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

LITTLE ATHLETICS ACT



2020/21 has been a year of contrast for the ACT Little Athletics Association. On the one hand, the year contained many challenges from inclement weather, a recession and a global pandemic. On the other, we implemented exciting changes to events and achieved many wonderful outcomes.

Some of the highlights for the year were:

- A complete restructure of the state level events including:
 - » The first ever U6-U8 Teams Challenge
 - » The inaugural Bill Jacobs Shield
 - » A joint 'State Relay' Championship with AACT and ACTMA
 - » A joint 'Juniors' U14-18 State Championships p- a national first
 - » A fit for purpose U9-U13 Little Athletics State Championship
- Relocation to the joint 'Athletics in the ACT' office at the University of Canberra
- Delivery, for the first time, of a single registration system across members of LAACT and AACT; and
- Most importantly, plenty of wonderful moments on the track.

ONE ATHLETICS PROJECT

A number of important ACT One Athletics outcomes were achieved this year, in particular with respect to aspects of the sport that impact athletes and their parents. This included the single website, joint registration system, the collocated office at UC and the many joint events and even some new events.

Unfortunately, the governance aspects of the project have not progressed as well as hoped. As a result, in November 2020, the LAACT Board demanded that the project be paused, and a thorough review undertaken.

The review was undertaken by a member each from the Boards of LAACT and AACT and found that, while a couple of outputs for the project had been delivered, many had not and were not on track. Eight recommendations to get the project back on track were provided. These were endorsed unanimously by both the LAACT and AACT Boards and are currently being implemented.

PRODUCT DELIVERY

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the year saw numerous success with product delivery. Many have already been mentioned. Two highlights were:

Firstly, our first ever, U6-U8 Teams Challenge, was the culmination of many years work to implement a state level event for one of most important cohorts, the U6 – U8s. Held on a beautiful summer's morning at the Dickson Playing fields, the event was enjoyed by athletes and parents alike and we cannot wait to do it all again next season. Perhaps our only concern is the success of the first year may see overwhelming numbers.

Secondly, in February, we joined with AACT to hold a joint State Championships for the U14-U17 age groups. This event was watched closely by the whole country as it was the first time it had been attempted anywhere in Australia. Significant work was undertaken to enable the event to occur, with many changes required to by-laws and event specifications. The event was an enormous success and has set the standard for other states.

Outside of competitions, we continued to deliver school holiday programs and development squads and clinics including a first ever cross-country clinic. All have continued to prove popular.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

Our single major benefactor is the ACT Government, who has continued to support us through various annual and one-off grants. The government also covered the redevelopment costs associated with the shift to a single office at the University of Canberra. This support is very much appreciated and will enable us to continue our work towards a single organisation.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SPONSORS

The national naming rights sponsor, Coles, has continued to be a wonderful partner to Little Athletics across Australia. The bananas have continued to be enjoyed by athletes and a number of our Centres have been successful in the national equipment grants program enabling investment in new equipment and facilities.

We continued our partnerships with Capital Chemist, the Canberra Southern Cross Club and the ACT Government Healthier Choices program.

We have continued to work as one with AACT with respect to new partnerships to gain benefits of a single offering.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for the 2020-21 season totalled 2759. This was slightly down on the previous season.

On a positive note, we welcomed Tiny Tots to our official registration count for the first time. A growing number of Centres have been running Tiny Tots for a couple of years. The popularity of the product had grown to a point where we needed to officially include it.

We also welcomed back to the ACTLAA fold, the Centre based at Batemans Bay, known these days at Euro Coast.

DEVELOPMENT

Despite the lingering effects of Covid-19, on a development front a considerable amount was achieved in the past 12 months. Highlights include:

- LAACT RunACT Cross Country Clinic.
- Coaching Course – ITC, Level 1, Level 2, Level 1 Rec Running, Level 2 Rec Running & Junior Intro Coaching.
- U13, U14 & U15 Development Squad – An initiative of years prior, this season we had to be inventive again, however the athlete's experienced a number of sessions that hopefully fuelled their desire to continue and grow in the sport of athletics.
- Para education initiative – Come & Try Days & education zoom series - an excellent initiative this season and thanks to those who helped support these initiatives, the athletes and coaches all had extremely enjoyable experiences.
- Centre visits – our Senior Participation and Development Officer, Matt Wade, attended the majority of centres at least once this season, mainly providing support around coaching and technical guidance.
- Regional South Development Day
- Holiday Skills Clinic – September & January
- Heat policy trial with Dick Telford & UC
- Companion House (Multicultural) Come and Try Days – Another initiative designed to ensure Little Athletics is available and viable to children of all backgrounds.

FINALLY,

The off season will see many changes in the administration of little athletics in the ACT and region.

At the Board level, the retirement of a number of members will see significant change for the 2021/22 season. In the office, a restructure sees our long serving Executive Officer leave and we welcome a new Administration Officer, Bianca Keehn.

The 2020-21 season produced many highlights that will bring a lot of enthusiasm and anticipation for what looks to be an exciting 2021/22 competition year.

David Lemon

President
Little Athletics ACT



LITTLE ATHLETICS NSW



CHAIR

This past year has seen Little Athletics NSW encounter a lot of hurdles, but we were fortunate enough to be able to run the season and make sure our athletes could continue to participate and compete. I have to say I was quite humbled by the way the Centres all stepped up and made it work despite the COVID-19 restrictions and protocols. Once again, they have all displayed a great level of dedication to the sport, and I thank them all for that.

