



Weekly Newsletter

8th October, 2016

Welcome to the 2016-2017 season of Little Athletics. Welcome to all the new families joining us in this Olympics season, and welcome back to all returning families. The weekly newsletter will hopefully hit your email boxes by Thursday each week. It contains heaps of important information about the club and what's happening, so please ensure you try to read it each week. If you do not receive the weekly email, the newsletter will still be accessible directly from our website, and a link will be published on our Facebook page and on Team App. We are initially handing out this first edition in paper form, but from week 2, it will only be available electronically.

Our AGM was held in late July, and we've had an executive committee change. Can we please welcome Todd Martin as our new President. Todd has been the club Registrar for years, and has stepped into the President's role left vacant by Mark O'Donnell. Mark isn't getting away from us though, he has taken on the role of Treasurer left vacant by Richard Le Miere. We thank Richard for his service to the club over the past few years as a Starter, and as Treasurer for the 2015-16 season. Mark Henry has taken on the role of Registrar. Mick Westworth (Vice President) and Lisa Henry (Secretary) are staying on in their respective roles. The Executive committee are well supported this season by possibly our largest amount of general committee members in recent years. If you ever need to raise something with the committee, either email the club or find one of us on a Saturday morning. We are the ones wearing the bright orange polo shirts.

This year we celebrate our 45th year of operation, and it should be a huge year in terms of the club's future growth. We have never had a permanent home (our move to Mace Oval 12 years ago was supposed to be a "temporary" solution). As a consequence of the state our track was in last season, we had a very busy off-season this year. If you haven't already heard, the Where Is Our Track campaign, set up by concerned parents within the club, tirelessly lobbied council and the Dunkley candidates in the recent election. This hard work, along with the amazing proposal put together by Todd Martin, secured \$2 million in funding to build an all-weather track at Civic Reserve, Dunns Road, Mornington. The \$2 million will build the track, something our club has never had in its 45 year history. We will be actively fundraising in the next few seasons to help contribute financially to the building of club rooms at the Civic Reserve facility.

In more huge news, present and past members of the committee have negotiated the club's move to Mornington Secondary College for the next few years until the new track is built. We are very excited at the prospect of having a 400m track for the first time in years. However, the track at MSC is not quite ready for us, thus the reason we are starting the season at Mace Oval. Mace looks in much better condition than it did this time last year, so we will quite easily be able to manage until the move to MSC sometime in November. We wish to thank MSC, Principal Linda Stanton, and senior PE teacher Johnnie Walker for welcoming us so eagerly. We will have access to The Cottage at the north end of the school, built by students over the past few years. From here we will base our Registrations and Merchandise, and run a smallish canteen and expand our BBQ. We are actively looking for a local business to help move our 3 shipping containers. If you know of anyone willing to help, please have them contact the club.

If you have yet to register for the season, please make sure you do ASAP. Your child will not be issued a bib until payment has been made and proof of birth date has been sighted by the club. This is a Little Athletics Victoria directive. If you are a returning member, please use your login details from previous years. This information is in an email sent to you by Little Athletics Victoria in August.

The track at Mace Oval was marked today (Thursday) and it's looking great. Huge thanks to Todd Martin and James Barrett for their effort - it's taken the whole day to complete!

For those new to MLAC, each week we issue a weekly email. This email will cover the “hot topics” of the moment and some not so hot topics such as duty rosters on the day. Without further ado, here are this week’s bullet points.

The key points to note this week are:

- Duty Roster
- What happens on the Day?
- Athletes Bibs
- Uniforms
- Results HQ
- Club Sponsors
- Parking
- Dog policy
- First Aid
- Wet Weather
- Website
- Team App
- Facebook
- Weekly Program
- BBQ

And finally, just a reminder to everyone - when crossing the track, please remember to check if there is a race in progress, and cross safely and quickly. Also, keep young children close to you so they don't get barrellled over by kids running, or hit by a discus or shot put!

Duty Roster for Saturday 8th October 2015

Please note that we have 2 age groups rostered on to ensure that each duty is suitably attended.

Set up takes more than an hour and we really do need those rostered on to be there as required. The committee are always on hand but as we all know many hands make light work and it makes a world of difference to how the whole day runs when we can set-up on-time for the program to start, especially on the first morning of the season!

The following Age Groups are rostered on this weekend:

Setup : **Under 10 Boys** and **Under 9 Girls** (*please arrive by 7.30am*)

BBQ : **Under 12 Girls** and **Under 7 Boys** (*from set up of the BBQ at 8.45 to pack-up and clean at the day's end*)

Pack Up : **Under 7 Girls** and **Under 12 Boys** (*concludes once the containers are locked up*)

What happens on the day?

