

NSWMA ANNUAL REPORT 2016

To paraphrase someone well known, there has never been a more exciting time to be a NSW masters athlete. The world masters athletics were held in Lyon last year and now again coming up in Perth later this year and also the AMA winter throws championships is coming to NSW. 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 Audrey Thompson and Jill Taylor. In the short time that Audrey has been a member, she has thrown herself into club work, first as registrar then as secretary. We wish her well in her quest to start a family. Jill Taylor has served on the committee for a number of years as registrar, vice president, president and also as convenor of the 2015 nationals. Jill has had a major impact during that time and sees the club a better place now.

Competition

It has been a massive 12 months of competition opportunities for our members, both here and abroad. As mentioned above there have been world titles where a number of club athletes performed exceptionally well. Many of the throwers took part in the annual winter throws in Canberra, an event which will move to NSW in 2016. A busy summer season included country titles, state titles at the premier venue SOPAC, throws pentathlon, also at SOPAC and nationals in Adelaide SA. A whopping 112 records were broken from July last year, indicative of the quality of training and competition of members. Big changes to the local summer program are proposed for 2016 however.

Communication

We continue to produce The Waratah, our newsletter, four times a year or more and email newsletter to members. Our facebook site generates good traffic. The country ambassador program begun a couple of years back has had mixed results and is in the process of being reviewed. This year, for the first time, we convinced ANSW to run a survey after the state titles to obtain a better feel for what works and what doesn't.

Coaching clinic

This year, for the first time, we took advantage of the AMA coaching grant scheme to run a sprint clinic with Ranell Hobson presenting. This was very well received and we hope to offer more of these to members in future.

Awards

The Club continued its successful awards luncheon which was held at Bankstown Sports Club in September 2015. This year the committee voted to shift the period over which awards are decided to a calendar year the rationale being to bring it into line with other bodies such as AMA and ANSW. An awards lunch was planned for June but had to be cancelled due to lack of

bookings. Athletics NSW also include masters' categories in their annual awards for which we submit our recommendations.

Membership

The Club currently has 300 financial members which is a drop from last season's high point with the drawcard of a local nationals. A high percentage of these attend the AMA Nationals.

Relationship with Athletics NSW

We continue to work closely with Athletics NSW to ensure masters' athletes can avail themselves of the best opportunities for competition and enjoyment. This year we convinced ANSW to set up a masters panel which we hope will improve communication and cooperation even further. A number of masters' age athletes are on the board of ANSW and masters' age athletes make up a large fraction of the total ANSW membership.

NSWMA Committee 2015/16

President: Mark Johnston
Vice President: Jill Taylor
Hon. Secretary: Audrey Thompson
Hon. Treasurer: Anatoly Kirievsky
Registrar: (acting) Rosemary Wiley
Records officer: Peter Murray
Field Rep: Stuart Gyngell
Track rep: Kathleen Cook
Uniforms: Belinda Westcott
Website: Janie Carter
Co-opted: Gabi Watts

Mark Johnston
NSWMA president