



Annual Report 1996 - 1997

(Formerly the Australian Athletic Union 1982-1989)
(Formerly the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia 1927-1982)
(Formerly the Amateur Athletic Union of Australasia 1897-1927)

Founded 1897

MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

Affiliated with

Australian Olympic Committee
Australian Commonwealth Games Association
Confederation of Australian Sport

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Athletics Victoria
Australian Capital Territory Athletics
Athletics New South Wales
Queensland Athletics
Athletics South Australia
Athletic Association of Western Australia
Athletics Tasmania
Athletics Northern Territory

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Front Cover: Paul Burgess wins gold in the Pole Vault on the last day of competition at the 1996 World Junior Championships held in Sydney. Photo: Duane Hart, Sporting Images.

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Corporate Directory

OFFICE BEARERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT	David Prince (to November 1996) Prof. Terry Dwyer (from November 1996)
VICE PRESIDENT	Denis Wilson, AM
FINANCE	John Makarucha
TRACK AND FIELD	Margaret Mahony, OAM
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Barry Stanton (to November 1996) Leanne Evans (from November 1996)
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT	Brian Gleeson
MARKETING	Greg Dyer
STATE DEVELOPMENT	Reg Brandis
COMMUNICATIONS	Prof. Terry Dwyer (to November 1996) Ron Crawford (from November 1996)
ATHLETES COMMISSION	Shaun Creighton (to November 1996)

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Messrs. Prince, Dwyer, Mrs Mahony (to November 1996)
Messrs. Dwyer, Brandis, Mrs Mahony (from Nov 1996)

ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Neil King (to January 1997)
NAT EXECUTIVE DIR (ACTING)	Geoff Rowe (from Jan 1997)
BUSINESS MANAGER	Geoff Rowe
COMPETITIONS MANAGER	Brian Roe
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	Matt Favier (to Dec 1996)
MEMBER SERVICES SEN OFFICER	Jason Hellwig (from Dec 1996)
MEDIA & PROMOTIONS MANAGER	David Culbert (to Jan 1997)
MEDIA & PROMO. MAN (ACTING)	Sam Culbert (Jan '97 - Mar '97)
HEAD COACH	Phil King (to Jan 1997)
MEMBER SERVICES OFFICER	Lisa Grigg
MEDIA LIAISON OFFICER	Damian Booth
PROMOTIONS OFFICER	Karen Clifford
COMPETITIONS OFFICER	Samantha Culbert (to Jan 1997)

COMPETITIONS OFFICER	Tina Folmer
ACCOUNTANT	Felicity Anstee
INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER	Maurie Plant
RECEPTIONIST	Jan Tyrrell
SPORTS ADMIN TRAINEE	Hayden Young

HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHES

HIGH PERFORMANCE MANAGER	Peter Bowman (to March 1997)
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	Carol Grant
HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHES	
VIC	Efim Shuravetsky NSW Keith Connor Roy Boyd Peter Taylor Matt Paterson Peter Lawler Peter Fortune
SA	Graham Boase WA Tudor Bidder
QLD	Cliff Mallett TAS John Quinn John Zafirache Scott Murphy (from Feb 97)
ACT	Craig Hillard Simon Baker (to Dec 96) Dick Telford Esa Peltola (Sports Sci.)

COMMISSIONS

Track and Field Commission

Chairman:	Margaret Mahony (Board) (to April 97) Peter Hamilton (NSW) (from April 97)
Members:	Peter Hamilton (ACT) (to April 97) Wally Foreman (WA) (to April 97) Keith Connor (NSW) (to April 97) Richard Carter (SA) (from April 97) Margaret Mahony (Board) (from April 97) Khan Sharp (Vic) (from April 97)
Staff Liaison:	Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Officials Sub-Commission

Chairman:	Reg Brandis (Board)
Members:	Chris Wilson (TAS) Lorraine Morgan (VIC) Janelle Eldridge (Schools) (from April 97)
Staff Liaison:	Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Facilities and Equipment Sub-Commission

Chairman:	Phil O'Hara (NSW)
Members:	Greg Gilbert (ACT) John Hamann (SA) (from April 97) Denis Wilson (ACT)
Staff Liaison:	Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)



Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Chairman: Dave Cundy (ACT)
 Members: Susan Hobson (Athlete - ACT)
 Trevor Vincent (VIC)
 Denis Wilson (Board)
 Dusty Lewis (QLD)
 Chris Wardlaw (VIC)
 Dick Telford (HP Coach - ACT)
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Officer (Sam Culbert)

Walking Commission

Chairman: Denis Wilson (Board)
 Members: Harry Summers (Vic) (to April 97)
 Peter Waddell (ACT)
 Kerry Saxby-Junna (Athlete - ACT) (to April 97)
 Mark Donahoo (AFRWC) (from April 97)
 Simon Baker (AIS) (from April 97)
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Doping Control Commission

Chairman: Brian Roe (Competitions Manager)
 Member: Brian Sando
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

National Development & Administration Commission

Chairman: Barry Stanton (Board) (to Nov 96)
 Leanne Evans (Board) (from Nov 96)
 Members: Reg Brandis (Board)
 Ron Crawford (Board) (from Nov 96)
 Neil King (AA) (to Jan 97)
 Sharon Russell/Lachlan Tighe (AV)
 Malcolm Harrison (ANSW)
 George Harvey/Gary Bourne (QA)
 Sophie Keil (ASA)
 Lindsay Glass (AAWA)
 Pat Scammell (AT)
 Phil Spring (ACTA)
 Brian Webb/Sam Nash (NTAC)
 Staff Liaison: Business Manager (Geoff Rowe)

Coaching Commission

Chairman: Marlene Mathews (ATFCA)
 Members: Harry Summers (VIC)
 Tony Rice (ATFCA)
 Mike Edwards (VIC)
 Joan Cross (QLD)
 David Cramer (ALA)
 Peter Bowman (AIS)
 Staff Liaison: National Executive Director

International Tours & Competitions Commission

Chairman: Peter Bowman (to Mar 97)
 Geoff Rowe (from April 97)
 Members: Phil King (Head Coach) (to Dec 96)
 Margaret Mahony (Team Manager)
 Brian Roe (Chairman of Selectors)
 Tony Rice (ATFCA)
 Maurie Plant (Vic)
 Neil King (Nat Executive Director) (to Jan 97)
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Athletes Commission

Not operating in 1996/97

Marketing and Media Commission

Chairman: Greg Dyer (Board)
 Members: David Prince (Board) (to Nov 96)
 Neil King (NED) (to Jan 97)
 David Culbert (Media & Promo. Manager) (to March 97)
 Phil O'Hara (from April 97)

Disability Commission

Chairman: Jason Hellwig (Member Services Senior Officer)
 Members: Jenni Banks (APF)
 Neil Fuller (Athletes Representative)
 Scott Goodman (ACC)
 Jeff McNeil (Australian Blind Sports)
 Chris Nunn (AIS)
 Dean Smith (Aust. Deaf Athletes Ass.)
 Christine Tew (Transplant Sports)
 Sybil Turner (Special Olympics)
 Lyndal Warry (Cerebral Palsy)
 Brett Jones (AUSRAPID)
 Lisa Grigg (Member Services Officer)
 Steering Committee:
 Jason Hellwig (Athletics Australia)
 Jenny Banks (APF)
 Chris Nunn (NSOD'S)
 Kathy Lee (APF Head Coach)

COMMITTEES

Track and Field Selection

Chairman: Brian Roe
 Members: Peter Hamilton
 Pam Turney
 Ex Officio: Head Coach (Phil King) (to Dec 96)

Cross Country, Road Running and Walking Selection

Chairman: Brian Roe
Members: John Gilbert
Pam Turney
Ex Officio: Head Coach (Phil King)
(to Dec 96)

National Officers

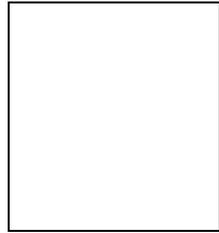
National Statistician: Paul Jenes
Assistant (Juniors): David Tarbotton
Records Officer: Ronda Jenkins
Constitution Officer: Geoffrey Culbert (to Nov 96)
Peter Fitzgerald (from Nov 96)

Board Finance Committee

John Makarucha
Neil King (to Jan 97)
Geoff Rowe

Queensland's Lisa Marie Vizaniari in the final of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.
Photo courtesy of Duane Hart, Sporting Images

President's Report



The 1996/97 year commenced with a strategic planning meeting involving all State Presidents and General Managers and key National Office staff. Key decisions were taken that will effect the way the sport develops in the coming years. It was agreed that all of our strategies should focus on development beyond 2000, using the Olympics as a springboard rather than an end in itself. There was unanimous support for the view that Athletics Australia should become centrally involved in programs to enhance participation and retention at a grass roots level. This has previously been seen as principally a responsibility of the states. We set goals for increases in registration numbers. Targets for growth in attendance and television ratings were set for the Optus Grand Prix Series. A goal was set for our National Team - that they attain world top 5 status by 2000.

The Board of Athletics Australia has focussed on strategies that will help the sport achieve these goals within the financial constraints of our income.

Considerable work has already been undertaken to increase the number of registered athletes. While the effects are not likely to be immediate, we believe that new programs for club development and new competition programs, for example, will start to have some effect in the coming year.

In the 1996/97 Optus Grand Prix Series we saw signs of considerable growth in public interest. Three of the seven meets had record crowds and the total gate money for the series was up 30% on the previous year. Our IAAF Grand Prix II meet in Melbourne acquired a new major sponsor in Nike and this will ensure its growth as a meeting of international importance.

The National team performed well in Atlanta with 11 top eight results, a big improvement on the 6 in Barcelona. However, the total of 2 medals was the same as Barcelona and this result was a little lower than we had projected. Nonetheless, the likelihood of significant improvement at this level in the future was confirmed by the strong performance of our national junior team. They won 10 medals and finished second on the medal table at the World Junior Championships in Sydney in August.

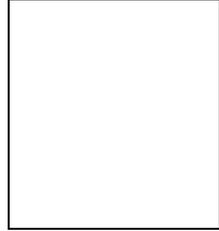
This year saw the departure of some Athletics Australia staff who have contributed significantly to the development of the sport in recent years. Among those who left were Neil King, National Executive Director, Phil King, Head Coach, Matt Favier, National Development Manager and David Culbert, Media and Promotions Manager. This left the Board with the very important task of recruiting key staff to fill these roles.

The Board is pleased to announce that the Athletics Australia accounts have been brought in under budget for 1996/97 reflecting the relatively sound financial position that Athletics Australia is currently in. However, not all our members, the State bodies, are doing as well. Solving this problem will be a central concern for all those involved in athletics in Australia in the coming year.

PROF. TERRY DWYER
PRESIDENT



National Executive Director (Acting) & Business Manager's Report



As we strode towards the celebration of our centenary year and the Centennial Olympics, few people in our sport could have predicted the turmoil of the year ahead. Looking back and reflecting on the successes of this time, one reflects on the resilience of the sport to push on despite adversity.

Concurrent with our concentration on the Olympics were the final preparations for the 6th IAAF World Junior Championships to be held in Sydney in August.

With these two events concluded the inevitable reviews began. Were our successes at the Olympics reflected in our development, how could we translate the outstanding results of our world championships junior team to the senior level, was our coaching structure right, were changes required in our management and administration. Many were searching for answers.

The Annual General Meeting saw the first major change with the Presidency pass from David Prince to Terry Dwyer. Two new members joined the Board after closely fought elections.

Next saw changes in staffing with first the National Development Manager (Matt Favier) and the Media & Promotions Manager (David Culbert) leave the organisation followed shortly after by the National Executive Director (Neil King), the High Performance Manager (Peter Bowman) and the Head Coach (Phil King). It was reported that the sport was in turmoil, how was it to survive?

Spurred on by the challenge, the administration determined that 1996/97 season would be the most successful so far conducted. The results stood for themselves. Another record crowd in Melbourne for the Nike Track Classic, an outstanding meet in Hobart and a sell out event in Sydney were the corner stones of the season with all other GP meets and the National Championships contributing to a memorable year.

The celebration of our centenary with a dinner at the time of the National Championships capped off a sensational season.

The Board

In a year of review the Member Associations determined that after eight years there needed to be a change in the head of the National body. After a closely contested encounter which saw the two candidates visit most States, Professor Terry Dwyer won the Presidency from David Prince.

It would be remiss not to recognise the contribution of David in his time as the President of Athletics Australia, a time when the sport was taken from the kitchen table approach to the professional organisation it is today. David's commitment and passion for athletics cannot be underestimated and his departure left a big hole. We wish him every success in the future and I know we will see him around at future events.

Two new members joined the Board at the November elections. Leanne Evans, a former 400m representative and a senior executive in the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation has added a new dimension to Board operations. Leanne's approach has certainly meant a more structured approach to policy matters effecting the Board and its decision making. Ron Crawford a former representative walker and a stalwart of the New South Wales athletic fraternity has also added a wealth of experience and an insight into club operation in our biggest State.

At the same AGM Barry Stanton left the Board after 4 years. Barry's direct approach and questioning of processes has been missed at Board level. So too has his counsel to staff particularly on matters relating to Junior Development and Administration. We congratulate Barry on his contribution.

Administration and Head Office

The greatest impact in the administration this year was the departure of Neil King after seven years at the helm as National Executive Director. With David Prince, Neil had dragged the administration of this sport up by its bootstraps. Not always following the populous approach, Neil achieved much in his time. A modern well equipped office, a corporate organisational structure, a new approach to marketing and sponsorship for the sport, televising of events, broader media exposure, better deals for athletes including higher levels of reward for performance, the success of the Grand Prix series and



black and white selection standards for athletes were some of the significant contributions Neil made to athletics.

The decision to change the structure consequent to some staffing changes saw the positions of High Performance Manager, Head Coach and Competitions Manager co-located in the national office rather than separated. At the same time the Development department was combined with the Administration department which in turn had positions transferred to Competitions and Media. These changes brought about a better organisational arrangement and potentially increased productivity.

Felicity Anstee in addition to successfully completing her CPA qualification further rationalised and improved the accounting and finance reports processes. We are now in the position to provide 'at today' reports and forecasts to the Board on operating budgets. In the next period systems will be in place to similarly report on all project accounts.

Our reception and records management has been capably handled by Jan Tyrrell with part time assistance from Pam Turney.

This team ensures our administration is highly regarded within our sport and our partners.

Competitions Department

The year began with the department well placed with Brian Roe in control and assisted by Samantha Culbert. Later in the year they were joined by Tina Folmer who transferred with most of her tasks from the administration area. This trio proved to be a powerful team and were in no small measure responsible for the outstanding success of the Grand Prix Series.

With assistance from Maurie Plant the department were able to draw quality fields to most of the GPs which lead to the record crowds in Hobart, Sydney and Melbourne. The coup in attracting the legendary Carl Lewis to Sydney proved a bonus for all those in athletics.

The success of the National Championships as part of a new concept under the banner of Athsfest proved a winner and one which will be developed.