The structure of competitions for the season was a major challenge. We had to develop a progression and qualification system without knowing what the restrictions might look like in the lead up to State Championships in March. We had to explore all options so we were not in the same situation as the year prior, when the Championships were cancelled.

The team at Little Athletics developed new ways to deliver programs including coaching and officials' courses, education programs, engagement with school students and virtual initiatives to keep the Little Athletics community engaged during the difficult lockdown period. Some key activities were put on hold including the roll out of the latest Tiny Tots program and new opportunities emerged such as the Centre Resource Hub on the Little Athletics NSW website.

To have over 28,000 participants at over 170 Centres, a strong calendar of competitions and ongoing engagement with the greater Little Athletics community was a great achievement by everyone involved including volunteers, officials, parents, and staff.

Despite working within a time of uncertainty, the 2020/2021 was a season of celebration being the 50th year of Little Athletics in NSW, and it was a time to reflect on what has been achieved over the years.

MEMBERSHIP

COVID-19 had a significant impact on registrations and Centre affiliations in the 2020/2021 season. While some families weren't confident to have their children return to sport at the beginning of the season, many medium-large Centres needed to cap the number of registrations they could accept to keep within the 500 people limits at any one time.

Registrations for the 2020/2021 season saw a decline of 6,679 members from 34,954 the previous year to 28,275 (-21%). In total, 170 Centres affiliated, down 17 on last year. The \$100 Active Kids vouchers continued however to be a positive initiative by the NSW State Government, with 18,437 processed equating to a take up by 65% of participants.

CENTRE SUPPORT

Centre support became a priority for LANSW in the lead-up and during the 2020/2021 season, given the challenges members faced. These challenges ranged from shared facilities with other sports still using the grounds, the constant review of COVID hot-spots and implementing COVID Safe Plans and practices. Education was provided on how to use the EVA QR Codes and the importance of 'checking-in' and retrieving check-in information. There were additional requirements from various local Councils which Centres needed to fulfill to allow them the opportunity to get back to on the track.

Further initiatives undertaken included: Zoom information sessions which provided COVID updates, wellbeing calls with all Centres while staff worked remotely, Centres visit from a staff or Board member throughout the season, creation of a COVID Safe Plan template, Back on Track guidelines, COVID resources and EVA Check-in accounts (QR codes), distribution of sanitiser (10L) and COVID safe posters to all Centres before the season's commencement, new COVID after-hours phone number available for Centres to use in case of an emergency, and the creation of the Resource Hub on the Little Athletics NSW website.

MARKETING

With the uncertainty of the season commencing, commitment to a marketing strategy became challenging, shifting the focus to social/digital executions which allowed greater flexibility.

The season saw strong growth in followers and engagement in Facebook and Instagram as the main platforms to engage the current and potential Little Athletics audiences.

A partnership with Shunt Media continued, providing insights as to what works best for individual Centres through to the State and National bodies with KPI's set for the year.

Little Athletics NSW social media continued to grow with Facebook increasing 12.7% in audience and Instagram 21.4%.

The Centre Resource Hub was launched at the beginning of the 2020/2021 season on the Little Athletics NSW website. The Resource Hub provides information and resources relevant to Centre administrators. This will continue to grow with resources for members of the Centre committees and volunteers, while work will be completed on the main website to be more relevant to new and existing parents, coaches and officials looking for information.

COACH OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

As a result of COVID, the delivery of coach, official and volunteer training and development took on new formats in 2020/2021. For much of the year, face-to-face opportunities were unable to take place and there was a significant move to virtual and online training. A positive of this was the key learning that virtual opportunities are a viable platform for education, and while it can't solely replace practical in-person sessions it does allow for further reach on many occasions and will play a role in training and development moving forward.

Attract, Train, Support and Retain, as the four pillars of coach, official and volunteer development, continued to be the focus.

COMPETITIONS

The 2020/2021 season saw a very different-looking competition schedule due to COVID. As a result, the State Road Walks (July 2020), State Cross Country (July 2020) and the State Relays (November 2020) were cancelled along with the Zone Championships. Many of the other events had a change in format to ensure they could be held in a COVID-safe environment within the restrictions under the Public Health Order.

Entries to the Kumon State Combined Carnival hosted at Kerryn McCann Athletics Track on 5-6 March sold out in just over 24 hours. The carnival had over 700 registrations, a capped number due to COVID restrictions, higher than many previous years.

To allow the State Track and Field Championships to comply, the event was split across two weekends.

The Littles (U9's-U12s) State Track and Field Championships were held on 20- 21 March at Sydney Olympic Park in trying weather conditions. A total of 1265 athletes, representing 138 Centres competed across the two days with the assistance of 86 officials and 240 parent/centre helpers.

We returned the following weekend for the Youth (U13's-U17's) State Track and Field Championships at Sydney Olympic Park on the 27-28 March. 1416 athletes, along with those who had returned to compete in events postponed from the previous weekend, competed over the two days representing 140 Centres.

Despite the cancellation of the Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships in Melbourne for the second year in a row, a team was selected following the State Championships to form the NSW State Team for 2020/2021, and for the first time multi-class athletes were included. The team attended a one day camp and were presented with their uniforms by Olympian Brandon Starc.

THANK YOU!

There are many people to thank each year, however even more so in this difficult year.

We are very grateful for all our commercial support. It is the 19th season partnering with our Major Sponsor, McDonald's and we look forward to celebrating our 20th season together next year.

We welcomed new partners in Kumon Australia and New Zealand who amongst other benefits are the naming rights partner for the Kumon State Combined Carnival, and RHSports came on board as our official equipment and merchandise partner.

