

Port Hunter Zone Little Athletics Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting held 5th June 2014
At Raymond Terrace Bowling Club

Meeting opened: 7.30 pm

Present: Barbara Inglis & John Terranova Raymond Terrace; Anne Watts & Grahame Searles Woodberry; Troy Morrison Tilligerry; Ben Platt ANL; Lee-Anne O'Sullivan, Stockton; Lee Grant Wallsend; Terry Hancock Thornton; Ngaire White Medowie; Kylie Patteson & Melisa Brown Myall Coast; Kerry O'Keefe & Chantelle Grills LANSW

Apologies: Brian Cox ANL, Cindy Foster Port Stephens (via email car broke down on way to meeting)

Previous Minutes:

Amendment to minutes: Apologies from Ngaire White Medowie & Charlie Flint Port Stephens missed from last minutes.

Moved by Lee-Anne O'Sullivan and 2nd by Anne Watts that the previous minutes be accepted with the above amendment.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

A formal vote was taken on the suggestion from the March LA newsletter that zones/regions now have the option of conducting zone championships for only the U7-U12 age groups and allowing direct region entry for athletes in the age groups U13 and above. This can only occur however, where all zones within a region agree that this is the procedure for their region.

It was unanimously voted that we will keep the format for Zone as is with all athletes from U7-U17 competing.

Incoming Mail:

Emails:

- LANSW Tory Morrison Zone Coordinators nomination
- Medowie committee
- Woodberry committee
- Wallsend committee

Board Minutes

• **State-wide Working With Children Seminars**

Following discussion, it was agreed that these seminars should be made compulsory for attendance by a representative from every Little Athletics centre across the state. It was also agreed that the seminars be extended to include WHS and privacy, in addition to working with children.

A logistical strategy needs to be considered in regards to the duration of the 'tour' and the number of venues that should be considered. Clarification and agreement on the maximum distance a centre would have to travel to attend the seminars also needs to be determined.

Details about the timing and location of these seminars will be discussed at the Zone Coordinators Workshop on 31 May-1 June 2014.

• **AAOES Officials Accreditation**

The AAOES project team met on 12 April (minutes not yet available). The Level 1 Course will be launched prior to start of next season (the actual date is still to be confirmed by LAA and AA).

Level 1 Courses

Track Starter High Jump Long Jump Pole Vault Triple Jump Discus Hammer Throw Javelin Shot Put Out of Stadia Race Walking

Each course has 4 modules and each module has a quiz at the end of it. As you answer each question in the quiz you are advised whether your answer is right or wrong. If wrong a hint is provided for the right answer, you can retake the question straight away. Once a module is completed you are given a link to print a certificate.

At the LAA conference it was indicated that funds would be set aside for the introduction of this system.

Once completing these courses you are eligible to officiate at any LA or AA carnival etc.

- **LANSW Officials**

Additional LANSW officials are required for next season, especially for the State Multi-Event Championships and the State Track and Field Championships. More direct approaches are to be made to accredited officials, especially those who need to complete their practical assessments.

A future strategy to be discussed at the Zone Coordinators Workshop.

- **Regional Development Officer Role**

A meeting has been held with current development staff in relation to a potential restructure of the development area, with additional regionally based staff. The current staff have been asked to provide feedback. The next stage is to liaise with the zone coordinators at the Zone Coordinators Workshop

LANSW Newsletter

- **2014/2015 Budget & Registration Fees**

The 2014/2015 LANSW budget has been approved. To view the full budget go to the website. The budget has been formulated based on no increase to registration fees i.e. the registration fee will remain \$48 (incl. GST) per athlete, with a potential rebate of \$5 per athlete. The rebate will apply for all registrations recorded online as active and financial, AND with fees paid to the office by the 31 October 2014.

- **Annual Conference Guest Speaker Announced**

Dual Olympian & Two Time World Champion; Jana Pittman

Jana Pittman competed in athletics at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, followed by the Athens 2004 Games, where she remarkably achieved an awe-inspiring fifth placing for Australia in the 400m hurdles. Jana clocked a personal best time of 53.22 in the 400m hurdles to win gold in Paris in the 2003 World Championships, and at that time, was crowned the youngest 400m hurdles World Champion in history (male or female). Just months before giving birth to her son, Jana claimed her second world crown at the 2007 World Championships in Osaka.

In 2012, Jana retired from track & field and after involvement in both rowing and boxing, decided to concentrate on the sport of bobsleigh, placing 14th at the Sochi Olympic Winter Games, equalling the best result by an Australian women's team at the Olympics.

Most athletes would have been satisfied with fulfilling their dream of being selected in one Olympic team, however, Jana has been able to regroup, reset her goals and successfully transition from one sport to another – a truly impressive achievement.