Brian and his team including the large group of volunteer officials across the breadth of the country are warmly congratulated on an outstanding year.

On a personal note, I thank Brian sincerely for his outstanding support during the second half of the year, which was an extremely trying time.

High Performance - Head Coach

Phil King's appointment to the position of Head Coach was said by some to be too late; that the changes in approach, in the disciplines, in the methods, needed to have a greater chance to be accepted and settled into the whole coaching mode. Unfortunately the appointment came after the Sydney Olympic Games announcement when all sports were thrust into the frantic rush for success. Phil's contribution in making people sit up and take notice, setting achievable goals and in a short time demonstrating that athletics was on track to winning medals in Sydney was remarkable.

After much soul searching, his decision not to continue in the role left a void which at year end has not been filled. We thank Phil for his dedication over the two years he committed to the sport.

An Interim Head Coach committee comprising of senior coaches Craig Hilliard, Cliff Mallett and Competitions Manager, Brian Roe capably shared the responsibilities of the position after Phil's departure.

With the change in the location of the High Performance Manager position to Melbourne the inimitable Peter Bowman transferred to the role of Co-ordinator of Track and Field and Swimming at the AIS. Peter's contribution in beating the path to the seats of power at the Sports Commission and the AIS and achieving results for athletics cannot be underestimated. It is pleasing to say that in his new role his experience and wisdom is not lost to Athletics Australia. The exceptional assistance provided willingly by Carol Grant from the AIS Track & Field office is also acknowledged and appreciated by all at AA.

A challenge of the year was to resolve the employment of the high performance coaches. With notable assistance from the State Institutes and Academies we were able to ensure the continuation of the majority of these coaches. The significant change in employment and funding arrangements with the AIS provided some difficulties, however, these will be resolved early in the next period.

Development Department - Member Services Department

This area despite a change in name and the departure of Matt Favier achieved remarkable results in its programs and activities.

The success of events such as the Schools Knockout, Underage National Championships, participation programs like VIP and Active Australia and projects such as the Facilities Guide, Hot Tracks and Power Pack were exceptional and showed athletics to be a leader in this



area. Special thanks to Jason Hellwig who took over the team of Lisa Grigg and Hayden Young.

After a trial period Matt Favier determined that managing the department from Sydney was too difficult and left the organisation late in the first half of the year. Matt worked tirelessly in changing the operation and philosophy of this area over his three years. Thankfully he continues his involvement in his position with Sport and Recreation in Sydney.

Media and Promotions Department

After the successes of the previous years the duo of David Culbert and Damian Booth wondered where to next. Enthused by their involvement in a variety of media activities at the Atlanta Olympics they set about planning activities for the upcoming season. New and exciting ideas led to increased publicity and exposure of our sport both before and during the season.

Unfortunately we were to lose David immediately prior to the season as a staff member, although he stayed on as a consultant until the end of the season. David came to Athletics Australia from Athletics Victoria with great vision and ideas for promoting and exposing our sport to a wider audience. David can 'mark his card' with wonderful achievements and results, in promotions, launches, marketing and exposure for athletics. I am most grateful for his support.

Karen Clifford transferred to the section during the year to consolidate all of our promotional and publicity material in the one area. Under Karen's guidance the quality of printed material has improved markedly and in particular Karen is congratulated on the Grand Prix Series Program which was an outstanding publication.

Sponsorships

In the early part of the year operations continued with Sports Marketing and Management, whilst in the later part of the year discussions commenced on the continuation of the arrangement. At year end negotiations are continuing.

Optus

Our wonderful relationship with our major sponsor has continued to grow. Optus' commitment to the sport expanded during this financial year. They increased their promotion of individual events by utilising athletes for in-store appearances and expanded their commitment to overall promotion. They increased their support of the athletes both through the prize money available during the Optus Grand Prix Series, and through their individual sponsorship of a further nine athletes announced in

January. Optus received wide acclaim and recognition throughout the athletic fraternity for their invaluable support.

The working relationship with Optus personnel in Jeremy Wright and Alison Shier and their understanding of our sport make it a pleasure for all staff to be involved.

Athletics Australia is most grateful for the support of this great company.

SPC

In our second year with this notable Australian company we were able to expand our exposure through the Hot Tracks program. It is aimed to provide this resource to all schools throughout Australia. The support from SPC for this program and the Junior Development activities is exceptional.

Nike

We were pleased to join with Nike and receive their support for the Nike Track Classic, IAAF Grand Prix II, in Melbourne and for their provision of the competition apparel for Australian teams. Steve Roach had provided great assistance and is always a welcome visitor to the office or at any event on the circuit.

Ansett

The continuing support from this icon of the corporate world is most pleasing. Not only can we rely on the service and support in a variety of activities we are grateful for the experience and knowledge of our representative David Bellville and the advice and contribution of the National Manager Sports Travel Max Wood. Their understanding and assistance contributes significantly in many areas of our operations. Our special thanks.

Comet

Another of the immeasurables is the service provided by Comet and Gary McBroom. The support from Gary, particularly during the Grand Prix Series is acknowledged by all at Athletics Australia. Continuation of this relationship is important for the success of the series.

Australian Sports Commission

In light of the marked reduction in the level of funding to our sport which occurred during the period, one could be forgiven for believing there may have been a cooling in the relationships. To the contrary we have built on the



relationship and desire to ensure that one of the principle sports of the Olympic movement is successful.

AIS Director John Boulton and our Sports Consultant Kevin Thompson have provided guidance and assistance over the period. The working relationships in all areas have built up, with Kevin making our task in providing reports and statistics much easier and less time consuming.

Centenary Year

The centenary year of our sport was marked by the Centenary Dinner held as part of Athsfest the evening before the National Championships. The night was a magnificent success with over four hundred guests from all eras of the sport in attendance. Brilliantly compered by Bruce McAvaney, we saw a parade of Champions one may never see in the one place at the same time ever again.

There are too many to name individually but the presentations of firstly John Landy and Herb Elliott, followed by Shirley de la Hunty (Strickland) and Marjorie Jackson, a message from Betty Cuthbert rounded off by Raelene Boyle were memorable and enthusiastically received.

Special thanks the wonderful work of Margaret Mahony and Jan Tyrrell in the organisation of the event, not forgetting the contribution of Jane Flemming in ensuring the success of the evening and raising significant funding for junior programs.

World Junior Championships

As the year began we were in full swing with the organisation for the 6th IAAF World Junior Championships. Many staff had been relocated to Sydney to manage the event. From the humble beginnings of three or four staff in the final weeks we had established a team of around fifty who worked long into each night.

The Championships were an outstanding success both in terms of the organisation and conduct and for the Australian junior team. Ten medals including Paul Burgess' gold in the pole vault augers well for the future of senior teams.

The organisation of the Championships established Australia in the eyes of the IAAF as extremely competent in event management. We recognise the contribution of the ASC and the NSW Government and its many departments and specifically the provision of so many resources and services by SOCOG. I am sure their staff learnt much from our time within their midst.

Those able to be involved, whether it was with volunteers, security, accommodation, catering services, team management, hospitality, celebrations or the competition gained significantly from this experience.

Special recognition to Phil O'Hara and his many committees, Bill Bailey and Stuart Snowdon for their management role, Brian Roe for all his IAAF experience and to the Board of Athletics Australia who held their faith in those of us entrusted to ensure the financial viability.

Member Associations

The past year has seen many of the difficulties in our Member Associations continue. Our largest member, ANSW, went into voluntary administration early in the period. Thankfully they were able resolve many of the difficulties and recommence normal operations early in the calendar year.

Queensland and Western Australia have also had significant problems. A General Meeting in November saw an application from Athletics North Queensland to become a member of the Federation rejected, but it highlighted some problems, particularly relative to the remoteness of clubs, experienced in the larger States. At year end we still do not know the future of our West Australian member.

The difficulties of management of our members is highlighted by the fact that the longest serving full time Executive Director has been with athletics less than six months. Similarly many of our development officers are quite new.

I reiterate what I said in 1993. Until we are able to establish a National Body with an AA office in each State and Territory and with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for Advisory Boards in each area, then we cannot succeed as a viable and growing sport. We must lead, we must have vision and we must work on the future of the sport together, not as nine separate disparate bodies which stagger from one crisis to the next.

We have the challenge to benefit from the Olympic Games to be held in our country in a little over three years. This opportunity will not come again while we are in the sport.

GEOFF ROWE
ACTING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR/BUSINESS MANAGER



Competitions Manager's Report

Perhaps even more than in most other years, the AA Competitions Department was hectic throughout the report year (1.7.96 to 30.6.97). Whilst many of the activities of the Department are touched upon by other reports including those of the three competition commissions, the Tours Commission, the Officials Sub-Commission and the Facilities and Equipment Sub-Commission, the year's worked can be summarised as follows:

- a significant role in the organisation and presentation of the 1996 World Junior Championships in Athletics, held in Sydney from 20th to 25th August 1996
- co-ordination of all National Championships - summer and winter, including the inaugural *Athsfest*
- co-ordination of the Optus Grand Prix Series
- arrangements for and servicing of all Australian Teams competing in international competition
- provision of athlete representative services for those athletes competing internationally who require same
- servicing of all competition and related commissions
- co-ordination of statistical and record services, including the Handbook of Records and Results
- liaison with ASDA and IAAF on doping matters
- provision of support, when required, for OAP/NSP Camps Programme

Whilst the dedication and hard work of the Competitions Department staff (Samantha Culbert, Tina Folmer and Maurie Plant) has been a key to the successes achieved in many of these areas during the year, such gains would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of so many volunteers, including the Commission and Committee members, the Statisticians (Paul Jenes and David Tarbotton), Records Officer (Ronda Jenkins) and especially Margaret Mahony, Peter Hamilton, Denis Wilson and Dave Cundy, the Commission Chairs.

During 1996/97, we made a significant effort to address areas of previous concern:

- the results system and service at AA events
- the quality and quantity of competition equipment available for state and national events
- team uniforms
- profit levels from AA events

We are pleased to report that we have made good progress in each area. AA and all Member Associations are now able to operate common results systems at major meets, using the *Meet Manager System*. This will enable us to provide more accurate and timely information to all users, including television, the media and the spectators. AA was able to make grants out of surpluses on some competitions to Member Associations to assist with essential competition purchases. Assessments were made on the equipment stocks of most key competition centres.

Nike was welcomed as our new national team clothing sponsor, and very admirably addressed concerns about team uniforms, with a well designed and fitting range prepared for our teams.

Surpluses were recorded on most AA events during the season, indicating that the sport has the potential to operate as a business. Most competitions were well supported, although declining numbers in road walking championships continues to be a concern.

The Optus Grand Prix Series was again most successful, with good crowd attendances, a high level of performance and increasing interest from overseas athletes. The senior National Track and Field Championships provided a series of most spectacular performances, particularly on the final day. The Australian domestic circuit is certainly in very healthy condition.

The World Junior Championships were a great success, not only in terms of the excellent results achieved by the Australian Team but also organisationally. The Championships provided a wonderful opportunity for those involved with the LOC and its project committees to develop and show their skills. For the technical officials, it was a rare opportunity for large numbers of Australians to officiate at a high level world event, a role which they, as a team fulfilled admirably. Thanks and congratulations are extended to all those, both salaried and volunteer, who made a contribution to the success of the Championships and in particular to LOC Chairman, Phil O'Hara.

In respect of future international events, a bid has been made to the IAAF to stage the 1999 IAAF Grand Prix Final in Sydney. An application has been made to have the annual Sydney domestic Grand Prix Meet recognised as an IAAF Permit Meet alongside the IAAF Grand Prix II Meeting in Melbourne.

BRIAN ROE
COMPETITIONS MANAGER



Media and Promotions Department's Report

It has been another year of frantic activity along with considerable change in the Media and Promotions Department of Athletics Australia.

After David Culbert and Damian Booth returned from the World Junior Championships in Sydney where they worked with David Tarbotton in the servicing of local and international media representatives numbering over 350 and the host broadcaster, the attention of the Department was turned to the 1996/97 Optus Grand Prix Series.

This year's Series was marked by several major announcements.

Athletics Australia entered into an agreement with Channel 9 for the coverage of the Optus Grand Prix Series along with the Optus National Championships. This announcement left us in a strong position with coverage on both free to air and pay TV with Optus Vision again providing coverage. In our first year with Nine many things were tried for the first time such as Wide World of Sports being televised live from Olympic Park on the Saturday of the National Championships.

We had a successful season working together and we look forward to improving on some areas and increasing the amount and quality of the coverage for next year.

At a very successful launch at Olympic Park in Melbourne, it was announced by Victorian Premier, the Hon. Jeff Kennett that Nike Australia was to be the naming rights sponsor for the IAAF Grand Prix II Meet in Melbourne, the Nike Track Classic, and that through negotiations with Melbourne Major Events, Tourism Victoria and the Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing, Melbourne would be hosting the Optus Open and Under 20 National Track and Field Championships for the three years in the lead up to Sydney.

The 1997 Optus Grand Prix, Sydney was a huge success. Carl Lewis was the star of the show and the crowds turned out to see the great man. It was fantastic to see kids hanging over the fence to touch Carl as he went around the track on his lap of honour proving that we all love a legend.

The Department had a heavy involvement with Aths Fest which was run for the first time in 1997. The week between the Nike Track Classic and the Optus National

Championships was a festival of athletics with various events taking place. A promotion was conducted at Myer Sport where Optus Vision filmed an episode of On Track involving Cathy Freeman, Steve Moneghetti and other high profile athletes. Various clinics were conducted over a two day period and thanks go to Athletics Victoria and the Member Services Department for their role in their conduct.

Athletics Australia celebrates its Centenary year during 1997. One of the first major occasions to celebrate our Centenary year was the dinner held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The Centenary dinner raised \$15,000 for Junior programs. The evening provided a great chance for friends to catch up with each other and team mates to be brought back together. The evening was a huge success with much of the credit going to Margaret Mahony for her work in the organisation of the dinner.

The reporting period also saw the announcement of a new look for the Australian Track and Field team with the launch of the Optus Southern Stars in Sydney on June 4th. Giving the team a name is seen as a way of increasing the recognition of the achievements of all team members in the public arena. It is also intended to give individual athletes a sense of team identity and unity.

The Department has had a changing year in its personnel. Karen Clifford was appointed as the Promotions Officer following a restructure of the organisation. David Culbert resigned from his position as Media and Promotions Manager in December but continued as a consultant with the organisation during the Grand Prix Series. Samantha Culbert moved from the Competitions Department to be Acting Media and Promotions Manager through the most demanding period of the year until she left the organisation at the end of March to move to Sydney. Despite the shifts and changes, the Department has continued to be productive and effective and is preparing for another challenging year in 1997/98.

**KAREN CLIFFORD & DAMIAN BOOTH
MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT**



Member Services Senior Officer's Report

The year has seen a number of changes and significant progress in the process of addressing the issues of participation and national development. Before addressing these in more detail, it is appropriate to acknowledge the support and efforts of former National Development Manager, Matt Favier, and Athletics Australia Board Member, Barry Stanton who both left Athletics Australia during the year. Matt and Barry's efforts in establishing the National Development Department's programs were considerable and have helped lay the solid base from which we are now building.