Coles continued their support as a National Partner providing grants to 49 Centres across the state valued at over \$500,000.

Thank you also to Sports TG, Sport NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, and our charity partner Ronald McDonald House Greater Sydney.

We must acknowledge the NSW Office of Sport for their ongoing support of Little Athletics, our Centres and everyone within in the sporting industry. Their support went well beyond the financial contribution such as providing guidance and recommendations in the ever-changing environment in which we operated across the year.

And finally, thank you to all the LANSW staff, all our officials, all the many volunteers, coaches, parents, and most importantly the athletes. It was a very different season however in this year, our 50th Year, the resilience of the Little Athletics community in NSW was hugely inspiring.

Melissa Chandler

Chair
Little Athletics NSW





LITTLE ATHLETICS QUEENSLAND

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to present the following report, which highlights Little Athletics Queensland's achievements for the past year.

COVID RECOVERY

COVID-19 had a dramatic affect on all levels of the Association with government-imposed, full cessation of all sporting activity mixed with restricted training and competition through last year and this year. LAQ's Back on Track guidelines provided a blueprint for each stage of the restrictions allowing for the management of play for Little Athletics in Centres. The Winter Centres bore the full brunt of the restrictions last year but were buoyant in their speedy return to all activity and must be congratulated on how well they implemented COVID-safe systems to allow the athletes to return to their sport. Operating under an industry event plans, the Association was able to conduct the Winter Regional Championships, the Spring Carnival and then the Summer Regional and State Relays during the latter part of the year. Thankfully, the Summer Regional Championships, Combined Event Championships and State Championships were all able to be conducted without interruption.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for the season 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 closed at 10,042 athletes. This is a decrease of 1,784 athletes from the previous season.

Due to the pressures of COVID-19, Centres at Dirranbandi and Marlin Coast did not operate last season. Other Centres who did not operate due to difficulties in filling committee positions were Ravenshoe, Texas, Mungindi, Boyne Tannum, Dayboro and Ropehill.

COMPETITIONS

The number of athletes competing at Association competitions last season decreased overall by 615 from the previous year. The report shows a decrease in participation at all Regional competitions across both the Winter and Summer seasons.

The Coles Summer Carnival in November continues to be a successful and popular event, with an increase in participation of 90 athletes. This increase resulted in further review of the program and events offered.

Thankfully, the Association was able to hold its State Championships in March. Athlete numbers were consistent with those that nominated for the cancelled event in 2020.

In all LAQ competitions Multi Class participation continues to grow.

OFFICIALS SEMINARS AND THE AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS OFFICIALS EDUCATION SCHEME

The current number of LAQ Officials is very difficult to calculate as LAQ does not have direct access to the The Australian Athletics Officials Education Scheme (AAOES) database. Based on anecdotal data, the past season has seen the number of new accredited officials in the sport at similar levels to previous seasons. Those already involved continue to advance their qualifications through further education and event experience. There was a total of 49 participants engaged in two metropolitan and one regional workshop.

The LAQ Officials Committee continues to work towards improving the back to basic education opportunities at grassroots level using both face-to-face and online methods. The LAQ membership should see increased delivery of education and accreditation opportunities for all levels during the coming seasons.

COACHING CLINICS

The clinics were both organised and conducted by LAQ with a set format, or a Centre organised coaching clinics where development staff attended. Nine clinics were conducted last season.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS (INCLUDING LITTLE ATHLETICS PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS (LAPS))

LAQ development staff in conjunction with accredited LAQ coaches delivered LAPS school programs throughout Queensland last season. A total of 2350 students participated in the program from 9 schools. Unfortunately, this program was severely hindered by COVID-19 with schools restricting access to outside program providers.

INTRODUCTION TO COACHING COURSES

During the season 92 people participated in one of 12 courses held throughout the State.

FAST PROGRAM

FAST is a fundamental athletics skills training session utilising games and skill development activities to teach the basic, fundamental movement patterns of the events experienced in a Little Athletics competition. FAST is an eight (8) week program of one (1) hour each week that teaches these skills and leads up to a modified "competition" at the end of the period.

LAQ uses this program to gauge interest, mainly of the parents, in communities prior to establishing a Little Athletics Centre.

Last season a FAST program was run in Samford with 14 athletes in attendance.

STATE TEAM

The 2021 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships were cancelled due to COVID-19. LAQ however decided to select a State Team for 2021 and the 2020 event which was also cancelled. The athletes were presented their uniforms at a cocktail function for the athletes and their families. The athletes participated in coaching sessions during the day with State Team coaches.

LAA NATIONAL U15 CAMP

18 athletes were selected to take part in the 2020 Coles Little Athletics Australia National U15 Camp at the AIS in Canberra. Unfortunately, the Camp was cancelled due to COVID-19.

NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENT TOUR

A Team of 31 athletes were selected to take part in the annual Tour in January 2021. Unfortunately, the Tour was cancelled due to COVID-19.

REGIONAL SUPPORT AND LIAISON

Members of the Board and Staff travelled to the majority of Regions throughout the State in conjunction with Regional Championships to discuss local issues and to assist with the running of the competitions.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024

An annual report against LAQ's KPI's was presented at the November Board Meeting. Although COVID affected the majority of areas, some KPI's were still able to be achieved. Having staff use leave during the affected periods and then involved in the return to play was deemed a priority for the season ahead of all other strategic goals.

