

NSWMA ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for their untiring work over the past 12 months. In particular I'd like to thank retiring committee members Margaret Walker for her work on The Waratah and Stuart Gyngell for his work as field rep. Both of these people have spent several years on the committee and made valuable contributions.

Competition

The major competitions this past 12 months have been the AMA Winter Throws, Oceania Championships in Dunedin, NSW State Titles at Blacktown and AMA Nationals in Perth. The NSW Country Championships is also a major event for a number of our members. More than 60 people entered the Winter Throws event held in Wollongong for the second time justifying our bid to run this event for the AMA and taking over from the ACT which had run it since its inception. Some 336 masters-aged athletes competed at the state titles, about 200 or so our members. Last minute concerns about a severe lack of officials were averted at the eleventh hour and the event went off successfully. Ninety nine members entered the AMA Championships in Perth setting 25 records at world, Australian and state level. Heather Lee's two pending world records in the walks were a highlight of these championships. Overall NSWMA athletes set 87 state records, 18 national records and 4 world records.

Administration

This year we have introduced a major new innovation that of Cloud based storage of documents, common committee calendar and video conferencing app through the use of Google's G Suite package. This will enable easier sharing and retention of important data.

Communication

We continue to produce The Waratah, our newsletter, four times a year or more and email news to members. Our Facebook group generates good traffic and provides another avenue for communication and discussion. We have endeavoured to improve communication via ANSW newsletters to promote masters' activities and results, something which has been lacking in previous years. We have also encouraged ANSW to continue with the survey of participants of the state titles which we feel can only improve the quality of the event.

Awards

A substantial amount of work was carried out revising the Club awards. Details are on the Club website. Following last year's experiment with having the awards event during the state titles, feedback from members was negative on some aspects of the event and mixed on the timing during state titles. This year the Club reverted back to the awards lunch after the nationals a format used in previous years. We did however, still struggle somewhat to get good numbers attending and would welcome feedback on how to improve attendance. We made several

nominations to the AMA for their annual awards and were successful with Mary Thomas being recognized as best thrower. We also had input to the ANSW annual awards.

Membership

The Club currently has approximately 280 financial members which is a decrease from last season's numbers, probably due to the distance and cost of travel to Perth for the nationals and no world events being held during the period.

Relationship with Athletics NSW

We continue to endeavor to work closely with Athletics NSW to ensure masters' athletes can avail themselves of the best opportunities for competition and enjoyment. Most importantly, as reported last year, we are participating in a three way joint working party with ANSW and LANSW to develop the best structure for delivery of athletics in NSW in line with the OneSport concept. Twelve priority areas have been identified such as participation, membership, coaching/officiating, human resources etc. For each of these priority areas a strategy is being developed. The participation strategy has been completed and the membership one is underway. NSWMA applied for a grant for \$10,000 from the AMA Perth 2016 Trust Fund to support the membership strategy development and was successful. Some preliminary work has also been done on coaching and officiating. It is important to understand that work on these strategies is the priority and not an immediate administrative restructuring of the three bodies. Some restructuring and sharing of job roles is inevitable but what the final outcome is remains to be seen. OneSport does not automatically equal one body administering everything. Clearly it is a complex task to bring together two large organisations and us, with significant differences in roles, history and staffing. It will take years not months for major changes to occur. It's important however, that we continue to participate to ensure masters is not overlooked and has a voice in any proposed changes.

NSWMA Committee 2017/18

President: Mark Johnston; Vice President: Audrey Thompson
Hon. Secretary: Stuart Paterson (also AMA competition director); Editor: Margaret Walker;
Hon. Treasurer: Anatoly Kirievsky; Registrar: Gabi Watts; Records officer: Peter Murray;
Field Rep: Stuart Gyngell; Track rep: Janet Naylor; Walks rep: Anne Weekes;
Distance rep: Jill Taylor; Uniforms: Belinda Westcott; Publicity: Donna Hiscox (also AMA secretary)

Mark Johnston
NSWMA president