Jana's psychological resilience, unrelenting determination and inner motivation has seen her overcome public adversity both related and unrelated to sport. Jana's world outside of sport has been equally challenging, and she has also gone through some major changes in identity. Currently, Jana is studying medicine fulltime with the goal of being an obstetrician, alongside managing her busy Olympic training schedule (with a view to again competing in athletics in Rio), with being a single mum.

Over the last decade, Jana's journey has far from been an easy one, and it is self belief and psychological resilience that have helped her to both excel in, and endure, the elite sport environment. Jana no longer just embraces the identity of an elite athlete, but also as being a dedicated mum and a keen student, among other life roles. Jana is a great supporter of Little Athletics and is very enthusiastic about attending our conference and promoting a sport that is very close to her heart.

We are very delighted that she has accepted this invitation and for her continued support of Little Athletics.

- **LANSW & ANSW Joint Working Party**

Following extensive consultation and discussions led by the Australian Sports Commission, it was announced in December 2013 that the proposed merger between Athletics Australia and Little Athletics Australia into one unified body, would not be going ahead. At state level, the relationship between ANSW and LANSW has been and continues to be a strong one. Both organisations are committed to further strengthening the relationship and identifying opportunities to work even more closely at a state and club/centre level.

To this end, a Joint Working Party (JWP) comprising representatives of the ANSW and LANSW boards, plus the CEO's, has been established to further the collaborative effort between the two arms of athletics in New South Wales. The new Joint Working Party will

focus on further strengthening the positive relationship between ANSW and LANSW and identifying opportunities to grow the sport of athletics in New South Wales.

- **Centre Reports**

Centres must hold their AGM (Annual General Meeting) by 31 May each year and then forward copies of AGM Minutes, Annual Report (president, secretary, treasurer & registrars reports) and Financial Statement to the office. If you have already held your AGM, please forward these reports now. A reminder also, that centre affiliation forms with payment are **due to LANSW by 31 May 2014**.

- **Cross Country and Road Walk Championships**

The Cross Country and Road Walk Championships will be held at Kembla Joggers Cross Country Park, West Dapto on Sunday, 6 July. The Cross Country Championship is open to any registered Under 7 to Under 17 athlete and the Road Walk Championship is open to any registered Under 9 to Under 17 athlete.

Entry is via the Little Athletics NSW website and closes on 18 June at 5pm at a cost of \$10 per competitor for the day (not per event). Late entries close on 25 June and will be \$25 for the day. Once again, no entries will be taken on the day, so register online now.

Keep an eye out for course maps and other relevant information, which will be posted in the Competition section of the website, under Cross Country & Road Walks, as it comes to hand.

- **2015 State Multi-Event Championships**

The 2015 State Multi-Event is being conducted in Sydney for the first time, being held on 7 & 8 March 2015, at SOPAC. One of the reasons for providing this event in Sydney was that 2015 marks the 35th anniversary of the State Multi-Event and it would be good to hold it at a larger venue to celebrate this occasion.

It also provides an opportunity for all athletes from Under 7 and up, to compete on a synthetic track. Many athletes from large centres do not get the opportunity to compete at zone and beyond because of the limit placed on zone entries. With two tracks at SOPAC, a larger number of athletes can be catered for due to those extra facilities.

The State Multi-Event has always been an open event with the final number of entries being catered for in a manageable way. The entries in the past have been 70-80% from Sydney based centres, which brings a considerable cost and time impact, and it is thought that entries at a Sydney venue may bring a larger number. A cap on total entries will, by necessity, need to be in place to ensure the event will be manageable. The cap will be considerably higher, but will still mean that we can successfully manage the entries that may be received. To ensure that loyal families who have supported the event in the past are rewarded, we will be giving them early email advice as to when entries will open before entries are open to the public.

Some other facts: the cap will be on total entries and not on age groups; with larger entries anticipated more competition areas will be used, necessitating more officials to be required, as well as parent helpers; age groups will be split up to have maximum groups of 40-50 athletes in each group.

- **“Desire to Inspire” School Visits - Closed!**

“Desire to Inspire” requests are now closed. If your centre still wants to participate in the program, contact Little Athletics NSW now. There are still a few vacancies but visits cannot be guaranteed.

Centres that have already requested visits will be receiving their specific visit date/s and relevant paperwork shortly.

For more information please contact Cheryl Webb or Alvin Umadhay at the Little Athletics office.

- **Pre-Conference Introduction to Coaching Course - \$50 SPECIAL OFFER**

It is confirmed that LANSW will conduct an Introduction to Coaching course on Friday, 18 July 2014, just prior to the AGM & Conference in Cessnock. As a special offer, anyone who has purchased a 2-day conference package is eligible for the special course price offer of \$50 (normally \$95). Be quick as numbers are limited.