LITTLE ATHLETICS QUEENSLAND AND QUEENSLAND ATHLETICS

Regular liaison took place between the respective CEO's and operational staff of both organisations. Of particular focus remains the alignment of competition calendars. It was agreed that a national approach is sorely needed so that national competitions can be set well in advance allowing both State organisations to set their calendar as lead in events.

A dual sanctioned competition was conducted at the Spring Carnival in Bundaberg.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

The Annual Conference and AGM was held in June at Hilton Hotel, Surfers Paradise on the 6th and 7th of June. Although limited to 125 attendees due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Conference was a resounding success. All incumbent Directors were re-elected at the AGM.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

The Association's major sponsor, McDonald's, celebrated its 40 years partnership last season elevating it to one of the longest serving and most successful grass roots sponsorships ever in Australian sport. To celebrate this, a commemorative registration patch and age label was displayed on the athlete's uniforms. Athlete and officials travel grants were also awarded at the McDonald's State Championships. The Association thanks McDonald's for their outstanding support over this extended period.

Regional Championships naming rights sponsor, Nordic Sport renewed its sponsorship of LAQ for a further 3 years in the latter half of the season. This will bring the partnership to almost 20 successful years. Thank you to Neal Pitman and the team at Nordic Sport for your generous support of Little Athletics Queensland.

National sponsor, Coles, provided naming rights to all LAQ Carnivals along with bananas and promotional products to the athletes. They also hosted a Coles Community Round

and Athlete of the Month Awards. LAQ also conducted a Coles Little Athletics Promotion on breakfast television show, Sunrise, at the Runaway Bay Little Athletics Centre. Feedback from the promotion was excellent.

Comfort Inn & Suites Robertson Gardens renewed their long standing partnership of Little Athletics Queensland. Our longest serving supporting partner, Comfort Inn & Suites Robertson Gardens has been proud supporter for over 20 years.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Little Athletics Queensland is in the middle of an 18 month extension of the State Government SDP funding program with the anticipated funding renewal due in July 2021. The Department was instrumental in leading all Queensland sports through COVID providing industry plans and funding support to grass roots sports to facilitate the return to play.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Radio advertising was aired in Brisbane on B105, 97.3FM and on the Southern Cross Austereo network in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. Digital roadside billboard advertising was commissioned in high traffic areas in Brisbane during the Summer sign-on campaign on GOA billboards. LAQ also increased its advertised on Facebook for both the Summer and Winter sign-ons in lieu of print advertising which is no longer feasible.

Little Athletics promotions were featured on both Sunrise and the Today Show during the summer sign on period.

BOARD AND STAFFING

Gary Morrisby was re-elected as Finance Director at the AGM. Of the remaining Directors up for election, Tony Frampton and Brad Jones were re-elected to the Board at the Annual General Meeting. Clint Harvey was appointed in November to fill the vacant General Director role.

There were no changes in staff, however, staff assisted during the COVID restrictions by significantly reducing hours and using annual leave during the season.

THANK YOU

Last season unexpectedly brought with it the challenge of COVID-19. Whilst the interruptions significantly impacted our sport, the Little Athletics community showed its fighting spirit by returning to play as soon as possible allowing the athletes to resume some form of normalcy in their chosen sport. Full credit must be given to all Centres for working through this tough period and for ensuring the majority of the athletes were able to complete full seasons. Thank you to Little Athletics Australia for your support in achieving this.

Donna Smith
President
Little Athletics Queensland





LITTLE ATHLETICS SA

Season 2020-21 was the most challenging that our Association has faced. Yet we have come out of it bigger and stronger. We approached the season with great trepidation as we saw winter sports take hit after hit, but this was mixed with cautious hope as restrictions eased and we could capitalise on being the ideal socially distanced sport. This, combined with a very focussed marketing campaign led to an increase in members for the season.

Significant time was put into ensuring that Centres could run their competitions and training in ways that would meet Covid-19 guidelines. We did get interruptions to both state and centre competitions due to lockdowns with the cancellation of Academy over winter, the first PB day of the season and one interclub. Some centres added additional meets to make up for missed competitions, and we even had centres at schools potentially being barred due to guideline interpretations until the SALAA office put a call in to get that changed.

At a national level Covid-19 still resulted in the cancellation of the Australian Little Athletics Championships for the second season in a row. We again recognised the athletes that qualified for the state team and were able to provide them with the opportunity to compete in Darwin.

True to the old saying that necessity is the mother of invention, social distancing and lockdowns led to virtual conferences and club catch-ups that not only provided information that more people could access, but the sessions can be recorded so that they provide resources that can reach an even wider audience at their convenience.

Significant time has been spent on One Athletics at both the national and state level in recent years. The Board felt it was important to re-focus our attention on the delivery of little athletics, not just as a product that feeds to senior sport but as a sport for children and their parents to enjoy, develop and live the motto of family, fun and fitness.

This led to the adoption of a new strategic plan for our Association. The four pillars of this strategy are:

- Leadership in governance, operations, finance and technology of our member clubs and of the sport in this state. As an Association we pride ourselves on looking for barriers to clubs delivering the sport and finding solutions to reduce the administrative load whilst ensuring our clubs are following the best possible practices.
- Participation maximisation in both range and diversity of members and the time they spend in the sport through improved products and delivery.



- People and culture focus particularly on the officials, coaches and other volunteers that are so important to the sport at both club and state level.
- Profile management to ensure there is strong brand recognition and awareness, but also to ensure that we have valuable communication with clubs and members.

These pillars are backed up by a detailed operational plan to meet the objectives of the strategic plan which is reported to the Board each month so that we can track progress. Whilst it is easy to have grand plans of what we would like to do, what we can do must always be balanced with prudent financial management to ensure that we remain cost competitive with other sports that have a larger pool of resources.

