

NSWMA ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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 locally in Perth last year and indoor world titles in Daegu and also the AMA winter throws championships was held in NSW for the first time last October. 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 member Kathleen Cook (track rep).

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. In the indoor world titles Australia punched well above its weight in terms of medals won enabled by outstanding performances from NSW athletes. Many of the throwers took part in the annual winter throws in Wollongong in 2016. A busy summer season included country titles, state titles at the premier venue SOPAC, throws pentathlon, also at SOPAC and nationals in Darwin for the first time. Many records were broken over the past 12 months including a world record awaiting ratification by walker Heather Lee in the W90 category, indicative of the quality of training and competition of members.

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. Whilst we communicate with our members frequently, it is fair to say that external communications with other bodies, especially the open body, ANSW have not been well attended to for many years. In the climate of OneSport we need to do better in terms of communicating masters' results and activities to them for inclusion in their newsletters and website. Here I would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the efforts of member Janet Naylor who has compiled results and reports from major championships and fed them through to ANSW as well as preparing an honour roll of masters' performances for their annual report. Discussions are ongoing with ANSW regarding the most effective ways of communicating such results.

Coaching clinic

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

Awards

This year the Club experimented with a different format and timing of the annual awards event which was held at Dooleys Waterview Club during the masters state titles. Feedback from members was negative on some aspects of the event and mixed on the timing during state titles. The new committee will need to take on board that feedback to ensure next year's event

is better received. Athletics NSW continue to include masters' categories in their annual awards however on this occasion they did not seek our recommendations, unlike past years.

Membership

The Club currently has approximately 340 financial members which is a lift from last season's slightly lower numbers being in a lull after the high point of the local Sydney nationals the year before. A high percentage of these attend the AMA Nationals.

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. There were some missteps along the way, we were supposed to be consulted regarding the most suitable masters events for the Sydney Grand Prix and, as alluded to above, were not asked for recommendations on awards. Additionally the 2017 masters' state titles were proposed for Blacktown without consultation with us. Most importantly, for the longer term, 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. Restructuring of job positions and duties with ANSW and LANSW are being worked on at the moment as are descriptions and business cases of the various portfolios such as competition, marketing, finance etc. To what extent these two peak bodies come together as one is unclear at present, it is a complex task to bring together two organisations with significant differences in roles, history and staffing. Some of these changes will impact on masters athletics and it's important that we participate to ensure masters is not overlooked. I know there are members who would like to move quickly on the matter of some sort of amalgamation with ANSW, however my feeling is that we should work with them once these changes become clearer to establish how masters fits into the overall 'cradle to grey' approach. At present ANSWs focus is on the joint process and there is little point in my view, in trying to run a separate parallel conversation on amalgamation. My feeling is that this cannot be done properly whilst they are in the midst of negotiating significant changes to their existing operations and structure.

NSWMA Committee 2015/16

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Mark Johnston
NSWMA president