It is pleasing to note the change in organisational focus that has seen participation and development take a much higher profile during the reporting period. It is only through a focused effort to coordinate the resources of the sport that an increase in participation will occur. This is imperative given the challenges that we face following the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The development of the Corporate Plan of Athletics Australia has been a major achievement. For the first time, all Members of Athletics Australia have participated in articulating and defining the vision for the sport, and have reached agreement on the key areas of focus and strategies to achieve our goals.

Positive relationships have been developed between the Member Services Department, our Member Associations and other key partners, including Australian Little Athletics. This has seen us make solid progress in several key strategy areas, including the national communication network. The decisive outcomes from the May retreat of the National Administration/Development Commission were a

good example of how shared vision and a commitment to work together can be successful.

Club development is without question the area in which we must make progress. The strategies developed in the corporate plan are starting to show some positive results, however it is vital to the future of the sport that we maintain the momentum which has been developed. Our sport is played in the clubs.

The introduction of the SPC Hot Tracks Program has allowed us to regain our ground in schools that had been lost following the cessation of the Mars sponsorship. At the end of this reporting period, 42% of all Australian schools have taken up the program.

Our Integration Program for Athletes with a Disability continues to lead the way for other sports. Our National Championships were once again successful in providing a high quality event. Most pleasing has been the successful nomination of the Disability Commission to the Australian Paralympic Federation to act as the Sports Advisory Committee for athletics in the lead up to the 2000 Paralympics.

I would like to thank the rest of the Member Services team - Lisa Grigg and Hayden Young for their efforts. Thanks also to the State Development Officers and Executive Directors who have shown a willingness to share in the vision for the sport and work in partnership with us. Final thanks to Leanne Evans, who, since being elected to the Board of Athletics Australia has provided myself and the Member Services team with all the support and leadership that we could have hoped for.

**JASON HELLWIG
MEMBER SERVICES SENIOR
OFFICER**



Member Association Reports

ACT Athletics

President: Brian Gleeson
Executive Director: Phil Spring

1996-97 has been a consistent year on and off the track for ACT Athletics. A new Board structure and related constitutional changes were endorsed by the Management Council. The ensuing elections resulted in a number of new faces and a blending of experience and technical knowledge. The selection of Phil Spring as the new Executive Director rounded off the professional and business approach that needed to be taken by the Board to meet the demands and challenges of the season.

One of the most important strategic issues that faced the Association during the year was the negotiation on a new all-weather track for Canberra. In fact, I felt that this was a personal priority that needed the commitment of my time and energy. It is pleasing to report that the ACT Government's Budget will reveal funding of nearly \$100,000 for a feasibility study for a new track at Woden and a further \$4 million for the first phase of the installation of the track in the 1998-99 season. I see that this facility, when finished, will position ACT Athletics to better be able to provide service to our athletes, provide more earning capacity for the ACT Athletics Council (and thus us), make us less reliant on the AIS Athletics Track and provide opportunities to access international athletes and coaches that can be expected to visit Canberra to train and compete in the lead up period to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

ACT Athletics ran a successful competition season which included the regular Championships, the successful twilight series, the Sprint and Distance Optus Grand Prix and culminated in the Australian Championships for the athletes with disabilities. The latter attracted a record number of athletes and was evaluated by athletes, officials and the Athletics Australia representatives to be very successful. Performances by Lisa Llorens (world record) and Sharon Rackham were noteworthy.

ACT Athletes performed very well at the National and International levels. The selection of Shaun Creighton, Steve Isbel and Trent Harlow to represent Australia at the World Cross Country Championships, Susan Hobson, Shaun Creighton, Stuart Rendell and Patrick Johnson for the World Championships were highlights at the international level. Melanie Collins, Susan Hobson, Stuart Rendell, Steve Isbel, Trent Harlow and Penny

Grant had consistently good performances at the Optus Grand Prix Series. The majority of these athletes went on to compete at the National Track and Field Championships and produced a number of medal winning performances.

The ACT juniors performed well again at all levels, culminating in the ACT team of only 19 athletes receiving 13 medals (2 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze) at the Junior Nationals in Brisbane. This continues the excellent record of recent ACT teams who have brought back a swag of medals against the strength of the bigger States. The most noteworthy junior performances during the season were by Penny Grant who won a gold (1500) and silver (800) in the under 18 age group, which followed a gold (3k) and bronze (1500) at the under 20 Nationals and gold (1500) and bronze (800) at the Pacific Schools Games in Perth. Penny also won the under 18 National Cross Country Championships in Bendigo.

During the year, ACT Athletics has again been fortunate to maintain valued sponsorship and support from the ACT Government Bureau of Sport, Recreation and Racing, the ACT Academy of Sport, the Australia Day Sports Carnival, Coca Cola, the ACT Health Promotion Fund, Healthpact, the Australian Institute of Sport, Ansett Australia, SPC, Sunsmart, Instant Colour Press and Optus. Without these sponsors, ACT Athletics would not be able to successfully conduct its activities.

ACT Athletics is highly regarded for the spirit and professionalism it displays in conducting its competition activities and administration. The dedication and ongoing support the Association receives throughout the season from its officials and volunteers is greatly appreciated. The officials maintain a high quality standard of technical support in ensuring that all competitions are run correctly but in a now traditional "friendly Canberra spirit". I would also like to place on record my appreciation and that of all ACT athletes for the work done in the office by Phil Spring and all members of the Executive who all put in countless hours of unpaid work in the pursuit of a better ACT athletics.

1997-98 presents a number of challenges for ACT Athletics. It is essential that all officials, clubs, coaches and athletes work together to ensure that these challenges are shared and we maximise the benefit of teaming our resources. The challenges of note from my perspective are:

- developing measures to arrest the decline in our registration numbers
 - considering initiatives which will improve member (athlete) services
 - improving our access and servicing of sponsors
 - obtaining better media coverage and improving the profile of our sport in the ACT
 - reviewing our competition structure to ensure that it meets the current needs of our athletes
 - developing strategies to pursue opportunities arising from the Sydney 2000 Olympics
- increasing the focus on development including building on the strength of our juniors, considering new clubs in developing areas, assisting clubs needing help in servicing members and working more closely with schools
 - preparing the ground work, with the ACT Athletics Council, for the new track facility.

Shaun Creighton (ACT) pictured with Ron Clarke after breaking Clarke's 31 year old 10,000m Australian record.
Photo courtesy of Stuart Milligan, Sporting Pix



Athletics New South Wales

President: Ralph Doubell
Executive Director: John Patchett

The past year has been one of the most tumultuous in our history. I would like to review it from three perspectives.

1. THE SPORT

The principal focus of all our efforts must be the success of the sport and its development throughout the State and the Clubs.

In the past year we have seen a number of results and developments which have been very successful. The highlights include:

Outstanding Performances

The pinnacle for all elite athletes is The Olympic Games and Louise McPaul won a silver medal with her last throw at Atlanta. It was a fantastic performance under enormous pressure. Louise and her coach, Board member Peter Lawler, deserve all our congratulations.

Other outstanding performers included individual medal winners Clay Cross, Grant Cremer and Rosemary Hayward in the 1996 World Junior Championships, in addition to four relay medals to Jason Snell, Peter Missingham, Josephine Fowley and Rosemary Hayward. The Australian team performed tremendously well to place third in the overall result.

NSW junior athletes continued to outperform their peers in the Australian Under Age Championships in Brisbane. Of all the medals, NSW girls won 48% of the total available while the boys won 40%.

The challenge for us all is to keep these outstanding juniors participating in the sport as they mature physically and emotionally.

The Sydney Grand Prix

This event run in conjunction with Athletics Australia, saw over 12,000 people attend the meet which featured Carl Lewis, one of the greatest athletes of all time.

The attendance was the largest for any track and field meet for over ten years and demonstrates that the people of Sydney will attend well promoted meets featuring world class athletes. We look forward to well structured meets in the next few years in the lead up to the Olympics.

2. THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF ANSW

Our financial condition continues to be extremely serious. The situation was formally recognised in October last year when the Board appointed an administrator to independently review the operations of the company. The administrator's appointment was triggered by the approximate \$80,000 loss on the Sydney Marathon. Even before this loss, ANSW had in each of the past two years experienced a cash loss of over \$100,000.

During this two year period, costs had been built up well in excess of revenue but one-off accounting entries and reversal allowed the company to report profit.

With the change of the organisation to a company status, our loss from the Sydney Marathon and the impending action of various creditors, our directors had no choice but to appoint administrators.

The administrator's principal objectives were to solve the immediate cash shortfall and satisfy the existing creditors. A number of recommendations were made most of which have been adopted.

Since the period of administration we have continued to experience negative results because the controls and assurances given to the Board proved to be flawed. These assurances covered the recovery of costs from both the NSW Institute of Sport and Athletics Australia. Additionally, cost reductions on staffing and operations were not implemented despite assurances to the contrary.

Since May we have reduced costs to a minimum. By necessity some services have been curtailed but if we are to survive all of us will need to make sacrifices.

In the office we now have Suzanne O'Keefe as the Administration Manager responsible for day to day operations in the office, including the control of cash. Assisting has been David Tarbotton on a full time basis with John Patchett and Ron Crawford on a part time basis. An expanded network of volunteers had also been established to assist these people in planning and executing all that is required in the office. I thank them all for all their efforts under these trying times.

Our budget for the next year forecast a small profit. To achieve this, costs need to be minimised at all levels with controls being implemented to ensure that the appropriate level of approval is obtained prior to expenditure.

To date, the focus of our attention has been on costs but now we need an equal focus on increasing services. We

continue to work with SOCOG to have the Sydney Marathon underwritten by Olympic sponsors, especially as the 1999 Marathon will be a test event with all costs underwritten by SOCOG. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the 1997 Sydney Marathon as there was insufficient time to work with sponsors in leveraging their involvement, but with the focus on the promotion the sport and the appropriate involvement of SOCOG and Athletics Australia, the Marathon will develop as a major, professionally conducted event for ANSW.

Other sponsorship will be reviewed especially in the areas of development and the sport itself.

3. THE FUTURE

Performances by NSW athletes in the Olympics, The World Junior Championships and the Australian Under Age Championships have been outstanding.

One of the great challenges we face as a sport is to keep these young athletes motivated so they fulfil their potential. With the Olympics being held in our city in three years time

surely nothing could be more conducive to provide the facilities, the coaching and the motivation to compete in the Olympics.

But our sport also needs to focus on the motivation of the club athlete. Club competition is the building block for every level of performance. It is the clubs, the coaches, the officials, the parents, the friends and the participants who provide the motivation. If changes like those made last year, when we had seeded 'A-Grade' Inter-District events, are needed we will make them. If the timing or location of Inter-District needs to be changed let us discuss it and if agreed make the change.

The sport then is in good shape. The same cannot be said of the financial condition of the company.

The loss on the Marathon last year on top of two years of cash losses crystallised the appointment of an administrator.

Almost all of the recommendations of the administrator have been implemented and costs have been reduced to a minimum.

Strict financial controls and reporting have been required but it is only after the most recent change in management that the Board can now depend on the assumptions

behind these figures and now that adequate cost controls will be maintained. There is no easy solution to these issues but every action to address them has and will be addressed.

Not everyone is satisfied with the progress of recognising and implementing these changes and a vote of no-confidence was put to members in March. This was overwhelmingly defeated based, I believe largely on the manner and motivation of the particular individuals

Carl Lewis at the 1997 Optus Grand Prix in Sydney.
Photo courtesy of Duane Hart, Sporting Images

recommending the motion and a general acceptance of the Board's actions. Not much has changed since then. The restructure has to continue and we will continue to work with Athletics Australia and SOCOG to promote meets and events for the benefit of the sport rather than for the benefit of individuals.

Our focus must and will continue to be development of the sport. Most of the issues have now been recognised and addressed. The financial condition of the company remains very weak but with the assistance of our principal creditors we expect to slowly recover. In the mean time the sport is progressing and I look forward to your continued support.



Northern Territory Athletics

President: Brian Webb
Sec/Manager: Bernie Trinne
Sam Nash

The 1996/97 year has been a busy year for Northern Territory Athletics.

NT Athletics started the year as host to the Paralympic track and field pre-Atlanta departure camp. Officials and Equipment for heat acclimatisation were provided for training and competition. Positive relations were developed between NT Athletics and Chris Nunn. NT Athletics boasts an International standard facility and we hope that his type of utilisation will continue in the future, particularly towards the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next year.

The NT Senior Championships were successful but small. Moil Athletics Club had numbers come in to the Championships from Jabiru. Unfortunately, for the first time in a number of years we had no representatives from Alice Springs. As usual, the NT Little Athletics Championships had a fantastic turnout. It was the first time in NT athletic history that we welcomed Tennant Creek Athletics Club who travelled up to Darwin to participate in the Championships. Another successful and well organised Litchfield Gift was held earlier in 1997. The event was won by a local Territorian and NT Institute athlete James Tom.

NT Officials have been very interactive throughout 1996/97. Three Territory officials travelled to Melbourne to officiate in the Optus U20 & Open National Championships. NT Athletics ventured down to Katherine and Alice Springs to run officiating and coaching courses. Both were very well received.

A very exciting time for NTA has been the development and implementation of the Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS). Thanks to the support of Jason Hellwig of Athletics Australia, athletics is now an endorsed sport of the NTIS. Our

elite athletes have formed an elite squad and a number of our promising athletes have qualified for the development squad. In particular, the NTIS has developed a mentor program. The mentor program allows our NT coaches to link up with coaches in other States, to develop and update their coaching knowledge and skills. The year ahead will be instrumental in ensuring this mentor program is successful.

Another impressive Oz Squad camp was held last year. Kyle Vander Kuyp and National Javelin Coach, Peter Lawler travelled up with Jason Hellwig to promote and contribute to the smooth operation of the camp. Kyle was great with the athletes. It was an extremely successful weekend, enjoyed by all involved. Bringing a high profile athlete into the Territory has proven to be very well received by our athletes and NTA looks forward to our next Oz Squad Camp.

Arafura Year again! The Arafura Sports Festival was conducted 10-13th May. The games were host to more than 160 athletes from over 15 different regions. The standard of the competition was excellent with many NT and Arafura records broken. Special thanks to Reg Brandis (AA), Jim Minehane and Brian Smith (QLD).

In the year ahead, NT Athletics will be appointing part-time ALA Development Officers into our Country Centres. A permanent contact in the area allows individual problems to be identified and a stronger and more consistent follow up concerning talent identification and club recruitment is expected.

Finally, special thanks to the Board and the part-time Secretary/Manager, Bernie Trinne whose hard work and commitment kept athletics active in the Northern Territory. A new full-time Secretary/Manager has recently been appointed, therefore a lot of change and development is expected for the coming year.