There have been several initiatives and achievements out of this process this year. The introduction of Clubs Hub which is designed to replace the conference folder and conference flash drive which restricted the resources at each club to those that had a copy. Clubs Hub contains documents and guidance that is available to all committee members through this on-line resource that can be updated by SALAA when there are changes and can build each year with recordings from conferences and club catch ups as

well as other sources. This will soon be populated with a risk management framework and supporting policies which will protect committee members and enhance Star Club applications.

This season the marketing campaign was social media focussed and the Association provided clubs with marketing material to ensure a consistent brand message whilst allowing club point of difference and easing the load on committees to produce professional material on their own.

As the largest athletics provider in the state and the peak recreational athletics body in South Australia we are able to lead the way with statewide responsibility for funding from ORSR for marketing and communications on behalf of most athletics organisations in the state. We are now nearing completion of a multi year project to provide a platform for all marketing and communication with current and potential members across all the athletics providers. This will allow communication of available events to all members and of the pathway options for participating in athletics with an exciting branding for the sport.

None of this could have happened without the tireless work of our CEO Sue Bowman and the great team of LASA staff. They all show amazing passion for Little Athletics and

deserve a very big thank you for often going above and beyond for our children.

I would like to thank our sponsors SA Power Networks, Adelaide Brighton Cement, Toyota and Coles. Also thank you to our great partners; Blackchrome Sportswear, Boileau IT Solutions, Snap Printing Hilton, Get Snapt Photography, Mountain Shade, Bickfords and IDM Sports. A thank you also goes to our state funding body the Office of Recreation Sport and Racing, CEO Kylie Taylor and the staff have been a wonderful support. Without the contribution made by these organisations, we would not have been able to provide the level of programs, events and support that we did this season.

I would also like to thank the Board members for sharing their time, knowledge and expertise and helping to make sometimes difficult decisions for the future of the sport. The Board members have significant experience at Centre level and as parents of little athletes. There is a spread of essential skill sets including coaching, officiating, event delivery, finance, legal, education, facility management and marketing - all of which have proven invaluable to LASA.

A very big thank you also goes to our state officials that give their time to help run our state events, capably led by

Greg Peterson. Also, a big thank you to the coaches who dedicated their skills to our holiday development clinics.

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

This will be my last annual report as I step down from the presidency. This coming season will be my last year on the Board as I reach the end of my 8 year term, and I felt it was important to spend that year as support for the incoming president. It has been a great journey with some very big challenges and changes. One thing that I always enjoy is the passion that people involved in little athletics have, which makes this a sport for children rather than just an introduction. There are many challenges to come and many improvements that can still be made, but I know that whilst this passion still lives these challenges will be met and the improvements will happen, so I look forward to still being involved in the sport for many years to come.

Steve Camilleri

President
Little Athletics South Australia



LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

It gives me pleasure to present my third report on behalf of Little Athletics Tasmania. Season 20/21 was a successful year for Little Athletics Tasmania despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Whilst the pandemic rages around the world, Australia and in particular Tasmania, has been largely shielded from the virus. LATas and its member Centres did have some additional work to comply with sanitisation and contact tracing requirements, but fortunately we were able to get through our full season of events. Pleasingly, membership numbers have increased by around 3% this season. The flow-on effects of COVID-19 had us budgeting for a decrease in membership. To have an increase in membership is a credit to all involved in promoting our wonderful sport.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

LATas are fortunate to again be a recipient of the Communities Sport and Recreation Major Grants Program. Our key performance indicators and reporting requirements are focussed on participation, inclusion, coach and official development, communication, and marketing. The Tasmanian Government were generous with grants for State Sporting Organisations and Centres to assist with the loss of revenue and costs of compliance due to COVID.

The Tasmanian government Ticket to Play program was well utilised by families during the 2020-2021 season, with 15% of all registrations using the vouchers provided. Following some issues in processing the vouchers during the previous season, Timing Solutions made modifications to our registration system, making the process for claiming vouchers easy for both families and LATas.

EVENTS

With the ALACs cancelled again in 2021, LATas held in its place the Coles State Team Challenge. The Coles State Team Challenge gave members of our 2020 and 2021 State Teams a chance to compete against each other and celebrate together with a dinner after the event. Athletes selected in the State Team were presented with their team t-shirts and a plaque in recognition of their selection. The event was well supported and enjoyed by the athletes, and I thank both LAA and Coles for their support for the event.

Our annual U12/13 Coaching Camp was another success, this year under the guidance of Camp Convenor Matt Dixon. Matt was appointed as Camp Convenor for the first time in 2021



and he delivered a great camp which was widely enjoyed by athletes, coaches, and volunteers.

In 2020-2021 LATas moved to having three non-championship All State meets, with one held at each of our synthetic tracks. Additionally, we held our three Championship events across the three regions and will continue to rotate them going forward. The move was well received by the members, especially those in the North-West who have not been included in the Championship rotation until this past season.

State Championship events were well attended again this past season, with numbers for the Multi Event given a boost following the introduction of a Teams Competition. Field Relays were introduced in the 2019-2020 season, and these were once again popular in 2021, giving athletes who primarily participate in field events an opportunity to compete on relay day. The State Individual Championships in March delivered some outstanding results across all age groups. While there was no ALACs, it was great to see those selected ranked by LAA on State results, with several of our LATas athletes ranking well against athletes from across the country.

