



Annual Report 1997 - 1998

(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: Cathy Freeman celebrates her win over 400m at the 1997 World Championships held in Athens.
Photo: Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au

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Corporate Directory

OFFICE BEARERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT	Prof. Terry Dwyer AM
VICE PRESIDENT	Denis Wilson, AM
FINANCE	John Makarucha
TRACK AND FIELD	Margaret Mahony, OAM
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Leanne Evans (to November 1997) Ralph Doubell (from February 1998)
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT	Brian Gleeson
MARKETING	Greg Dyer
STATE DEVELOPMENT	Reg Brandis
COMMUNICATIONS	Ron Crawford
ATHLETES COMMISSION	Lee Naylor (from February 1998)

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Messrs. Dwyer, Brandis, Mrs Mahony

ADMINISTRATION

NAT. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Martin Soust (from August 1997)
NAT. EXEC. DIR. (ACTING)	Geoff Rowe (to August 1997)
BUSINESS MANAGER	Geoff Rowe
COMPETITIONS MANAGER	Brian Roe
MEMBER SERVICES SEN OFF.	Jason Hellwig
HIGH PERFORMANCE MGR.	Lawrie Woodman (from March 1998)
MEMBER SERVICES OFFICER	Lisa Grigg (to February 1998) Rohan Short (from February 1998)
MEDIA LIAISON OFFICER	Damian Booth
PROMOTIONS OFFICER	Karen Clifford
COMPETITIONS OFFICER	Samantha Culbert (from October 1997)
COMPETITIONS OFFICER	Tina Folmer
ACCOUNTANT	Felicity Anstee
INTERNATIONAL LIAISON	Maurie Plant
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	Jan Tyrrell
RECEPTIONIST	Rachel Clow
SPORTS ADMIN TRAINEE	Hayden Young (to February 1998) Matt Stevic (from February 1998)

HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHES

VIC	Efim Shuravetsky Roy Boyd Peter Fortune	NSW	Keith Connor Michael Khmel Peter Lawler Rudolph Sopko
TAS	John Quinn	SA	Graham Boase Alex Parnov
QLD	Cliff Mallett John Zanfirache Scott Murphy (to Mar '98)	WA	Tudor Bidder (to Oct '97) Steve Lemke (from Mar '98)
ACT	Craig Hillard Dick Telford		Ron Weigel Esa Peltola (Sports Sci.)

COMMISSIONS

Track and Field Commission

Chairman:	Peter Hamilton (NSW)
Members:	Richard Carter (SA) Margaret Mahony (Board) Khan Sharp (Vic)
Staff Liaison:	Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Officials Sub-Commission

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

Facilities and Equipment Sub-Commission

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

Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Chairman:	Dave Cundy (ACT)
Members:	Susan Hobson (ACT) Trevor Vincent (VIC) Denis Wilson (Board) Dusty Lewis (QLD) Chris Wardlaw (VIC) Pam Turney (VIC) Dick Telford (HP Coach - ACT)
Staff Liaison:	Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)



Walking Commission

Chairman: Denis Wilson (Board)
 Members: Simon Baker (VIC)
 Peter Waddell (ACT)
 Mark Donahoo (VIC)
 Bob Cruise (SA)
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Doping Control Commission

Chairman: Brian Roe (Competitions Manager)
 Member: Peter Brukner/Chris Bradshaw
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

National Development & Administration Commission

Chairman: Leanne Evans (Board) (to Nov 97)
 Ralph Doubell (Board) (from Feb 98)
 Members: Reg Brandis (Board)
 Ron Crawford (Board)
 Don Blyth (AV)
 John Patchett (ANSW)
 Gary Bourne (QA)
 Sophie Keil (ASA)
 Chilla Porter (WA)
 Pat Scammell (AT)
 Phil Spring (ACTA)
 Sam Nash (NTA)
 Martin Soust (AA)
 Tony Rice (AT&FCA)
 Staff Liaison: Member Services Senior Officer (Jason Hellwig)/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: Business Manager (Geoff Rowe)