Queensland Athletics

President: Paul O'Brien OAM
General Manager: George Harvey
Geoff McKinnon

The past year has been a difficult one with a number of factors impacting on the already complex job of administering athletics. Firstly, the withdrawal of North Queensland clubs from the Association and subsequent formation of Athletics North Queensland has effected finances, sponsorship and distribution of government funding. Secondly, the Association has also gained an increased workload in managing the State Athletics Centre at the QEII complex. This has not yet been matched with an increase in resources and it will take some time to make the transition to operating on a commercial basis.

The rift with Athletics North Queensland has been of continuing concern to the Association and significant efforts have been made to resolve the split. The difficulties in managing athletics in the most regionalised of Australian States have always been a strain with limited financial resources available. New ways to make decisions and share resources need to be found. To this purpose, a meeting in Townsville in May of representatives from the Queensland Office of Sport and Recreation, Athletics Australia, Queensland Athletics and Athletics North Queensland started a consultative process that will hopefully see a re-unified and stronger sport in Queensland.

The annual elections for Board of Management positions in May were unfortunately held to be invalid due to uncertainty relating to some clubs' voting rights as well as procedural errors in the conduct of the election. The Annual General Meeting therefore resolved to recommence the voting procedure to finalise the election by the end of September 1997. This has unfortunately delayed resolution of the situation that has seen the resignation of 4 directors during the year.

State Athletic Centre (SAC)

Queensland Athletics has now signed with the Brisbane City Council to lease the 10 lane track at the QEII complex. This means that Queensland Athletics is now responsible for repairs and replacement of surfaces and equipment during the term of the lease. The only guaranteed assistance is one track resurfacing funded by the Council.

The completion of Stage 2 development works comprising Grandstand roof, second long/triple/pole vault runway,

second "D" and warmup track has not occurred. This is disappointing given an initial commitment to complete this stage by March 1997. The roof is now planned for completion in late 1997 and no timeline has been established for the other components. The completion of this stage will take a lot of pressure off officials and programmers at championship times with the enhanced flexibility the expanded facility will provide. Surface wear will also be minimised giving extended life to the track.

There are plans for new tracks to be located at Nudgee College, University of Queensland - St Lucia Campus and Griffith University - Gold Coast Campus. When completed this will give Queensland six artificial tracks when Glennie College (Toowoomba) and Townsville Sports Reserve are considered. The impact of these tracks on revenue from the SAC is expected to be minimal given the wide geographic spread of the tracks. The likely impact is an increase in total track usage and the development of the sport.

Grand Prix Final

Brisbane was host to the 1997 Optus Grand Prix Final which was run as a joint venture with Brisbane City Council and Athletics Australia. The meet was run during the afternoon due to the excessive cost of additional floodlighting required to meet television standards. The provision of the new grandstand roof will include additional lighting to meet this standard and will allow a night meeting to maximise both attendance and the quality of performances. The final also highlights the standard of Queensland athletes with Joanna Stone taking out the Javelin points as well as overall female Athlete of the Series.

Operations

The continuing evolution of management structures has resulted in the loss of General Manager, George Harvey in April. George was replaced by Geoff McKinnon until a permanent appointment could be made. Operation Manager Jason O'Meara also left in May to travel overseas. The staff is currently reduced to General Manager, Development and Competitions Officer and receptionist. The association has been utilising the volunteer services of John Mitchell as financial controller. This has resulted in significant tightening of expenditure and a likely turn around in the long term finances of the association. The responsibility of managing the SAC will require the employment of a Facility Manager. It is envisaged that this will be a self funding position with increased income accruing from superior marketing of the facility to schools and other organisations.



Athletics South Australia

President: Barry Stanton
Office Manager: Sophie Keil

1996/97 marks Athletics S.A.'s final year at Olympic Sports Field. For many members this means leaving a venue which has been an important part of their athletics involvement over the past thirty years. Olympic Sports Field has been the site of many state and national competitions and records, and athletes from all over Australia will remember it for some memorable occasions in their sporting careers. It will be sad for all to leave such a picturesque ground.

It is however, with great excitement that Athletics S.A. will move to its new competition venue at Mile End. Members have watched the development of a fantastic looking athletics stadium over the past 12 months with completion drawing closer. President, Barry Stanton and Technical Director, John Hamann, have given many voluntary hours in the development of the new stadium, and we thank them for their important contribution.

Athletics S.A. has had a remarkable year of consolidation after an unsettled period in its history. Registrations for the year were up on previous years, and results have been improving, particularly among the junior ranks. South Australia was very proud to have its largest ever contingent to the World Junior Championships, with Tim Ewen, Brad Jamieson, Luke Temme, Ronald Garlett and Matt Filsell all representing Australia. South Australia was also creditably represented at the Atlanta Olympics by Sean Carlin and Simon Arkell, after Jagan Hames disappointingly withdrew due to injury prior to departing.

adidas City Mile

With a new sponsor for 1996, the City Mile saw some changes to the program with the inclusion of a clubs relay, and a triathlon demonstration. Natalie Harvey and Glenn Ritchie both of Victoria, were the successful winners of the elite races. With the rollerblade mile, schools mile, and services relay continuing to be well supported by all involved.

1997 Optus Grand Prix

With the arrival of Carl Lewis in Sydney, this year's Adelaide Grand Prix was moved away from its traditional Australia Day, to the 1st of February. With a precedent being set the previous year, it was expected that the Grand Prix would continue its increasing popularity among the South Australian spectators. A well organised competition was enjoyed by all, with great support from crowd favourites Melinda Gainsford-Taylor and Kyle Vander Kuyp, with added support from World Champion, Sonia O'Sullivan, and fellow overseas visitors Greg Houghton and Eric Thomas.

Junior Development Program

One of Athletics S.A.'s greatest successes during the year was the diversification of the Living Health Junior Development Program, supported by Derek McFadden as Development Officer and Graham Davis as Field Officer. Under Graham's guidance as Field Officer, Athletics S.A. has seen the successful development of the *Sunsmart Schools Coaching Unit*, consisting of twenty young

coaches, who Athletics S.A. has trained through the Level 1 AT& FCA coaching course. These coaches have been coaching in secondary schools across the state, going into regional areas which have previously been unserviceable by Athletics S.A. We look forward to the growth and development of this group, as they continue to promote and educate the South Australian school community about the sport of athletics.

Office News

This year Athletics S.A. has once again been strongly supported by its office staff, with additional support being provided by Damen Brown and Susin Thoroughgood through the state sports trainee scheme. President, Barry Stanton gave his time generously in a supporting role as acting General Manager throughout the year, his time and energy has been greatly appreciated during this period of consolidation. As improved facilities become available and focus is returned to the sport, Athletics S.A. is looking forward to entering a new and exciting phase in its history.

Australian Decathlon Record Holder Jagan Hames
 Photo courtesy of Duane Hart, Sporting Images

Athletics Tasmania

President: Prof. Terry Dwyer
General Manager: Kevin Oakey
Pat Scammell

In the last twelve months the Athletic Association of Tasmania has had some major changes in personnel with the General Manager Kevin Oakey taking up a role with VicSwim in Melbourne in late August. The Development Officer Daniel Smee started with the Hobart City Council in March.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to Athletics in Tasmania and wish them well in their new careers. I would also like to thank the Board of Athletics Tasmania and the staff (Karen Leavey and Daniel Smee) for their role in handling the day to day operation whilst the position of the General Manager was open. With this in mind the middle of the year had its difficulties but the Associations' poise was retained through their dedication.

With my appointment in the last quarter of this year (January 13th) it was a busy time for the Association with the Optus Grand Prix, Trident Relays, State Titles and National Titles (open and underage teams). Thank you to Graeme Briggs and Wayne Fletcher for their time and efforts in their competition roles. For me personally it has been a challenge to come to terms with the difficult requirements of a new position.

I would like to thank the Athletic fraternity at large for their support. This has made my early dealings with the Athletic community much easier.

This is a good opportunity to reflect on the last twelve months and also address the key issues for the future.

Registrations:

There has been a 10 percent increase in the number of athletes registered in our sport which is a good result under difficult conditions. The challenge now is how to continue

that trend to show even better figures. The opportunity for growth is real, as we have approximately 30,000 participants taking part in our sport throughout the state which includes schools, fun runs, pro athletes and our own competitions, but we still only have 700 registered athletes which represents 2.3% of the 30,000. As these figures show we have great potential but the time has come for us to work together to achieve better results. The Association can not do it on its own, the Branches can not do it on their own and the Clubs can not do it on its own - we have to do it with a joint cooperative plan that focuses on agreed outcomes and time frames.

We have an unique opportunity to tap into the world's greatest sporting event which will be held in our country in three years time. We as a sport must take this opportunity

by the scruff of the neck. There are many products in the market place but remember we are the banner sport of the Olympics and thus have a raw product that is special. Let us work together to make our product attractive to the market to which we are aiming.

Facility Upgrades:

This has been a special area of achievement and with upgrading of St Leonards and Domian Tracks completed, we now have three world class surfaces in the State, as Kevin Oakey said in last year's report, it is vital that facility upgrades

continue across the state. Thank you to the Branches in their work in this particular area.

In my first three months I have been involved with Rob Glade-Wright in his role as the Director of the Back the Track appeal for the Hobart facility. The work he has done in the last 12 months has been significant; he has backed his vision of a World Class facility with a total commitment to see the project through.

I am confident that in the next 12 months his fund raising efforts will produce concrete results. As his assistant to this project, I would like to thank him on behalf of the other appeal committee members, SAB and the Athletics community as a whole for his contribution to this project.

Linford Christie at the Optus Grand Prix & Trident Relays in Hobart. Photo courtesy Duane Hart, Sporting Images



Athletics Victoria

President: Kevin Dynan
Executive Director: Lachlan Tighe

Athletics Victoria has some interesting challenges facing it through to the Year 2000. These might include:

- attracting people to participate in our sport, rather than other activities,
- fostering the volunteer contribution,
- preparing ourselves for the wave of 'sport entertainment' that is a feature in our sporting calendar,
- developing the information technology required for the future (of our sport), to meet the increasing demands of the age,
- maintaining a strong sponsorship base.

The adoption and dissemination of the 'Business Plan 1997-2000' earlier this year certainly provides the guarantee we need for us to meet our aims and objectives and these supply of challenges.

Viability stems from financial resources and sponsorship as one such resource is valued by the sport.

Over the past 12 months there has been an unusual amount of turnover of staff with the departure of Sharon Russell - Executive Director, Matthew Scholes - Development/Marketing Manager and Rod de Highden - Development Officer. The change over has allowed the association to change its staffing structure with 9 people now employed with only 3 being full time members of staff. The new additions to the staff are Lachlan Tighe - Executive Director, Evette Cordy - Development Manager, Leah Rogers - Administration Officer, Christine Rouse - Data Entry Clerk, Tim Zichy Woinarski - Information Technology Officer. Julian Dwyer and Shirley Orr have now moved to different positions with Julian - Development Officer and Shirley - Secretary.

Olympic Park

A year ago, it was believed that a major football stadium would be built at Olympic Park. It appears that this concept has been abandoned and replaced by the Docklands Project. It is possible that as this would remove soccer and rugby from Olympic Park, the venue would become more dedicated to athletics.

With the help of the Victorian State Government \$4.2million has been allocated for the resurfacing and refurbishment of Olympic Park. The new surface played

host to the Nike Track Classic and Australian Championships.

The Victorian Athletic Council

This replaces the Victorian Athletic Development Committee but still includes the Victorian Little Athletics Association and was strengthened recently with the inclusion of the Victorian Athletic League. It is proposed to develop into an umbrella organisation to include the various organisations which provide competitions for athletes with disabilities and also the Victorian Cross Country League.

COMPETITIONS

Summer

State League suffered this year with the absence of Olympic Park as a base for the competition. However, the response to the State League round held in Geelong was extremely heartening. The competition received excellent support and media coverage in the area.

The Victorian Championships were well received by all involved (athletes, officials, coaches and spectators). The Open & Under 20 Championships provided a showcase of Victorian Olympians and World Junior athletes.

The Summer Cup Competition has now moved to a pre-season competition which proved to be a success, with many clubs from metropolitan and country Victoria entering teams.

Tattersall's Classic

Tattersall's joined Athletics Victoria as a sponsor for this year's Victorian Grand Prix which is now known as the Tattersall's Classic Series. In its third season, this year produced some remarkable performances as well as an increased profile due in part to Tattersall's sponsorship.

Nike Track Classic

This year saw NIKE take over from NEC (past sponsor since 1988) as the principal sponsor of the IAAF Grand Prix II event. An innovation for the 16,313 crowd was a state of the art vision screen at the Swan Street end of the stadium. The vision was spectacular with replays and overhead shots; the innovation certainly taking the meet to a new entertainment level.

International big name athletes were in attendance, including some of the overseas regulars. They included Linford Christie, Roger Kingdom, Jack Pierce, Tony Jarrett, Sonia O'Sullivan, Toni Hodgkinson and Raymond Hecht just to name a few.



Emma George again broke her World Record which was only 12 days old.

Optus Centenary Australian Open & Under 20 Track And Field Championships

After negotiations between Athletics Australia, Tourism Victoria and Melbourne Major Events, Melbourne was awarded the right to stage the Centenary Championships plus the next two years in the lead up to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

The final day produced some of the best performances at an Australian Championship. Victorians were stealing the show, with Tim Forsyth breaking his own Australian record in the High Jump, Adrian Hatcher throwing over 80 metres in the Javelin, Evette Cordy's surprise win in the 400 metre hurdles and Rohan Robinson and Kyle Vander Kuyp both recording their sixth Australian titles.

Optus Zatopek Classic

This year's meeting was held in November about a month prior to its normal date due to the resurfacing of Olympic Park. The final event on the old track produced the best 10,000m event ever seen in Australia. It was quite a way to leave the old track surface. In what was a race of records both Shaun Creighton (2nd) and Darren Wilson (3rd) broke Ron Clarke's 31 year old record while the winner Luke Kipkosgei took countryman's Henry Rono's All Comers record.

Australian Cross Country Championships

For the second year in a row Athletics Victoria conducted the Championships. Victorian teams dominated the event with all but the Under 20 men taking the teams titles. Athletics Bendigo and the Belvoir Park Golf Club are to be congratulated on their efforts.

MEDIA:

With the introduction of a media area to Athletics Victoria there were three goals established to focus on;

- Increase the interest of athletics in the media,
- Create new media contacts outside traditional contacts,
- Act as a contact point for the media.

The target after the Olympics was to keep a media focus on the sport. During the Track and Field season we were able to accomplish this by having the Tattersall's Classic Series with the high profile athletes competing and constant liaisons with media representatives.

For the first time a media guide was produced with the assistance of Tattersall's and Llenlees Press. Together with two media launches, Tattersall's Classic and Victorian Championships, were able to generate plenty of attention. As we increase our profile the list of media

contacts continues to grow as well as the support given to them.

DEVELOPMENT

Athletics Victoria development pertains to increasing participation of individuals in the sport and retaining existing members through development of clubs, member services and competitions.

Club Development

Clubs were offered assistance during the season via a range of resources and activities.