INCLUSION

Little Athletics Tasmania welcome the engagement of Glenn Dennis as the Inclusion Project Manager for LAA. While we have been proactive in this space, having support from the national body in conjunction with the introduction of AWD events at the ALACs in 2022, we will hopefully see an increase in participation of athletes with disabilities.

SPONSORSHIP

LATas once again received wonderful support from our sponsors, especially considering the difficult economic climate during COVID. I would like to thank our National sponsor Coles who have continued to provide direct support to Centres through the Coles Community Grant Fund, and of course, with the regular supply of bananas in addition to the support they provide to the National and State organisations. The Coles Athlete of the Month Award has proved popular, and our Coles Round continues to grow with many great photos and videos sent through.

I'd also like to thank our State sponsors, McDonalds, Bendigo Bank and Accolade Awards for their continued and valued support. Lastly, I must also express out sincerest thanks to the Tasmanian Government through Sport & Recreation. Not only were we fortunate to again receive a State Sporting Organisation Grant, but we were also the recipient of support through the Tranche 2 funding to State Sporting bodies. Additionally, many of our Centres were able to receive grants to allow for the purchase of sanitiser and additional equipment to assist with complying with our approved COVID return to play plan

LATAS BOARD/STAFF

In 2020 we farewelled Development Officer Josh Mason. Josh left to pursue a career in another field, but we are pleased that he is not lost to the sport altogether as he has continued coaching. In October we welcomed Zane

Patmore to the role of Development & Competition Officer. Zane has done an excellent job in his short time in the role, delivering our Little Athletics Program for Schools and has been diligently finding opportunities for us to get the Little Athletics brand out to the public. Zane has been learning the Competition role so that there is less reliance on our volunteer Board Members in the future.

In the office, Tracy continues to be of great assistance to the LATas Board and member Centres. She is a 'jack of all trades' and the 'go to' person for most enquiries. She does a wonderful job keeping up with all the changing and challenging requirements of the role.

I must take this opportunity to thank my fellow 20/21 Board members, Ferdie, Kaelene, Paul, Shane and Susan. We had a good mix of opinions and views, and this makes for a healthy Board. This season was our first under the new constitution with Board members taking on portfolios rather than being elected to set positions. This has proven successful due to the willingness of the Board to take on various responsibilities and to also help each other out when required. The contribution of the Board is often behind the scenes and not necessarily obvious to the wider Little Athletics community, but they have all done an incredible job and have contributed greatly to our overall success.

I would also like to extend thanks to my fellow State Presidents and the LAA Board and staff led by Andrew Pryor. It has been a challenging 12 months with the changing requirements of COVID-19, and the ongoing discussions related to the proposed Little Athletics Australia-Athletics Australia merger (One Athletics) and continuing to promote and support Little Athletics nationally. I thank them for their support and guidance.

ATHLETICS TASMANIA

LATas has had several meetings with Athletics Tasmania and their new Board. We continue to seek ways that we can better work together and at the time of writing this report are looking at sharing office space at the Domain. We are working together to deliver the upcoming State Cross Country Championships which will lead to selection of a State Team to head away for the National Titles.

In closing I'd like to thank all Centre Presidents, Committees and volunteers that have assisted in any way during what was a challenging season. Little Athletics only exists and succeeds because of our volunteers. Our sport can only run with the assistance of those willing to give up their time each week and everyone who has contributed in any way is to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts.

I look forward to a successful 2021-2022 season.

Brett Johnstone
President
Little Athletics Tasmania



LITTLE ATHLETICS VICTORIA

Upon reflecting on the 20/21 season, the COVID-19 pandemic was the headline story. Suffice to say, Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic) didn't escape the pandemic's tentacles with almost every aspect of its operations affected in some manner.

PANDEMIC IMPACTS

When re-starting the sport following the extended lockdown during the period September to November 2020, our Centres were confronted with a wall of Government COVID-related red-tape to break through. Collectively and individually, they rose to meet challenge. Our competitive members responded by signing up for the new season in numbers well exceeding membership estimates; financially the Association has finished off 20/21 in strong shape; the office team were able to revert successfully to working from home for months on end. Of course, the pandemic is not over, and we can expect further outbreaks, shutdowns, restrictions, and disruption to navigate in the months ahead.

The sport owes a great debt of gratitude to those volunteers that bore the responsibilities of implementing and maintaining compliance with the COVID protocols. As if our volunteers don't already have enough to do.

PUBLIC EVENT FRAMEWORK

LAVic also found itself to be one of the first Victorian organisations to schedule and conduct events of significant scale (Track & Field season Region Carnivals and State Championships), post lockdown, via the newly devised State Government 'Public Event Framework' ('PEF') process. While the delayed start to the season required a re-think of the Region/State Track & Field calendar from the outset, the unforeseen snap Victorian lockdown of the weekend of 13th & 14th February resulted in an unprecedented re-shuffle of the calendar: specifically, a re-scheduling of Region Track & Field Carnivals, the cancellation of Region Relay Carnivals, and a substantial re-design of the State Relay Championship format. These were difficult decisions to make and considerably upsetting to many athletes and families. LAVic is, in part, in the business of conducting events and these were exercises in pivoting, re-shaping, revising and reinventing Regional Carnivals and State Championships to give our members the best chance of competing. Better to compete in a modified format than to cancel and not compete at all. Absolutely, it was recognised that the revised formats and altered dates placed Centre and Region committees, volunteers, and officials under enormous pressure to deliver the Region & State event calendar, and maintain normal Centre operations. That they did was magnificent.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In emerging from lockdown, it's pleasing to report that LAVic's standing and profile with the Victorian State Government is at an all-time high. Over the past 12 months, LAVic has been the beneficiary of generous State and Federal Government grants amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, inclusive of JobKeeper (Federal), and two rounds of the Sport Survival Package (State). The Government has recognised the value community sport plays in strengthening the fabric of our communities and continues to back Little Athletics Victoria. For this we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Government and the Australian taxpayer.