- **Little Athletics NSW Skills Clinics**

Expressions of interest are still being taken for host centres for 2014 Clinics. Now that the regular Little A's competition season has finished, this is a great opportunity to promote your centre and for current members to continue developing their athletic skills. Here is your chance to encourage potential new members who can be exposed to Little Athletics.

Responses from past host centres:

- “the clinics gave our athletes an opportunity to learn correct event techniques from qualified and experienced coaches”
- “the athletes don’t have to travel a long distance to attend the clinic”
- “offering the clinic during the school holidays gives the kids a healthy, structured whole day activity in a safe environment” “the September clinic comes right at the start of the season when everyone is getting back into athletics which is very timely”
- “the April and July clinics are a good preparation for school carnivals and a great opportunity to get new kids involved in athletics in the local area”
- “the Association does the registration, assists with promotion and provides the coaches; there is not much for the centre to do except promote, provide the venue and some equipment”

Current proposed Skills Clinic dates:

- Narrabri Saturday, 12 July 2014
- Warren Sunday, 13 July 2014

Out going mail: Nil

Moved John Terranova and 2nd Terry Hancock that the correspondence be accepted.

Treasurers Report:

Balance as at May 2014 \$3,330.75

Payment of \$250 was made to St John’s for the Zone Carnival

General Business:

- Kerry and Chantelle conducted the voting for our new Zone Coordinator as we did not have anyone nominated at the AGM last month. We have since had a nomination from Troy Morrison Tilligerry for the position of Zone Co. The result of the vote from all 9 centres represented at the Zone meeting was unanimous to elect Troy as our new Zone Coordinator.
- Kerry thanked Kylie for her work as the outgoing Zone Coordinator and welcomed Troy to the position.
- Grahame discussed the International Children’s games to be held at Lake Macquarie from the 6th December to the 10th December. Only local council’s can nominate teams and athletes are from 12-15 years of age. Team nominations close on 22nd June. You will have to contact your local council to see if they have entered a team. Athletics competition will be on Mon 9th, Tues 10th & Wed 11th December from 9.00am till 1.00pm.
- Date from **Zone Championship** was decided and will be on **13th & 14th December** at Raymond Terrace. We can’t hold it on the first weekend in December as this is the Australian All Schools in Adelaide. Thornton have passed on hosting the zone carnival and it has passed to ANL who will let us know at the next meeting if they are willing to host the carnival
- **Zone Multi** will be held on **Sunday 9th November. Centres are to discuss if they wish to host this carnival and the meeting will decide next month on the host centre and venue.**
- Anne Watts – the Zone website is due for renewal and wanted to know if we wanted to keep it running. The decision is to keep it running and Anne will pay the renewal and be reimbursed by the Zone.
- Troy – do all centres have to update their constitutions this year? Kerry said it was strongly encourage for all centres to do so and have them voted on at the next AGM. If any centres have any questions they are to contact Kerry or Chantelle at LANSW or they can send their proposed constitutions to them before they are voted on at the next AGM.
- Anne Watts asked if a template has been done for dual registered clubs and Kerry said that she has been talking at ANSW and they are working on one and so any dual club should hold off doing their constitution until the new template is ready.

- Kylie - Myall Coast are in the process of changing their uniform.
- Ben - ANL why doesn't Zone have a running not before timetable? Grahame responded that mostly due to not knowing how many athletes we would have in any event it made it hard. Kerry said that the zone that her daughter competed had one and Grahame asked her if she could send him a copy and we would look at doing the same for our Zone.
- Chantelle LANSW - Affiliation forms should have been sent to her by 31st May but there were still some outstanding centres from our Zone. Please send them as soon as possible.
- Kerry LANSW - the paperwork forms for next season are due shortly. Please be aware that IGA are no longer the national sponsor so their patches need to be removed from uniforms for next season but there will be a new national sponsor who will be announced shortly. Centres need to order a full set of age numbers as the ones that they hold currently will not be used next season due to IGA no longer being the sponsor.
- Closing date for annual Conference attendance is 20th June.
- Centres who have not sent their new committee contact details to Barbara (President, Secretary & Zone Delegate with their phone & email contacts plus anyone else that centres would like to have on the email list). ANL, Newcastle City, Port Stephens, Myall Coast, Thornton & Tilligerry. Please email to Barbara before the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.15 pm

Next Meeting 10th July 7.30pm at Raymond Terrace Bowling Club (Please note that this is 1 week later than normal due to people being unavailable for the usual date)