As a recruitment incentive, all clubs were offered free tickets to both the Nike Track Classic and Australian Championships in return for promoting their clubs at these championships. The Nike Track Classic is an attractive competition and therefore a great opportunity to recruit new members. Only a few clubs took up this offer, however hopefully enthusiasm can be increased in the future.

Hearthealth "Healthiest Club" awards

The top finishing six clubs for 1997 each receive a prize of \$500. Many clubs have been very active in their pursuit of a top six finish. Currently, the six leading clubs include; Ivanhoe, East Brunswick, Ringwood, Knox Sherbrooke, Brunswick and St Stephens. Clubs have been very innovative in promoting the **Hearthealth** message and adopting structural health changes within their clubs.

Junior Development

An integral key to building participation in athletics is to recruit and retain school athletes through the provision of programs, resources and competitions. In the past year a number of activities were conducted with the aims of both recognising juniors who achieved excellent results in athletics and to give juniors an opportunity to become involved in the sport.

2000 & Beyond Squad

Nearly 400 of Victoria's best junior athletes were selected into one of four squads (Flintoff-King Achievers, Freeman Performance, Kilborn Talent, George Schools). More than 1000 people were in attendance for the Presentation Day. These athletes were also invited to attend three subsequent functions which aimed to disseminate information on drug education, sports medicine and specialist coaching.

School Coaching Clinics

Numerous school coaching clinics were conducted over the past year for both Track & Field and Cross Country in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. **Hearthealth** coaches have a strong focus on promoting the sport, the advantages of joining a club and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. There are strong demands for clinics in



regional areas and we look forward to conducting clinics in Kerang, Mildura and Sale in the next year.

All Schools Premier League

This successful competition was conducted at Olympic Park over 6 weeks, on Monday and Wednesday nights, culminating with the Grand Final in which all entered schools took part. In the Grand Final, the top half of teams in each section competed for the major premiership while the bottom half of teams in each section competed for the minor premiership. The competition caters for over 500 athletes at each competition.

Tattersall's Classic

For the first time special events were held for junior athletes prior to the start of these meetings. It was very much appreciated by the athletes with full fields in each event. These events should be enlarged and encouraged.

1996 Victorian Schools Knock Out

This exciting competition comprised two rounds and a final which were all conducted at Olympic Park. Sixty five schools took part in this competition with a number of new schools entered this year.

Sofnet

For the first time Athletics Victoria produced two interactive television programs aired to all Victorian and New South Wales Government schools on the Schools of the Future Satellite Television Network (SOFNet). The programs aimed to increase the awareness of athletics and promote a healthy lifestyle. Students were encouraged to watch the program by having the opportunity to ring or fax the studio and talk live to their heroes. High profile athletes including Steve Moneghetti, Kyle Vander Kuyp, Lee Naylor and Kate Anderson proved motivational through their experiences of a healthy lifestyle. Support for these programs was provided by Hearthealth, Athletics Australia, Education Victoria, Sport and Recreation Victoria and Sport and Recreation NSW.

Regional Development

The **Hearthealth** Regional Co-ordinators have continued to develop and implement programs within their specific regions. In 1996 the Regional Co-ordinators promoted the health message and encouraged active participation in athletics by conducting specific track and field activities for the local community such as coaching clinics.

Track & Field Seminar

This year a Track and Field Seminar was conducted as part of Athsfest activities. Both coaches and teachers were

invited to this two day program which aimed to promote the sport, provide specialist and relevant skills and learning and to potentially recruit teachers to become track and field coaches. Many thanks to **Hearthealth**, Athletics Australia, OPSMC, V.I.S. and ATFCA for their support of this program.

Future Initiatives

Further work needs to be undertaken to increase the numbers of members, officials and coaches and developing incentives for people to become involved in officiating, coaching, strengthening clubs and becoming members.

Emma George breaks her own world record at the 1997 Nike Track Classic. Photo courtesy of Duane Hart, Sporting Images



Athletic Association of Western Australia

President: Joan Hancy
Executive Director: Neil Cole

ADMINISTRATION

At the Annual General Meeting of the AAWA held on July 31 1996, election of members of the Board of Management resulted in five positions being filled. This continuing lack of support from Clubs to fill all portfolios was highlighted as an extremely disturbing trend, as full management/administrative services were still expected by members from a half-full Board. As the year unfolded it was often only an executive of three members in attendance at Board Meetings who continued to support the membership voluntarily from private resources, i.e. telephone, fax, correspondence, photocopying, postage, etc.

Prior to this, however, the AAWA Auditors in their report on the affairs of the Association for the financial year ended March 30, 1996 included in their "Notes to the Financial Statements" that "the Association will continue to receive income and conduct athletic events. However, the Association will no longer employ management or administration staff." "The Board will continue to support the Association on a voluntary basis and all other requirements will be supported by Athletics West or voluntary help." By this time it had become clear that no future Government funding would be available to any level of the sport of athletics in Western Australia other than that given to Athletics West; the Minister for Sport also makes appointments of Board Members to Athletics West.

The inaugural Chief Executive Officer of Athletics West concluded his three year contract at the end of April, 1996, and at the end of July, 1996, the Chairman of Athletics West advised that Mr. Chilla Porter had been appointed Chief Executive Officer as from August 12, and ten days later we were informed that Athletics West no longer required the services of Mr. Neil Cole who had been acting in the capacity of interim Chief Executive Officer. Also at this time the Minister for Sport announced the appointment of a consultant to research and establish an operational basis for Athletics West for the future operation of our sport, and on September 2, 1996, Mr. Wayne Loxley commenced employment with Athletics West in position of General Manager, with an emphasis on service to our membership.

At the time this seemed a co-operative solution to the maintenance of an AAWA office and identity. These changed circumstances were reported to Clubs on

September 12, 1996, including that owing to capital deficiency we would temporarily be unable to continue trading.

AAWA Board of Management and its various committees continued with the planning and organisational side of competition management and it came as somewhat of a surprise to learn in December, 1996, that the Athletics Development Programme would include a Statement of Duties for a General Manager with "specific duties" some of which are listed:

- Draft and monitor regulations for all competition
- Prepare and manage all occasions of athletics competition including booking of venues, provision of equipment and provision of officials
- Be responsible for all communications related to athletics competitions, including liaison with venue management, clubs, athletes and all relevant groups and persons
- Liaise and maintain relationships with all councils managing athletics facilities
- Build and manage volunteer teams for competition management including timing, judging, measurement, equipment, presentation and results
- Manage equipment including permanent and mobile equipment stores, communications, electronic timing and public address systems
- Ensure the delivery of all sponsor rights as they relate to athletics competitions
- Co-ordinate the selection of state teams

Also the "objectives" of Statement of Duties include:

- Develop and maintain the competitions structure of WA Athletics
- Deliver high quality competition opportunities to all participants in Athletics in WA

As the incorporated body in Western Australia, affiliated with Athletics Australia, and with an objective including the conduct of athletics competitions in Western Australia, it was thought this would continue to be a function of the AAWA Board of Management.

AAWA ACCOUNTS

During the period September, 1996 to the end of January, 1997, it was believed AAWA accounts were continuing to be operated independently and would be represented as previously. However, at the end of January financial statements were handed to our Treasurer for presentation to Council Meeting on January 28 and were presented to



the meeting for information only, without discussion, as the Board of Management wished to establish proof of source prior to confirmation. This was felt to be expedient because it was believed some entries may not have been AAWA income and expenditure and prior to presentation there had been no discussion with Athletics West in regard to (i) change to previous accounting procedures; (ii) establishment of an AAWA Loan Account and (iii) receipts and payments being unable to be reconciled.

We are also in the unfortunate position for the first time in the history of our Association of not being able to present an audited financial report for the period 1 April, 1996 - March 31, 1997. No further comment on this matter will be presented because on May 23, 1997, a communication was received from Barristers and Solicitors representing Athletics West re "Athletics Association of Western Australia - Creditor's Statutory Demand for Payment of Debt and Affidavit Verifying a Debt Which is not a Judgement Debt".

1996-97 TRACK & FIELD COMPETITION

Although membership did not quite reach the level of the previous year, there was a great deal of effort and

organisation put into the conduct of the various programmes.

The week long (December 7 - 14 inclusive) Pacific Schools Games, incorporating the Australian All Schools Championships, concluding with the National Schools Knockout, were well supported by our officials, visiting officials from other States and schools staff. The student athletes from both overseas and all Australian States were a credit to their schools and produced some close finishes and high standard performances all round.

January again presented the opportunity for WA to showcase athletics in the form of the Optus Grand Prix. This event was appreciated by the general public in attendance, and local members enthusiastically responded to the challenge of competing with visiting athletes.

CONCLUSION

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing sincere thanks and appreciation for the personal support and encouragement received throughout the year from Member Associations, Athletics Australia Board Members and office staff.

Patrick Johnson wins the 100m at the Optus Grand Prix in Perth. Photo courtesy Duane Hart, Sporting Images.



Standing Committees and Commission Reports

Track and Field Commission

The 1996/97 Track and Field season encompassed a large range of events which commenced with the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and was successfully completed with AthsFest in Melbourne and the Grand Prix Final in Brisbane. Members of the Commission were involved in various aspects of the planning of the events.

Sixty-one athletes qualified for the Olympic Team and two silver medals were won - Cathy Freeman (400m) and Louise McPaul (Javelin). Australia had 11 athletes placed in the top 8 with an twenty-four in the top 16. The overall IAAF ranking was 14, which indicated a rise in the overall athletes' performances. Extensive planning over a period of two years, together with an excellent network of contacts in the United States assisted greatly with the preparation of the Australian Team. The President of the USOC, Dr Leroy Walker, took a personal interest and under his auspices a warm-up Meet with many international athletes participating was held at Duke University, NC, with additional competitions held in Canada and at Life College, Georgia.

Sydney was the venue for the 1996 World Junior Championships. Whilst the Organising Committee had limited financial resources, the conduct, organisation and presentation of the Championships was excellent and received deserved praise from the IAAF. In overall results, our junior team was second and their ability augurs well for the future.

The Oceania Open and Under 20 Championships were held in Townsville. The officials from North Queensland organised an excellent championship with our athletes selected from northern Australia achieving a high success rate.

The Australian All School Championships were incorporated with the Pacific Schools Games in Perth. With a very high number of entries from neighbouring Pacific countries, a high standard in results was achieved. When endorsing such events, Athletics Australia must monitor team sizes and any unnecessary expenditure which competitors must meet.

The Optus Grand Prix Series, the showcase of our sport, provided many highlights. The Sydney event featured Carl Lewis and indicated that an athlete of such repute will always bring the public to athletics. The Melbourne event, with a new sponsor Nike, again indicated its international status with good attendance and events. AthsFest, with the support of the Victorian Government,

was a new initiative at the time of the National Championships. Ten days were designated to athletics, commencing with the Nike Classic, ending with the Australian Championships. Athletics Victoria took responsibility for some events which included a coaching seminar, clinic, and a promotion at Myers. The social highlight was the Centenary Dinner at the Grand Hyatt on the eve of the Nationals. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for the athletic family to renew many old friendships. It is to be hoped that a social event can be held at such a time each year.

Education programs for officials have continued with courses being conducted for teachers. Recruitment of officials must be given priority to ensure that we have a large base from which to select for Sydney 2000.

The coming year will feature the World Championships in Athens. This will provide the opportunity for athletes new to the international scene to feature in our team and gain valuable experience for the future. We must not become complacent and, in turn, need to develop and implement programs which will give us a broader base to enable us to have a springboard for the future.

The Track and Field programs around Australia would not be successful without the efforts of the staff of Member Associations and their officials. In addition, we must recognise the untiring work from the Competition Department (Brain Roe, Samantha Culbert, Tina Folmer), the Media & Promotions Department (Damian Booth, David Culbert, Karen Clifford) and all staff members who so readily gave of their time.

**MARGARET MAHONY, CHAIRMAN
TRACK AND FIELD COMMISSION**

Track & Field Selection Committee

I would firstly like to express my thanks to Pam Turney and Brian Roe for their work on selection matters throughout the past year. They have always been available to discuss selection issues and have been very diligent in their approach to team selection.

We are indebted to Paul Jenes and David Tarbotton for their assistance to the Committee in supplying accurate and timely statistical information on athlete performances throughout Australia and overseas.

In the 1996-97 year we saw athletes compete at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the World Junior Championships in Athletics in Sydney and the 1997 World Indoor Championships in Paris. We also selected



teams for the 1997 World Championships in Athletics and the 1997 World Student Games in Sicily.

The Olympic team performed very well with two silver medals, from Cathy Freeman in the 400 metres and Louise McPaul in the javelin. In addition a number of very talented athletes emerged as medal prospects for the future amongst the 11 finalists (top 8). Australia showed increasing depth across all events by having 24 athletes in the top 16, the highest level at an Olympic Games since the 1956 Games in Melbourne with the exception of the weakened 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

The World Junior Championships were an outstanding success for the Australian team with a total of 10 medals, second only to the United States of America. The highlight was the final day success of Paul Burgess in the Pole Vault. Such success at home augers well for the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

The World Indoor Championships enabled Emma George to compete on the world stage for the first time with the introduction of the pole vault for women. Though marginally below her best she secured the silver medal.

At the conclusion of the 1996-97 domestic track and field season we developed criteria for major events in 1998, the Commonwealth Games and the World Junior Championships in Athletics.

In addition to these higher profile events Australia was also represented at a number of invitation competitions and the Oceania Under 18 Championships, a team selected for those athletes without ready access to regular competition. This team acquitted itself very well with all members recording personal best performances.

The Almanac of Records and Results provides full details of Australian performances in international competition as well as domestic results and season and all-time rankings.

**PETER HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN
TRACK & FIELD SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Cross Country, Road & Walks Selection Committee

The membership of the committee remained unchanged with Pam Turney taking Brian Roe's place as chairperson. It has been another busy year and my thanks are due to Brian for his guidance and support throughout the year and to John Gilbert for his work on the committee.

The policy of setting criteria well in advance of the event was continued and selection criteria for the World Cross Country, World Mountain Running, World Half Marathon and the walking and marathon sections of the Commonwealth Games were completed.

Teams were selected in the Open Men's, Open Women's and Junior Boys to compete in the World Cross Country

Championships in Turin with Kylie Risk being the best performed Australian in 21st place. Heather Turland was our sole representative in the World Half Marathon championship placing an excellent 9th. Two other male athletes were nominated by the committee but were not ratified by Athletics Australia.

In the World Race Walking Cup in Prague a total of 14 athletes were selected for the 3 races: Men's 20k and 50k and women's 10k, the highest team placing being 9th in the men's 20k.

Athletes competed in a number of other road races in Asia and New Zealand with considerable success. Selection for these races is based on performances in the National Championships of the relevant distance or event.

**PAM TURNEY, CHAIRPERSON
CROSS COUNTRY, ROAD & WALKS
SELECTION COMMITTEE**

International Tours and Competitions Commission

The Tours Commission has again had the responsibility for the planning and preparation of the international competition arrangements for Australian athletes and teams.