MULTI-CLASS

Multi-Class continues to expand in both events and participation. We have seen the numbers increase, year on year and this season all Region and State events included Multi-Class athletes in 3 age group types. Multi-Class was included in the Combined Events, and with the Relays, the team composition regulations were changed to include mixed team events. This allows for a greater opportunity of a team being formed regardless of gender, as the converted baseline table provides the final team time.

EVENT ENTRIES

The registration numbers for the events conducted this season, are listed.

- Region Relay Carnivals, after event changes, entries were 925 Teams in the 4x100m.
- Region Track & Field Carnivals, entries were down, 3097 vs 3401 in 2020.
- State Combined Events Championships, capped at 750, entries were 739 plus 18 Multi-Class athletes.
- Stawell Gift, entries down, 151 vs 196 in 2019.
- State Cross-Country Relays, rescheduled, entries up 256 Teams vs 239 in 2019.

MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media continued to be a key part of the communication and engagement strategies employed by LAVic. Growth across all significant social networks continued holding LAVic amongst the most followed athletics organisation in Australia. See the figures in the table below.

| Social Network | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Facebook | 17,961 | 23,710 |
| Instagram | 4,859 | 5,080 |
| LinkedIn | 157 | 207 |
| Twitter | 979 | 1,040 |
| YouTube | 3,360 | 4,390 |

Table 1: Social Network follower stats based on the 31st of May 2021

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ROLE

LAVic established a new role: Development Officer, effective from November 2020. Some of key outcomes from the Development Officer activities conducted over the summer track & field season included conducting 25 Centre visits (19 to regional Centres), many of which had not received a direct visit from an LAVic representative for several years; reports drafted for each visit, including recommendations and follow up activities; a substantial body of advice provided to many Centres; a comprehensive list of recommendations for LAVic for the provision of an improved level of assistance to Centres and Regions.

MEMBERSHIP

- The total number of registered athletes for 20/21 was 14,144, down 11% from 15,896 on the 19/20 season.
- Member retention across the Association was static at 54.22%.
- 27 Centres met or exceeded their membership of the previous season, compared with 31 in 19/20.
- The following Centres have registered growth for the past two or more seasons: Cranbourne (since 17/18), Warragul (15/16), Echuca-Moama (17/18), Kyneton (17/18), Kerang (17/18) and Bacchus Marsh (18/19).
- Gippsland Country Region registered the smallest drop in membership on a percentage basis of all Regions, of -6.10%.
- Six Centres – Mt Beauty, Woodend, Corner Inlet, Edenhope, Bar-Rook, and Beaufort – did not operate or affiliate. Hamilton continued to operate but did not affiliate.

The year-by-year incremental membership decline remains a live and concerning issue at State and national level. Turning around this long-term trend remains one of the key challenges confronting the whole of the sport and one that LAVic is determined to face into.

THANKS:

- Thanks to the hardworking LAVic team – Shane Bertrand, Julie Green, Kim John, Taylah Perry, Lachlan Rayner, Debbie Baskin & Rob Belli. The team pulled some enormous hours, encountered no end of daunting challenges and deep frustrations, faced into too many issues beyond their control, and went the extra mile time & time again to keep Little Athletics rolling.
- Thanks to the LAVic Board, who have not held a face-to-face Board meeting in well over 12 months and have adapted to Zoom life extremely well. At the conclusion of the 2021 AGM, Sherrie Boulter's term comes to an end after 5.5 years of service on the Board and many more years' service with Eastern Metro Region and Box Hill LAC. Sherrie is the Association's first female President and her enormous contribution within that time would compare favourably with anyone's. We thank Sherrie for her professionalism, her humanity, and for paving the way for future female Directors and leaders of our sport. Finally, upon completing her two-year term, Krista Graham will also be departing the Board. A Sandringham LAC parent and former senior athlete, Krista's depth of knowledge and enthusiasm for athletics have been great assets.

Anthony McIntosh

Chief Executive Officer
Little Athletics Victoria



ATHLETICS WEST

It is with great pleasure that we write this report as the first Annual report for the merged entity, Athletics West.

In June 2020, Special General Meetings were held with the respective State athletics bodies; Little Athletics WA, and Athletics WA to vote for a merged entity. This vote was the culmination of on-going communication, education and development with our members, staff, Board, and all Stakeholders. The vote to merge, was the final transition to a fully unified 'One Sport' model, where the Boards of Little Athletics WA and Athletics WA were merged under a single governance structure.

From 01 July 2020, the sport was re-branded as Athletics West. A new brand was developed to encompass the long and proud history of Little Athletics WA and Athletics WA and to continue to inspire new generations of athletes. The colour palette chosen was to honour the heritage of the previous brands and to combine them in a fresh and vibrant way. Our marketing team later developed the #FasterFurtherTogether Campaign to accompany our first season as Athletics West.

The ongoing uncertainty and snap lockdowns from the COVID 19 pandemic continued to impact our sport throughout the year, we want to acknowledge the flexibility of our Members and staff in adapting to ongoing and evolving restrictions, limitations of gatherings, implementation of COVID plans and other associated challenges. It is pleasing to see the Athletics West community come together to provide all our athletes the opportunity to compete at each opportunity. Although events were not held or conducted in the manner we have become used to, we were able to adapt to the conditions and ultimately were thankful for the opportunity to participate.