Your First Priority

The first order of business should be to get your child to their relevant age group area. When you walk on to the track past the long jump pit there are two large tents on the road side of the oval. A big blue BBQ tent and then a big orange Registration and Merchandising tent. Straight past these are the age groups which run from U6 Boys and Girls in chronological order up to the Open Boys and Girls. Head to your relevant age group and sign in with the age group team manager(s). Age group managers this year will be wearing a Team Managers cap. If you are still unsure, head to the big orange Registration/Merchandise tent, and someone there can direct you where to go. All you need to bring on the day is a hat and drink bottle. Those without a uniform and those who are trialling only need to wear a t-shirt, shorts and runners.

Registered vs Unregistered Signing in

If you have registered and paid by Thursday this week, there will be an athlete's bib assigned to your child which must be pinned to the front of their uniform. This is used to electronically record times. If there is no bib there for your child do not worry, the team managers will hand write the results from the day and we will manually record. This bib **must** be returned at the end of each morning to the team manager. If you accidentally take it home, please remember to bring it back next week, and try not to put it through the wash! Once your payment has been made, all manual results will be uploaded to Results HQ and a bib will be printed for your child.

Registration and Merchandising tent

This is the big orange tent, and can be the craziest spot of all over the first couple of mornings. Our volunteers are there all morning over the next couple of weeks so there is no need to rush the tent straight after signing in your child. Pick a time when the queues are small and head on over.

Little Athletics Victoria have moved the registration process completely online. You should have received a registration email from Little Athletics Victoria with your login and password if you are a returning member. Please log in to the system if you are a past member, don't create a new profile. If you are having trouble logging in, please email us and we'll sort you out. If you have access to a computer and are willing to pay by credit card there is no real need to head to our tent to register or pay. Hopefully this will reduce our queues. Even if you haven't paid when you registered online and wish to pay, the system allows you to re-enter and pay. If you do not have a credit/debit card, we can take cash payments at the Registration tent, but you **must** register online first.

If however you are having difficulties completing these functions online head on over to the tent and we will assist. We understand that some families do not have ready access to a computer or online banking.

Registration Packs

These are available to pick up at the tent once you have paid your registration and shown proof of birth date if you are a new member. Please print out your receipt and present it to collect your pack.

Uniforms and merchandising

All our merchandising is sold at the tent. Again, pick a break in the morning or a time when the queues are low to fit your child for a uniform.

For the Under 6's & 7's

Specifically for the under 6's and 7's, we have a couple of committee members on hand to provide you with further details as to what occurs with these age groups, as we understand that it is these age groups where the vast majority of our new members come from. Our committee members are all wearing bright orange polo shirts. For other age groups there are many experienced MLAC campaigners who will be there on the day.

Athletes Bibs

Each athlete fully registered prior to Thursday on the week of competition is allocated their own bib. This bib has a bar code affixed to it. This bar code is unique to your child and is used as part of our electronic timing system.

At MLAC we store these bibs with the team folder. Each team folder has a satchel inside in which the bibs and pins are to be placed at the conclusion of the day's events.

With this in mind can you please make sure your child does not depart Mace with their bib.

Uniforms

Uniforms and other club merchandise will be available for sale only at Mace Oval on each competition day at the big orange Registration/Merchandise tent. This year we are also selling Little Aths Victoria branded shorts. These will be compulsory for all athletes competing at Regional and State events from next season. With this in mind, we have limited sizes in stock for those athletes in the U9+ age groups. Tshirts - \$45, Singlets - \$45, Crop Tops - \$50, LA Vic shorts - \$25.

Results HQ

To view your child's results, you will need to log in to Results HQ. You will need to have paid the club registration fee to have access. The login details are a little confusing:

Username: Your family username is the email address you used to register your primary member with (usually your oldest child)

Password: Your password is the Login ID of your primary member when you log in to LA Vic.

You can view your whole family's results on one page, and also view all MLAC results. Tickets can be printed out to keep. We endeavour to have the results available by Sunday evening.

If you have registered and paid by Thursday evening and there is no bib for your child, please talk to someone at the Registration tent.

If you have any problems logging in, please contact Lisa Henry lhenry@morningtonlittleaths.org

<https://www.resultshq.com.au/login>



Club Sponsors

As mentioned at the start of this newsletter, the club will be actively fundraising this season to raise money so we can contribute to the new track at Civic Reserve. We hope our members can help us as much as possible towards this goal. With this in mind, we'd like to make you aware of some of our sponsors/loyalty partners, and how you and they can help the club:

- **Cafe2U** - Damien and Elizabeth set up their van each Saturday morning to provide our parents with their morning coffee. They donated \$780 to the club last season, and they have sponsored our new committee polos as well. They are available for private & business events, or fundraisers. Contact them on 0448 974 907 or mornington@au.cafe2u.biz for all enquiries.