In the reporting period, eight overseas tours were undertaken by Australian Teams whilst the Australian Junior Team contested the World Junior Championships at home in Sydney and a team selected, as usual, from northern Australia competed in the Oceania Open and Under 20 Championships in Townsville.

In addition to the major tours to the Olympic Games, World Indoor Championships, World Walking Cup and World Cross Country Championships, smaller teams embarked on tours to Europe for the World Half Marathon Championships and the World Mountain Running Trophy.

An Elite Development Team toured South Africa with good results in March/April whilst a team selected from remoter areas of Australia took part in the Oceania Under 18 Championships in Fiji.

The Commission met throughout the year, and in addition to making recommendations to the AA Executive on team appointments, considered all team management reports and planned tours for the coming year. It was decided not to proceed with a major junior tour in 1997 but to repeat the pre-Sydney experiment with a tour to New Zealand in January 1998 prior to the European experience before the World Juniors in France in the following July. A small elite juniors tour supplemented by the Juniors on Tour



programme within the Australian Grand Prix Series and a re-energized junior camp and support programme were developed in place of the full tour. In making this decision, the Commission also took into account the high costs of juniors travelling overseas each year on a full tour.

AA acknowledges the support of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association in providing funds for our best juniors to obtain valuable international competition through its Junior Squad Scheme.

The Commission worked closely with the AOC to ensure that increased numbers of medical personnel could be included within the athletics section of the team, in accordance with the wishes of the athletes. Support programmes were also made available to personal coaches, where possible.

Nudgee College in Brisbane was selected as the provisional Australian athletic team base prior to the Sydney Olympic Games, whilst the pre-departure camp for the 1998 Commonwealth Games will be held in Darwin.

Unfortunately, the ASC reduced funding to the sport of athletics under the OAP scheme and as a result some tours were curtailed and personal levy contributions rose, although not to the level of some years ago. This is hopefully a temporary situation and AA is looking at ways of keeping all team levies as low as possible, especially for senior teams competing in IAAF World Series competitions.

Nike joined AA as a valued sponsor, helping to solve our ongoing problems with provision of team uniforms. With this long term arrangement, we hope to have few problems in this area in the foreseeable future.

Optus expanded its support of senior Australian Teams, and from now on the senior team will be known as the *Optus Southern Stars*.

With the increased interest being shown by overseas athletes in training and competing in Australia in the lead-up period and the ever decreasing opportunities for Australian athletes to obtain competition in Europe, the Commission is looking more and more towards Australian-based competition programmes throughout the year. The successful "at-home" preparations of the 1996 Australian Junior Team and some members of the 1997 World Championships team proved that such programmes can work.

In 1998 there will be very limited competition available to our Commonwealth Games aspirants in Europe prior to the selection meet on August 8-10th. The Commission will

therefore take the opportunity to ensure that an appropriate domestic competition schedule is programmed, perhaps becoming a blueprint for the preparation of many athletes in the future.

Results at most international competitions were pleasing (see Selection Committee reports and the Handbook of Records and Results), with the ten medals amassed by the Juniors in Sydney a particularly outstanding result. Cathy Freeman and Louise McPaul's silvers in Atlanta were, undoubtedly, the jewels in the crown of a pleasing year.

Acknowledgments are made of the work of all Commission Members, especially retiring chairman, former AA High Performance Manager, Peter Bowman, and of all team officials - managers, coaches and medical staff who contributed to the successful tours of Australian Teams in 1996/97.

**BRIAN ROE, SECRETARY
INTERNATIONAL TOURS AND
COMPETITIONS COMMISSION**

Officials Sub Commission

Once again the Officials Sub-Commission has had a busy and eventful year.

The Commission members, Reg Brandis (Chairman), Chris Wilson and Lorraine Morgan, assisted by Staff Liaison Brian Roe have now been joined by associate member Janelle Eldridge who is specifically responsible for education and grading of school teacher officials, the Sports largest potential source of recruits.

Major responsibilities of the Officials Sub Commission are (1) The officials grading and examination system; (2) Officials education through the conduct of national courses and seminars and the dissemination of appropriate information; and (3) the appointment of all officials for National Championships and International Meets conducted in Australia and Referees for Optus Grand Prix Meets.

Assessments and appointments

No report on officials would be complete without recording the performance of our officials at the World Junior Championships in Sydney in August 1996. Apart from a handful of appointments from New Zealand and Oceania, all Officials for that Championships were from Australia.

The IAAF Technical Delegates were highly complimentary about the performance of the entire officials group and described some of our teams as the best they had seen. High praise indeed and a ringing



endorsement of the education and selection policies of the Athletics Australia Officials Sub Commission.

We have continued with our policy of appointing talented young officials to key positions at the All Schools and Junior Nationals in order to assess their performances in these roles under Championship conditions and during the past Track and Field season this policy was expanded to include key positions at the Open and Under 20 Track and Field Championships.

This policy has been very successful in "blooding" new people in the more important roles and is a source of encouragement for officials generally.

In the coming season the Sub Commission will have the added task of appointing all officials for the IAAF Grand Prix II Meet in Melbourne and the IAAF Permit Meet in Sydney.

The following Australian officials were appointed to international positions: International Technical Official - Denis Wilson (Olympic Games), Brian Roe (World Indoor Championships); Walk Judges - Jill Huxley (World Walking Cup), Alan Johnson (World Junior Championships); Statistician - Paul Jenes (World Junior Championships)

Examination Papers

Track, Jumps and Throws papers are currently being upgraded following recent changes to the IAAF rules and the new Walks papers are now available at all levels. The Administration A paper is being finalised and will include a common general section followed by a choice of either pure administration type functions or the section on Technical and Equipment matters.

Also in the production stage are the new Outside Events papers covering road races, road walks, cross country and mountain running. It is anticipated that these papers will be available by the end of the year.

The Officials gradings data base is currently being upgraded and will be transferred to the Athletics Australia Office for future operation. B and C level exam papers will be marked centrally, however a target of 21 days from receipt of the papers by the Commission to notification of the result has been set.

The Sub Commission has also confirmed that the second qualification and level is a time service period during which officials gain practical experience following completion of theory examination. There is no formal practical assessment or examination as such.

Education Courses and Seminars

Regular seminars have been conducted in most States by both the Officials Sub Commission Chairman and by Officials Education Liaison Officers and special mention should be made of the efforts of Di Pain, Ray McDonald (Victoria) Brenda Pearl (South Australia) and Jim Minehane (North Queensland) in this regard.

Specially designed courses in Track, Jumps and Throws have been conducted for school teachers in NSW and Queensland and a register of qualified teacher officials is being compiled. School teacher courses are available to all States and will be conducted by the Athletics Australia Officials Sub Commission in consultation with Member Associations and/or Education Departments.

Two major new courses will be conducted during the 1997/98 Track and Field Season. These will be high level courses involving a combination of personnel selected by Officials Sub-Commission and some nominated by Member Associations. The two courses are (1) Competition Management and Technical and (2) A high level Referee and Chief Judges course.

Future Activities

The Commission is currently producing a course presenters kit for use in Basic and School teacher courses covering all aspects of Track and Field and the more common administrative, technical and equipment aspects. The kit will comprise teaching notes, overhead transparencies and teaching aids including comprehensive "handouts" and is expected to be available by the end of October 1997.

"Quickie" courses covering the rule changes approved at the July '97 IAAF Congress will be offered in all States as soon as the final papers are received by Athletics Australia from the IAAF. In order to ensure our athletes experience competition under the new rules it is proposed that they become effective in Australia from 1st October, 1997 rather than the usual 1st April 1998.

Finally we wish to advise that the Sub Commission will be responsible for the appointment of all officials for the 2000 Olympics and Paralympics with the exception of the ITOs and International Walk Judges. Apart from a small number of officials places which we will offer to New Zealand and Oceania, all officials will come from Australia. The Sub Commission has determined the following basic guidelines:

All Referees and Chiefs must have "A" level
 All other officials must be at least "B" level (note - this does not include "sport volunteers" such as drink station assistants at Outside Events such as the Marathon.
 Nominations will be called no later than 30/6/98 and will close no later than 31/12/98



Selection of Officials for both the Olympics and Paralympics will be made in the month following the 1999 National Track and Field Championships and appointments will be notified in May 1999.

Selected Officials must be available to officiate at the nominated "Test Event" (likely to be the Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships in December 1999) and at least one of the Australian Open and Under 20 Track and Field Championships in March 2000 or the Australian Selection trials in August 2000. All of these events will be held in Sydney.

In conclusion I express my sincere appreciation for the work done during the year by Officials Education Liaison Officers in all areas, my fellow Sub Commission members Chris Wilson and Lorraine Morgan and staff members Brian Roe, Tina Folmer and Samantha Culbert and of course our Australian Officials at all levels of the Sport.

**REG BRANDIS, CHAIRMAN
OFFICIALS SUB COMMISSION**

Distance Running Commission

This report covers the period from July 1996 to June 1997. During this period the Commission membership included Dave Cundy, Denis Wilson, Trevor Vincent, Chris Wardlaw, Susan Hobson, Dusty Lewis and Dick Telford. Sam Culbert was the staff liaison person prior to her departure from Athletics Australia. Pam Turney was added to the Commission in March 1997.

The Commission thanks non-members such as Len Johnson, Ron Clarke, Ron Crawford, Steve Moneghetti, Russell Bourke and Brian Gleeson who have made valuable contributions during the period.

Meetings

The Commission held three formal meetings during the period - one on the weekend of the Australian Cross Country Championships in Bendigo in September; another prior to the Zatopek meeting in November, and a third at Tullamarine in June.

Events

The Commission assisted with arrangements for five Australian Championships during the period:

- Australian Marathon Championships, Gold Coast, July 1996
- Australian All Schools Cross Country Championships, Brisbane, August 1996
- Australian Cross Country Championships, Bendigo, September 1996
- Australian Mountain Running Championships, Hobart, May, 1997

- Australian Half Marathon Championships, Lake Macquarie, June 1997

Assistance from the Commission included the tender process, date and venue selection, course design and measurement and the appointment of technical delegates. The Commission continues to be concerned at the low participation rate by State teams in some championships and is examining strategies to increase participation.

The Australian 100k Championships, set down for Shepparton in May 1997, was cancelled due to problems at the Local Organising Committee level. The Commission has met with the Australian Ultra Runners Association and will work more closely with this body in the future to assist with the success of the Championship, which was held for the first time in 1996.

Major Activities

Falls Creek Camp: Commission members assisted Athletics Australia staff with the organisation of the annual summer camp at Falls Creek (January 1997), which was again an AA-endorsed and funded camp.

IAAF rule change: The Commission continued to lobby, and is gaining wider support, for a rule change to provide for endurance events at major summer championships to always be held in the coolest part of the day.

Communication: Commission members formed an editorial committee and brought a new focus to the publication *Distance Update*, which now includes more information about the up-coming events and priorities.

Ron Clarke Foundation: Commission members assisted Ron Clarke to review the criteria and process applications for grants from this foundation.

Selection policies: Commission members had an opportunity to comment on the selection criteria for the 1997 World Cross Country, 1997 World Marathon Championships, 1998 World Cross Country, 1998 World Half Marathon, and 1998 World Mountain Running Trophy. In particular, in response to a proposal from the selectors that Australia only send teams each two years to the World Cross Country Championships, the Commission made a firm recommendation to the Board that teams continue to be selected each year, provided athletes of a suitable standard are available.

Liaison with NZ: The Commission continued to work closely with NZ Cross Country and Road Running Commission to develop initiatives of mutual benefit to Australasian distance runners. In particular, Commission members benefited from a close association with Oceania's representative on the IAAF Cross Country and Road Running Commission, Alan Stevens.



Housekeeping: The Commission continued to oversee such matters as the course measurement scheme, road race rankings and permit system.

**DAVE CUNDY, CHAIRMAN
DISTANCE RUNNING COMMISSION**

Coaching Commission

Coaching Commission members during the year were: Marlene Mathews AM (Chair), Joan Cross OAM, Harry Summers, Mike Edwards, Peter Bowman, David Cramer, Phil King (to January) and Tony Rice. Five meetings were held during the year.

The Commission is also the Board of Management of the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association. The Commission continues to monitor and develop the Coach Accreditation and Coach Education schemes conducted by AT&FCA. Elite athlete development is conducted by the High Performance coaches based around the nation, through the national and state institutes.

Coach Accreditation Programmes:

AT&FCA provides a structure to educate and accredit identified potential and practicing coaches, through the national Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

Coaches can be identified from a variety of sources. Some are former athletes who want to continue to have involvement in athletics when their competitive days are finished. Some are physical education/human movement graduates who want to use their skills and competencies in athletics. The largest group is of interested parents or friends of young athletes. Inevitably it is the role of athletics clubs and little athletics centres to identify and recruit potential coaches and encourage them to become accredited through NCAS.

A total of 34 Orientation to Coaching and 35 Level I Courses were conducted throughout all States and Territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory.

Two National Level II courses were held, in Sydney (September) and Toowoomba (January). A total of 43 coaches completed requirements for accreditation.

Two coaches successfully completed the rigorous demands of their Level III Development and Assessment Programme during the year. A further four coaches from overseas, now living in Australia, have been awarded reciprocal accreditation in respect of their overseas qualifications. They are Ron Wyld (ex GBR - High Jump), Lin Bai (ex PRC - Discus), Richard Turnbull (ex

RSA - Long Distance) and Viktor Saneev (ex URS - Triple Jump).

During the year progress has been made towards reviewing and refining the scheme, with submissions being received from a wide range of interested parties. This is a major review, examining the total structure of the scheme, as well as the course syllabus at each level. The reviewers recognise that coach education is a continuous pathway, not a series of steps, and aim to encourage coaches upon completion of one course to start development towards the next level.

National Coaching Congress:

The second National Coaching Congress took place from 25th to 28th October at the AIS Canberra. Two themes were conducted throughout the Congress. "High Performance Coaching" and "Coaching Young Athletes". More than 120 coaches took part in the Congress, which included plenary sessions, elective options, workshops and practical demonstrations as well as a number of social activities.

We were pleased to welcome Lyle Sanderson (CAN) and Peter Thompson (GBR) as keynote speakers from overseas. Lyle Sanderson is regarded world wide as a specialist on Youth and Children's Sport, as well as being National Heptathlon Coach in Canada. He provided much information on the effects of growth and development and their implication for the growing child, as well as conducting a practical demonstration session with the local young athletes. Peter Thompson is an IAAF consultant in the area of coach education, as well as an outstanding distance running coach. His sessions were relevant and thought provoking, being well supported by a wealth of practical sports science knowledge.

Other interesting and informative sessions were conducted by Australian coaches in areas as diverse as Alan Launder's series on the Coaching Process and Dean Gathercole's series on Biomechanics at the Sydney World Junior Championships. A new feature was a "Call for Papers" from coaches, academics and sports scientists from around the Nation. It proved popular in its first year, and resulted in some very good work being brought to coaches' attention. A book of Conference Proceedings has been prepared and is available for purchase.