We wish to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the contributions of State Government for their ongoing support throughout the year; specifically Hon Mick Murray MLA, Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation (till Mar 2021) for his support and wish him well in retirement; Hon Antonio De Paulo Buti MLA, Minister for Finance, Lands, Sports and Recreation, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests (from Mar 2021); and Steve Humfrey, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support from our National sponsor, Coles. Their contribution to the wider community engagement and grant opportunities provided to our Little Athletics Centres. Funding assistance of over \$70,000 has provided 17 Little Athletics Centres across WA the ability to purchase much needed athletics equipment, for which we are grateful. Athletics West is proud to be actively engaged in Community Round events, Community awards and the athlete of the month awards throughout the year.

We would like to make special mention of our major partner Healthway and their Go For 2&5 message. Their ongoing support for the WA community has continued to be invaluable across the whole of sport.

To our key partners and stakeholders including Lotterywest, Keep on Running, WA Olympic Council, and Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, we thank you. We also wish to advise our new commercial partnerships with Kumon and Bibbulmun Fund – we look forward to successfully working with you in the future.



The following is a summary of key activities and outcomes achieved by Athletics West for the preceding 12 months:

- 2020 North West Regional Championships were held in September in Broome. A range of regional engagement activities were conducted in the broader communities around Broome and Derby. These activities were delivered in partnership with Garnduwa, Winunngari Aboriginal Corporation and key stakeholders within the local community. The event is a highlight that continues to provide opportunities for participants in our most remote regions to be involved in events, clinics and workshops.
- Sarah Forbes and Paul Lever were virtually inducted to the Little Athletics Australia Hall of Fame. Sarah was inducted in the Sportsman category having played around 60 games for the Australian Lacrosse Team. Paul was inducted as Official of the Year following his contribution to officiating events in WA and nationally. Congratulations to both Sarah and Paul.
- The WA Little Athletics State Championships saw over 1400 athletes from all WA regions compete where we witnessed acts of sportsmanship and the joy of Personal Bests. We also wish to congratulate the 14 new State Record holders.
- With the cancellation of the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC), Athletics West offered selected athletes the opportunity to participate in a WA Little Athletics Development Camp. The offer was also extended to athletes that missed the representation opportunity the previous year due to the event cancellation. Athletes were provided the opportunity to learn from elite athletes, compete in an exciting team-based athletics competition and participate in both athletics' development and social activities. Thank you to our enthusiastic mentors and team leaders Sasha, Taylah and Etienne.
- The inaugural Athletics West Awards and Recognition event was successfully held in May 2021 providing a whole of sport acknowledgement for athlete, coach, official and volunteer awards.
- Athletics West implemented a one-sport Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC), to provide contextual strategic guidance and local insight to competition related elements of the sport for the whole of sport.
- Athletics West is undertaking the development of a state-wide Facilitates Plan. The plan will review current facilities and a feasibility study, needs assessment and business model for additional facility development in WA will be included.
- Athletics West was successful in receiving a State Government grant to develop and pilot a new innovative web-based platform. The concept background is for Athletics West to develop a new digital platform and web-based app that targets recreational runners and walkers in the state. Local community events will be engaged in the project and will be a mechanism to

capture and codify the recreational running market to classify them as digital members of our sport. We are excited to be partnering with Edith Cowan University and iYarn to develop and pilot the app.

- Athletics West has developed a One Club constitution template to assist our Clubs and Centres to transition to a One Sport pathway, and remove the burden from volunteers as they navigate increasing administrative requirements.
- During the year, Athletics West embarked on a comprehensive Membership Model Review to map our further actions for a whole of sport review. Whilst we have been challenged technically in the achievement of our short-term outcomes, we look forward to exciting developments within our registration and membership models over the next 12-24 months.

Our achievements over the past 12 months would not have been possible without the motivated, dedicated and passionate staff. Capably led by Vince Del Prete, we wish to acknowledge and thank the team of Lorraine, Lyndsay, David, Danny, Heath, Danielle, and Sharon. I also wish to thank and acknowledge the services of our staff who have departed throughout the year to pursue further exciting opportunities within the WA sporting industry. Thank you to Nathan, Emma and Jake - we wish you all well in your future endeavours.

I would like to thank the inaugural Directors of Athletics West for your ongoing support and dedication to the sport: Tim Lyons (Deputy Chair), David Row, Fiona Bow, Dr Rishelle Hume, Lee Hutton, Dr John Forbes, Louise Soia and Ashani Senevirantne.

To the Little Athletics community, athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers, thank you for all that you have contributed to support the sport and to provide the ongoing opportunity for thousands to participate each week. There are too many outstanding coaches, officials and volunteers to acknowledge individually but we want you to know that your contribution is recognized. We thank you all and you should be proud for all you have done to achieve the collective success as a sport.

Under the Athletics West transition clause, this will be my first and final report as Athletics West Chair. Whilst Athletics West still has further opportunities to successfully transition to a 'whole of sport' pathway and development, I am proud of the progress made and am thankful for the support from all in achieving what we have so far. I hope you will extend that same level of support and opportunity to Tim Lyons as he becomes Athletics West Chair for the next 12 months. It has been a pleasure and I thank you all.

Teresa Blackman
Chairman
Athletics West

Vince Del Prete
CEO
Athletics West

coles



COLES LITTLE ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA

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