- **Ritchies Supermarkets Community Benefits** - We are registered with Ritchies for the Community Benefits program. If you shop at a Ritchies store (listed on our website) and present your Community Benefits card linked to our club, we will receive 0.5% of all sales once the monthly combined spend reaches \$2000. We started with this program in February, and we have finally received small payments in August and September, with only a few members involved. We have a few pre-linked cards left for collection at the Registration tent, or pick one up in store and link it to our club. Last January, Dromana Primary School received over \$900 in benefits for the month of December!! Every cent we raise from this program will go towards the new track.



- **Amart Sports** - As with the Ritchies program, Amart also run a Community Kickbacks scheme. Sign up in store and link your card to our club. 5% of all sales come back to us each quarter! We use the money to buy equipment and vouchers.



If you have any other fundraising ideas, please forward them on to the club via email.

Parking

For the first few weeks we will endeavour to grab some volunteers to manage the flow of traffic through the car park. The beginning of the season is hectic and we would advise members to plan ahead and get to Mace well in advance of the 8:45am event start in order to find suitable parking.

Please note the following parking and drop-off guidelines which we have put in place for safety reasons:

- If you are dropping your child(ren) off in the car park, please **do not** stop just inside the gates. Drive around the car park circuit back towards the entrance and drop off on the car park side closest to the road. This avoids congestion at the entrance to Mace.
- **Do not park on Nepean Highway outside the entrance to Mace Oval.** It is a safety issue for cars turning out of the car park.
- The grass areas in the car park can be used for parking. If you have a 4WD vehicle, we ask you to park on the grass if possible to leave parks available for non 4WD cars.
- Once the Mace car park is full, please park up the hill, off street, beside Balcombe Grammar School. There is a pathway from there down the steps to the oval.

Dog Policy

Please note that we have a strict **NO DOGS** policy on competition days. There have been a number of incidents and near misses over the past few years, plus we have a few athletes with dog allergies and those who are scared of dogs. We would greatly appreciate if you left your dogs at home.

First Aid

We are fortunate again to have Dr Leesa Huguenin, Sports Physician, overseeing our First Aid program. She generously donated a new First Aid kit to the centre last season. We have also purchased a defibrillator for the club with the help of a grant from the RACV. This year, we are hoping to have a roster of parents with a medical background who can oversee the minor injuries that might occur each week, with Leesa there as a back-up for major injuries. If you are a doctor, or have a nursing or first aid background, and would be willing to be our First Aid officer a couple of times over the season, please contact Lisa Henry to have your name added to list. lhenny@morningtonlittleleaths.org

What happens in the event of Wet Weather/Extreme Heat

When the weather forecast does not look great, the committee makes a decision by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of competition whether the competition day will go ahead or be cancelled. In the event of cancellation a notice will be posted on the following sites by 8:00 am:

Website	www.morningtonlittleleaths.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/mlac82
Twitter	@mlac82
Team App	www.teamapp.com

We communicate with our members almost exclusively via electronic means. We will always email you important information, but it is also distributed via our Facebook page and Team App.

Website

This season we are excited to unveil our new look website. It will hopefully go live over the weekend. Committee member Sharyn Welsh has been working hard on it over the last couple of months and we are really proud of it. Please check it out and if there are any features you'd like to see included,

please send your suggestions via email to the club.

Team App

As with previous years, we will be utilising Team App to get information out to our members and their families about news and events around the centre.

Download Team App (it's free!) from iTunes or the Play Store and search for Mornington Little Athletics.



Facebook

We also have a Facebook page filled with news and photos of our athletes. Make sure you "Like" it to see posts in your Newsfeed. If you do not wish to have your child's photo published, please send an email to our secretary Lisa Henry lhenry@morningtonlittleaths.org.

She will endeavour to ensure your child's photos are never published.



Weekly Program

This week's program is Program 1 and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#) or find it on the club website.

BBQ

Our humble BBQ raises much needed funds for the club. Due to increases in costs, we are raising our prices this season for the first time in years. A sausage in bread (with onions if you like) will now cost \$2.50, and drinks (water/juice box) will cost \$1.50. When we move to Mornington Secondary College, we are hoping to offer more items, including egg and bacon rolls - come and have breakfast with us!!

We are also after a dedicated BBQ/Canteen Organiser this season. Someone who can coordinate all the stock and manage the BBQ on Saturdays. You will be ably assisted by Dom Dawe on the day, a student who volunteers his time each Saturday. If anyone is interested on taking on this important role, please contact Lisa Henry ASAP. lhenry@morningtonlittleaths.org

If unsure of what to do on the day, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or by speaking to one of the committee members on Saturday mornings. They are easily identified in their bright orange polo shirts

Regards,

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