National Event Coaches - Education

In December, a new group of National Event Coaches - Education were appointed for the period up to the 2000 Olympic Games. The coaches appointed are: 100/200m - Cliff Mallett; 400m - Tudor Bidder; Relays - Michael Khmel; Middle Distance - Cheyne Sherman; Long Distance - Tony Benson; Marathon - Pat Clohessy;



Steeplechase - Tom Kelly; Cross Country - Matt Paterson; 100/110m Hurdles - Craig Hilliard; 400m Hurdles - Roy Boyd; Race Walking - Harry Summers; High Jump - Sandro Bisetto; Long Jump - Max Debnam; Triple Jump - Graham Boase; Pole Vault - Steve Rippon; Shot Put - Peter Taylor; Discus - Lou Taylor; Javelin - Peter Lawler; Hammer - Mike Edwards; Decathlon - Efim Shuravetsky; Heptathlon - Barbara Stephens; Young Athlete - John Quinn; Coaching Athletes with Disabilities - Chris Nunn.

We are grateful to the Australian Sports Commission and Queensland Department of Sport for their support of coach education projects throughout the year.

TONY RICE
NATIONAL COACHING CONVENOR

Disability Commission

The 1996/97 year was another positive one for the Disability Commission, with the final result being our acceptance by the Australian Paralympic Federation as the Sports Advisory Committee for Athletics in the lead up to the 2000 Paralympics. This is significant as it achieves one of the overall aims of the commission - integrate the delivery of programs and services for athletes with a disability into the core business of Athletics Australia.

The National Track and Field Championships were successfully conducted in Canberra in March, and while the event will need to be changed slightly from now on in order to cope with its role as the major selection event for World Championship and the Paralympics, it is "working well". It was particularly encouraging to observe the number of new and junior athletes participating in the Championship.

The completion of the Coaching Athletes with Disabilities video was another major milestone, and this is now being used in all level 1 coach education courses across Australia.

Athletes are now having a major say in the programs and direction of the Integration Program since the establishment of an active and strong Athletes Committee. Neil Fuller has taken on the role as Chair of this Committee, and it is providing well considered and useful feedback to the Commission.

Our relationships with National Sporting Organisations for the Disabled continue to be strong and we are grateful to them for their input to the Commission.

The Australian Paralympic Federation has shown that they are ready to provide the leadership necessary for

Australia to become the leading nation in the Sydney 2000 Paralympics and beyond. Their vigorous approach to working with all groups towards Paralympic success has been refreshing.

At the participation end, the turn over in staff of Athletics Australia Member Associations is making the task of developing a culture of integration into core business more difficult than it should be, however progress is being made and athletics continues to be a leader in this area.

JASON HELLWIG, CHAIRMAN
DISABILITY COMMISSION

Walking Commission

The Commission consisting of Denis Wilson (Chairman), Peter Waddell, Bob Cruise, Mark Donahoo and Simon Baker with Harry Summers and Ron Crawford as observers met on one occasion during the year.

The proposed dates and venues for Australian Championships and Trials up to and including 2000 have been submitted for endorsement by the 1997 Annual General Meeting.

It was decided that a concerted effort would be made in the next period to avoid some of the difficulties encountered in the conduct of past Walking Championships and Trials by better briefing of Technical Delegates and Organisers.

The Commission congratulates Wayne Fletcher (Tas) on his selection as an IAAF International Walking Judge.

The Commission is pleased to note that the IAAF Medical Committee is supporting the Australian position on the conduct of endurance walking events in the coolest part of daylight hours when the conditions at the venue are generally hot, in proposing an appropriate Rule change to the IAAF Congress in Athens.

The Commission supports the IAAF initiatives to have an IAAF Education and Walk Judge Grading system.

The Commission supports the retention of 5k track walks at the Australian Championships but recommends that the scheduling of the walks in those championships be reviewed.

DENIS WILSON, CHAIRMAN
WALKING COMMISSION

Doping Control Commission



The report period (1.7.96 to 30.6.97) was one of the most controversial in AA's history in terms of doping matters, with the Dean Capobianco Case drawing much public attention.

The case arose out of an alleged positive test for a steroid at a meeting in the Netherlands on 27th May 1997. Because the athlete wished to compete in the Olympic Games, AA believed that he should have the opportunity for a tribunal hearing before the Games. Robert Ellicott, QC acted as the Tribunal and found in the athlete's favour, principally on the ground that the IAAF had failed to establish a sufficient chain of custody of the sample between the collection and analysis points. The athlete was therefore cleared to compete in both the Games and in subsequent competitions.

The IAAF appealed the decision of the AA Tribunal to its Arbitration Panel, which sat to hear the appeal in March 1997. The Panel found against the athlete, finding that the new evidence which the IAAF had supplied since the original hearing was sufficient to establish a satisfactory chain of custody. The Panel also noted that AA's Tribunal had acted quite appropriately in dealing with the matter in the first instance. The athlete was ruled ineligible for four years from the date of sample collection and was therefore disqualified from all events in which he had competed in the interim. All results have been amended accordingly.

Another athlete, Willi Sawall, was ruled ineligible for three months arising out of a positive test for a stimulant in the Australian Road Walk Championships in September 1996.

The Commission also dealt with a difficult ongoing female testosterone case, which was timely in terms of the more notorious cases in this area arising overseas. This area has a number of difficult issues. The Tribunal (Margot Foster) was expected to hand down a decision in October 1997.

Domestically, the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA), continued to actively test athletes both in and out of competition, the majority of controls again, quite appropriately, being directly to non-competition situations. A total of 333 controls were made by ASDA during the report period, 180 out-of competition and 153 at events. Of these 32 out-of competition and 106 event (77 at the World Juniors) tests were undertaken by ASDA as part of the IAAF's worldwide testing programme.

Brian Roe was involved in the Australian Sports Commission's review of its Doping Policy during the year whilst AA's established procedure for dealing with asthma-type medications was used as a blueprint by ASDA in developing a system for other sports.

Internationally, the move within the IAAF Family to reduce the period of ineligibility from four to two years gained strength when the courts of a number of countries, including several with high quality athletes, ruled that bans in excess of two years were an unreasonable restraint of trade. The IAAF Council proposed a motion to this effect to its 1997 Congress of Member Federations. The AA Board most reluctantly resolved to support the motion to reduce the ban period, on the basis that the current rule would otherwise see athletes serving different bans depending on the laws of their countries. AA will pursue ways of restoring the four year ban at the earliest opportunity, perhaps through inter-governmental negotiations of the United Nations. The IAAF has also dropped the three month period of ineligibility for a first offence for stimulants and the like. The penalty will now be disqualification from the competition and a public reprimand.

The IAAF also introduced its International Elite Athletes Club during the year. This is designed to ensure that all athletes ranked in the top 20 in each event are tested at least twice on a random out of competition basis each year before a major competition.

Recognition is extended to the Tribunal Chairs who acted during the report period, Bob Ellicott and Margot Foster, to Chris Bradshaw and Peter Brukner for their work in maintaining the Permitted Usage Register and to ASDA for its help and support throughout the year.

BRIAN ROE, CHAIRMAN DOPING CONTROL COMMISSION

Statisticians Report

Season 1996/97 included the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, and also the 1996 World Junior Championships held in Sydney. In both these major events Australian athletes performed well and this continued into the domestic season where not only state and national records were set but also world records by Emma George.

The rankings show continual improvement and depth in Australian athletics which is also reflected in the constant changes in the all-time lists.

The rankings for season 1996/97 are complete and will appear in the Athletics Australia Handbook of Records and Results. Those who have access to the internet can of course gain it more quickly from the Athletics Australia web page.

Having access at last to internet and email I will be able to get results more quickly and in turn produce rankings more frequently. However there is still difficulty in

getting domestic results and due to a large number of changes in personnel at state level, results were frequently not forthcoming. It is still very difficult to get anything from the Northern Territory and also Northern Queensland, who appear to have disappeared. Country venues in Victoria are also difficult to obtain results from. known for major meetings, the media, coaches and for athletes in general so they are aware of their own and immediate opposition's progress.

I wish to thank David Tarbotton for his great assistance and to the staff of Athletics Australia for ensuring the results find their way to me and also for disseminating the rankings and results.

I wish to thank the Member Associations and also the regular correspondents who are acknowledged in the Handbook.

PAUL JENES
AA STATISTICIAN

Facilities and Equipment Sub Commission

The Sub-Commission has been involved in a diverse range of issues in an effort to raise the standard of facilities and equipment.

A proposal for distributing urgently needed equipment to Member Associations and the creation of a central equipment pool was prepared for the Athletics Australia Board. This was subsequently endorsed. Following on from this an operation and maintenance manual for athletic facilities in draft form has been distributed for comment and will be issued early next year to Member Associations and others.

SOCOG has requested advice on the list of equipment and implements for the 2000 Olympics. The committee will have an ongoing role in providing advice. We are working with Australian equipment suppliers to ensure that they are able to provide the type of equipment, such as adjustable steeplechase hurdles and hammer cages, which are needed at reasonable cost.

It is essential for results to be submitted because the selectors need the information, athlete funding depends on their rankings and it is vital that performances are

Discussion Papers were prepared on measuring equipment and the rationalisation of implement weights and hurdle specifications for under age events. Further work has to be done on both these initiatives.

PHILIP O'HARA, CHAIRMAN
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT SUB
COMMISSION

Records Committee

The Staff at Athletics Australia have again been of great assistance to me in obtaining results and other information I require to check and formalise new Australian Records, and I thank them for their patience and friendship.

Although an Olympic year the number of records processed is down, but the standard is extremely high in all events and age groups, so it takes a very talented athlete to become a new Australian Record Breaker.

	Men	Women
Australian National	7	10
Australian All Comers	3	3
Under 20	6	4
Under 18	5	1
Under 16	-	4
Commonwealth	-	2
World	-	1
Indoor	2	2
	23	27

RONDA JENKINS
RECORDS OFFICER



OPTUS

Obituaries

E.W. (BILL) BARWICK

Long-serving president of the Tasmanian Amateur Athletic Association, as it was then known, E.W. (Bill) Barwick died in Hobart in June 1997 at the age of 92.

Bill was Tasmanian president from 1948 until 1973, apart from an interregnum of 2 years in the 1950's. He was the first Tasmanian track and field athlete to gain Olympic selection, being one of 4 track athletes in the team of 12 who participated in Los Angeles in 1932. He gained selection by setting an Australian record for 4m17s for the mile at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. That record lasted for 18 years. Bill also set Australian and Australasian records over 2 miles. He was a technical official at the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 and at the Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962, and was track and field sectional manager at the Olympic Games in 1964. Bill was a regular official at meets throughout Tasmania and was announcer for many years. During his term as Tasmanian president, he was a delegate to the then Amateur Athletic Union of Australia.

Bill's first loves were his family and athletics but his sporting interests were many and varied - he was the foundation secretary of the Sandy Bay Football Club in the Tasmanian Football League in 1945, president of the Sportsman's Association of Australia (Tas Div), course commentator at greyhound racing in Hobart for 25 years, a keen golfer, punter and poker player. He was a well known figure in Hobart all his life but particularly in his later years when he tramped the city streets with a personal courier service which he established in 1972 after surviving a near fatal heart attack a couple of years earlier.

Bill was awarded an MBE in 1985, he was a Merit Award holder of Athletics Australia and a Life Member of Athletics Tasmania. Three years ago, Athletics Tasmania honoured by naming the Tasmanian one mile championship the Bill Barwick mile.

Graeme Briggs

WINSOME CRIPPS

Winsome Cripps was born 9th February 1931 and represented Australia in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics where she finished 4th in the 100 metres (11.9/12.15) and 4th in the 200 metres (24.2/24.41). She was also a member of the relay team which had set a world record in their heat but tragically dropped the baton at the last change when Marjorie Jackson struck Cripps' knee with the hand carrying the baton which caused it to fall.

She also competed in the 1954 Vancouver Empire Games where she finished 2nd in both 100 yards (10.8) and 220 yards (24.5) and was a member of the gold medal relay team.

Cripps competed during a golden era of women's athletics in Australia and represented Victoria in four Australian Women's Championships (1950, 52, 54, 56) with a best place of 2nd in the 220 yards in 1952 and 54 with 3rd places in the 100 yards at the same championships. She was a member of the 1952 Olympic relay team of Shirley Strickland, Verna Johnston and Marjorie Jackson which set 3 world records. Her bests were - 100 yards (10.8 in 1953), 100 metres (11.9 in 1952) and 200 metres (24.2 in 1952).

STEVE ENDEAN

On the 10th of July 1996, NSW and Australian athletics lost a great coach, Steve Endean, aged just 40-years-old.

During his competitive career, Steve trained with one of Australia's leading squads, which included: internationals Warren & Stuart Parr, Vin Plant, Peter Hadfield, Gary Cox, and Gary Knoke. In 1981 he relocated to Canberra to take up a scholarship with the AIS, but following the death of Gary Knoke he returned to Sydney 12 months later. In 1982, Steve was unlucky not to win selection in the Australian team for the Brisbane Commonwealth Games. In lead up to the games he had beaten the eventual gold medallist Gary Brown, but was unwell at the trials and missed selection.

In the late '80s Steve embarked on a very successful but all too short coaching career. His athletes included mostly hurdlers of varying standard. Former national record holder Vin Plant regarded Steve as a very patient coach. "unlike his time as athlete, as a coach he was methodical, analytical and detailed in the training programs he planned so carefully. Coaching and teaching eventually became the things he did the best. His Coach of the Year Award was fully deserved.

Vin Plant and many of his friends will remember Steve in two ways: streaking home on an anchor leg, leaning forward, chin out, hair flying and standing alone with stopwatch on a cold, wet night, helping other people.

WENDY EY (BEM)

Wendy Ey was one of the real pioneers for women in sport over the past 25 years and an outstanding sports woman all her life. She was the Victorian State sprint hurdles champion from 1954-1960 and was included in the Australian team for the Empire Games in Cardiff, Wales in 1958 where she finished 5th in the 80m Hurdles and was 4th in the semifinal of the 100 yards and a silver medallist in the 4x110yds relay team. In 1958 she was awarded the Sir Frank Beaurepaire Trophy as the most outstanding Victorian athlete of the year. She had preceded her Cardiff selection by winning that national 100 yards title in 1956 but was a controversial omission in the Australian team for the Olympic Games to be held in Melbourne. Her disappointment at not being an Olympian was somewhat alleviated by her appointment many years later as assistant manager of the Olympic track and field team in Moscow in 1980 and manager in Los Angeles in 1984 (the first woman to be appointed to such a position).

Wendy was a Pennant squash player and represented two States, Victoria and South Australia in hockey in the early sixties. She continued to be an active participant in sport all her life and had an international reputation as a masters champion in track and field.

In her professional life, as a lecturer in physical education at the University of South Australia, Wendy initiated and taught the first ever course on women and sport at a tertiary institution. This began in 1972 and continued until she left in 1987. In 1982 Wendy was awarded the degree of Master of Education by Flinders University.

The general sporting community was influenced by her action when as a board member of Athletics Australia and the Confederation of Australian Sport, she proposed and then convened a special women's sub-committee for each organisation and subsequently went on to host two prestigious international conferences on women and sport.

In coaching she pioneered the inclusion of women's issues in coach accreditation courses, beginning in the 80's as a member of the Australian Coaching Council and continuing in the 90's with research on hormones and female athletic performance for both young and masters athletes.

In 1992 Wendy became an Adviser to the Minister for Recreation and Sport in South Australia and wrote that government's policy for women and sport. During her time in the department she assisted with a major review of school sport and was instrumental in developing the South Australian Junior Sport Policy.

ZORA FIBBINS OAM

The St. George and Sutherland Athletic and Hockey groups were saddened by the recent passing of Zora Fobbins who died at home in Blakehurst after a long illness.

Zora had a long term association with both sports as a competitor and administrator. She first joined St. George District Women's Athletic Club as Zora Sutton in 1934 as a field games competitor specialising in shot putt, discus and javelin throws. She was a good runner and a member of successful relay teams.

She played hockey with the strong Athletes' team in the Sydney competition. She met and married a fellow athlete and hockey player, Herb Fobbins and both became involved in hockey administration. Zora served as Secretary to both St. George Men's and Women's Hockey Associations and was nominated for and was awarded the O.A.M for services to hockey and athletics. Her late husband also was a recipient of the O.A.M.

Like fellow St. George athletes Nellie and Flo Gould she also became a member of the board of the NSW Women's Amateur Athletic Association. Flo, better remembered as Flo Wrighter and Zora both fulfilled the role of Secretary. In addition, she transferred to the Sutherland Women's club, serving as Secretary and President for 15 years until the merger with Saucony Sutherland Club. During this period Sutherland boasted international stars Lyn Jacenko, Angela Cooke and Diane Pease.

She was an on field Official and Arena Manager for several years at the Sydney Athletic Field. In addition, she was Head Starter for the NSW Women's Association at the old Sydney Sports Ground, now the football stadium, starting many famous runners including Majorie Jackson, Marlene Matthews and Bobby Lay. Other famous runners she started were Fanny Blankers Koen, Shirley Strickland, John Treloar and Betty Cuthbert. She managed several overseas teams and was an official at the Perth Commonwealth Games.

Stan Sheringham

ALLEYN GAINSFORD OAM

Alleyn Gainsford was considered the father of Athletics in the St. George District.

Alleyn was the first to arrive at Colvin's Hall, Hurstville on Monday, 7th March 1921 for the inaugural meeting to form the St. George District Amateur Athletic Club and won its first event, a 2½ mile race along Forest Rd, Bexley on 2nd April 1921 and was St. George's first Life Member.

Alleyn built up a momentous history of service to St. George and athletics in Australia and his memorabilia of our club's progress and achievements by our athletes was unbelievable. He was a champion athlete in his heyday (1920's-1930's) winning many State distance running Championships, set in record times and was a true clubman.

Alleyn was a Life Member & Vice President of the State Athletics Association (now ANSW) and was also an Olympic Committee Chairman and 1956 Olympic Games Official and Selector. From his records he attended some 7,800 meetings relating to Athletics.

For 55 consecutive years he was Club President and became the first Emeritus President. These accomplishments will probably never be equalled or surpassed by anyone in any club or organisation.

In 1980 Alleyn was awarded the Order of Australia for his service to our sport and the community.

Alleyn possessed a wonderful memory and would often relate instances of our club's early history. His memorabilia included exercise books up to two inches thick with media stories, photos and athletic results.

His main love in athletics was Cross Country running and he seldom missed a Saturday at Scarborough Park. He chatted to club members and their families, liked a joke and a scotch and water, and over the years became a well known identity in the St. George District. Alleyn had a pride and admiration for the red and white striped athletic singlet worn by club athletes since our inception. He saw many brilliant St. George Club athletes become Olympians, World and Commonwealth Games representatives, World Record Holders, State and Australian Champions. He was also instrumental in our club's many Premiership winning teams and relays successes.

Sadly Alleyn passed away just one week prior to our 75th Anniversary Dinner on 13 August 1996 but as his health had been deteriorating during the months prior to his passing it was unlikely that Alleyn would have been able to attend.

Alleyn was a gentle, proud man, proud of his family, proud of what he had achieved in life and proud of our club and its members. He was our last remaining foundation member.

We will all miss Alleyn's presence for a long time to come, in fact we will always remember this wonderful man. On behalf of all club members both past and present I close this tribute with my deepest sympathy to Alleyn's daughters Marjorie and Lynnette and their families.

Ron Gribble

MARGARET HARDSTAFF

Margaret Hardstaff's involvement in athletics began when her children John, Christine, Maryanne and Jeanette commenced competing with the North Launceston Men's and Women's Amateur Athletics Club.

From this time she held positions of Secretary of the club, 1978-84 and President of the Northern Women's Athletic Clubs, 1978-81. It was not long before Margaret was looking for a further challenge and in 1980 became a level 1 Coach and in 1982 Treasurer of the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association - Tas Branch, a position she held until 1991.

Following the amalgamation of men's and women's athletics, Margaret became Treasurer of the Northern Branch Athletic Association of Tasmania from 1982-1987. Life Membership of the Northern Branch was the first award presented to Margaret for her commitment to the sport, followed by an Athletics Tasmania Merit Award in 1992. Further acknowledgment of Margaret's support of Athletics was her election as Vice-Patron of the Northern Branch Athletic Association from 1991 until her death.

Margaret's involvement at Athletics Tasmania level included assistant treasurer, finance sub-committee, council member, women's committee and selector road and cross country over an eight year time span. Her involvement was not always in the administrative area, however, in the north of the state she was an organiser of officials for both Cross Country and Track and Field Athletics. She held the position of Canteen manager for some years and was always available as a site official when schools meets were being held in Launceston.

Following the completion of the Northern Athletics Centre Amenities Complex in 1986 it was found that the furnishing of the building was a financial commitment above the Centre Board's scope. However, this was the type of challenge Margaret Hardstaff thrived on. It was no time before a function was organised, tickets sold, funds raised, negotiations made and 100 chairs were purchased. Eleven years later those chairs are still in use at the complex as a memory to Margaret's initiative.

Although Margaret's involvement in athletics ceased in the early 80's her contact with sport continued and it was not long before she was in charge of the Drug Testing in Tasmania for a variety of Sports, a position she held almost until her death.

CECIL "CHICK" HENSLEY

Chicks Hensley devoted much of his life to athletics. The Hensley Field in Pagewood was named in his honour. As a distance runner, he won the NSW Marathon title in 1944 while he was Botany Mayor.

A Botany councillor for seven years, he served a term as mayor, then continued to play an active role in community affairs which included starting and running a boys' club at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. He became involved in administration and restarted the NSW Athletics Association Harriers Board in the post-war years. As board chairman for 12 years, he played an important role in the development of well known athletes including Alby Thomas. Also a coach, one of his many top charges was Alan Lawrence who won a bronze medal in the 10,000m event at the 1956 Olympics. Chicks was an official at those games and was still coaching just over a year ago.

Chicks was a Randwick-Botany Harriers president from 1947 until 1990 when he was made emeritus president. In the 1950's Chicks convinced Botany Council to lease land to the Harriers to develop an athletic field. The Harriers formed a licensed club which was able to put \$700,000 into building and developing the field. "Chicks had an enthusiasm for athletics which led him into administration" recalled former Olympian Ron Crawford, current Randwick-Botany Harrier president and Athletics NSW Director. "In developing the Hensley field, he was very dogged and determined to get the work done".

In 1977 he was made an Order of Australia Member (OAM) for his services to athletics and the community. Chicks was survived by a brother and sister and their families.

BARBARA HORWOOD

Athletics NSW life member, Barbara Horwood, passed away in May after battling cancer for the last 12 months.

Barbara will be remembered by the many athletes she assisted throughout her association in athletics. During a 25-year contribution to the sport, she coached, administered and officiated in our sport. Barbara's first contact with athletics was in 1972, when she was a official of Manly Warringah Women's AAC, later Warringah AAC and currently, the Reebok Athletic Club. In 1989, Barbara became records and awards officer at ANSW, a position she held for eight years. She spent much time coaching, and as an official, she held the positions of chief track judge and referee at interclub, State and Australian Championships. Barbara and her husband, Len, were awarded life membership of Athletics NSW in 1994. Barbara's contribution to the sport was extensive and will be missed by many.

Honorary Life Members & Merit Award Recipients

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Elected by A.A.U. of A.

* Hugh R Weir CBE	(1957)
* C Ronald Aitken CBE	(1965)
* Arthur J Hodsdon MBE	(1965)
* Norman G Hutton	(1968)
* Leonard B Curnow OBE	(1968)
* Robert E Graham OBE	(1968)
* F Theo Treacy OBE	(1969)
* George Soper	(1969)
* C Herbert Gardiner QJM	(1974)

Elected by A.W.A.A.U.

Miss Gwen Bull OAM	(1962)
* Miss Nell Gould OAM BEM	(1962)
Mrs Doris Magee AM MBE	(1962)
Miss Lillian Neville OAM	(1962)
* Mrs Doris Willson	(1964)
* Mrs Mavis Ebzery OAM	(1967)
Mrs Maisie McQuiston BEM	(1971)
* Mrs Margaret Cahill OAM	(1972)
Mrs Mabel Robinson MBE	(1973)
H George Carruthers MBE	(1977)
Mrs Joyce Bonwick OAM	(1978)

Elected by Amalgamated Union

* Thomas C Blue AM BEM	(1980)
Clive D Lee AM	(1984)
Mrs Flo Wrighter OAM BEM	(1986)
Noel J Ruddock AM	(1989)
Graeme T Briggs AM JP	(1990)
Mrs Brenda Pearl OAM	(1992)
Mrs Stella McMinn AM JP	(1992)
Fred W Napier OAM	(1992)
Justice Allan W McDonald QC	(1993)
George Tempest	(1994)
John D. Bailey AM	(1995)
Paul Jenens	(1995)

RECIPIENTS OF THE MERIT AWARD OF THE UNION

Elected by the A.A.U. of A. 1968-1978

JD Bailey AM	Q	1976
JD Barlow	Q	1968
* EW Barwick	T	1968
* FJW Budge	S	1977
HG Carruthers MBE	N	1970
* R Clemson	V	1968
* JW Cook	Q	1973
* RC Corish BEM	N	1970
* TB Dodds	S	1968
* JE Draper	V	1971
* H Eastaughffe	Q	1968
* ED Eastham	V	1978

* JK Faulkner	S	1968
RC Frith OAM	N	1975
* CH Gardiner QJM	V	1968
* E Goodwin	Q	1974
* ER Graham	S	1978
* JH Hanman	N	1972
TF Hantke	W	1968
* WW Huxley	Q	1973
* HJ Lowe	S	1970
* PS McCavanagh	S	1969
* AH McIvor	S	1976
* E Moore	V	1974

* CHF Morgan	S	1968
FW Napier OAM	W	1977
JL Patching AO OBE V		1968
* AE Robinson	V	1968
* FA Rose	T	1968
NJ Ruddock AM	T	1975
* VB Sharp MBE	S	1968
* GB Stringer	V	1970
* WC Thompson	Q	1968
* FT Treacy OBE	W	1968
* PD Walsh	N	1971
RPB White	N	1970

Elected by the A.W.A.A.U. 1971-1978

Mrs P Andersson	V	1971
* Mrs E Armstrong	V	1971
Mrs D Barnes	S	1976
Mrs I Bennett	V	1974
Mrs G Bergman	N	1978
* Mrs L Berzinski	V	1974
Mrs J Bonwick OAM	Q	1971
Mrs A Burow	V	1974
* Mrs M Cahill OAM	S	1972
* Mrs L Cavanagh	S	1971
Mrs G Chester	W	1973
Mrs D Clarke	N	1971
* Mrs E Clay	W	1975
Mrs M Cuthbert	N	1978
Mrs D Davis	V	1974
Mrs J Davis MBE	V	1975
* Mrs N Davey	N	1977

* Mrs M Ebzery OAM	T	1972
* Mrs N Edwards	N	1973
* Mrs Z Fibbins OAM	N	1971
Mrs M Fitzgibbons	N	1975
Mrs M Fraser	V	1973
Mrs J Gell	V	1974
Mrs E Godfrey	N	1971
* Miss N Gould OAM BEM N		1971
Mrs N Greenham OAM	S	1973
Mrs J Harmey	N	1971
* Mrs A Kennedy BEM	V	1971
* Mrs N Keily	V	1974
* Mrs Y Lanyon-Owen	Q	1971
Mrs E McBeth	V	1971
Mrs S McMinn AM JP	Q	1971
Mrs M McQuiston BEM	V	1974
* Mrs P McWillie	W	1973

Mrs D Magee AM MBE	N	1971
* Miss E Morris	V	1974
Miss L Neville OAM	V	1971
* Mrs Y Neasbey	N	1977
Mrs BJ Pearl OAM	S	1976
Mrs P Peters AM	S	1973
Mrs M Robinson MBE	V	1971
* Mrs G Rose	V	1971
Mrs J Saunders	V	1974
Mrs E Schulz	Q	1978
Mrs G Sheldon	N	1971
* Mrs D Spittles	Q	1971
Mrs D Stanton	V	1971
* Mrs F Venn	V	1974
Mrs F Wrighter OAM BEM N		1971

Elected by Athletics Australia 1979 -

MR	Aitken	S	1993	A	Gordon	S	1994	Ms M Mathews AM	N	1988
E	Bartholomeusz	Q	1986	PI	Hamilton	N	1996	Mrs E Murphy OAM	Q	1990
DF	Bell OAM	V	1985	Mrs M	Heffernan OAM	S	1980	Mrs R Owens	N	1996
GT	Briggs AM JP	T	1981	Dr B	Hodgson	V	1994	* RW Pannell	V	1992
LR	Boyd	V	1995	RK	Hood AM	T	1989	Miss MJ Patterson	V	1986
DP	Cross	Q	1994	LA	Hutton	N	1993	Mrs J Petfield	Q	1987
Mrs JM	Cross OAM	Q	1985	Mrs J	Huxley	N	1996	HL Ralph OAM	N	1979
Dr JA	Daly OAM	S	1993	J	Jarver	S	1994	BS Roe	T	1996
F	Day OAM	W	1991	P	Jenes	V	1992	* HJ Schubert MBE	V	1987
*Mrs WMEy	BEM	S	1993	DW	Jowett	Q	1993	GW Tempest	W	1990
DG	Ferrier	V	1984	PW	Lucas	N	1989	Mrs P Turney	V	1994
*JD	Forrest	Q	1984	Mrs ML	Mahony OAM	V	1994	DP Wilson	A	1994
I	Galbraith	A	1994	* ES	Martin	Q	1991	* CA Wise	T	1979

* Deceased.

In addition to the 1996/97 Athletics Australia Annual Report, the 46th issue of Athletics Australia Handbook of Records and Results provides a historical record of athlete performances, Australian Team results, Australian Championships results, records and rankings. The Handbook of Records and Results is available from
Athletics Australia.