International Tours & Competitions Commission

Chairman: Geoff Rowe (AA)
 Members: Margaret Mahony (Board)
 Brian Roe (AA)
 Tony Rice (ATFCA)
 Maurie Plant (VIC)
 Martin Soust (AA)
 Lawrie Woodman (VIC) (from Mar '98)
 Staff Liaison: Competitions Manager (Brian Roe)

Athletes Commission

Chairman: Lee Naylor (Board)
 Convenor: Simon Baker (VIC)
 Members: Clay Cross (NSW)
 Jane Flemming (NSW)
 Alison Inverarity (VIC)
 Rohan Robinson (ACT)
 Stuart Rendell (ACT)
 Dion Russell (ACT)
 Carolyn Schuwalow (VIC)
 Adam Steinhardt (SA)
 Peter Winter (VIC)
 Staff Liaison: Business Manager (Geoff Rowe)

Marketing and Media Commission

Chairman: Greg Dyer (Board)
 Members: Martin Soust (NED)
 Phil O'Hara (NSW)
 Samantha Culbert (NSW)
 Media & Promotions Manager (*vacant*)
 Staff Liaison: Martin Soust (NED)

High Performance Commission

Chairman: Prof. Terry Dwyer AM (Board)
 Members: Glynis Nunn (QLD)
 Herb Elliott (NSW)
 Robert de Castella (ACT)
 Staff Liaison: High Performance Mgr (Lawrie Woodman)

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)
 Rohan Short (Member Services Officer)

Steering Committee:

Jason Hellwig (Athletics Australia)
 Jenny Banks (APF)
 Chris Nunn (NSOD'S)

COMMITTEES

Track and Field Selection

Chairman: Peter Hamilton (NSW)
Members: Brian Roe (TAS)
Pam Turney (VIC)

Cross Country, Road Running and Walking Selection

Chairman: Pam Turney (VIC)
Members: John Gilbert (ACT)
Brian Roe (TAS)

National Officers

National Statistician: Paul Jenes (VIC)
Assistant (Juniors): David Tarbotton (NSW)
Records Officer: Ronda Jenkins (VIC)
Constitution Officer: Peter Fitzgerald (VIC)

Key Objectives

1. To be ranked as the 5th nation in athletics at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney (6 to 7 medals must be won).
2. To achieve a 10% annual increase in membership so that by 2002 we have approximately 30,000 members (a near doubling of the number of registered athletes).
3. In terms of our profile and the level of public awareness of the sport, to maintain our position as the number one Olympic sport and move alongside sports such as tennis, golf and basketball (this requires our TV ratings to move to 10 -15 and our attendances at all Grand Prix events to grow - target of 20,000 in Melbourne and Sydney by 2002).

NT's Nova Peris-Kneebone at the 1998 Optus National Championships.
Photo courtesy of Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au

President's Report

When representatives of all the states met two years ago in Melbourne there was general agreement that progress was needed in our three key result areas: elite athlete performance, high profile events and grass roots development if we were to compete successfully against other sports. Through paying greater attention to planning, focusing on results in each area and by seeking the best people available for our senior positions, I believe we have been able to make definite progress in two of the areas. Last summer we saw marked increases in gate takings and TV ratings for the GP series nationally. In Athens at the World Championships, we saw evidence of exciting progress in the high performance area. The results of the Optus Southern Stars were the best by an Australian team since the 1968 Olympics Games.

However, we have failed to make significant progress in grass roots development and participation. Further, the budget presented this year shows that we are operating with about the same income as last year. While we have been able to meet our expenses we have been unable to either increase expenditure on new or established areas or to expand our reserves.

Following agreement by our members at the last Annual General Meeting we commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to review our activities and provide advice on how we might achieve progress in all areas. Their report advised us that if we did not undertake a major restructuring of the administration of the sport nationally we were unlikely to see the progress in participation we desired nor would we realise the marketing opportunities open to us. I see this restructuring as the critical goal for the next twelve months. The enthusiasm surrounding the Olympics provides the springboard that will ensure the success of the process if we as an organisation grasp the opportunity. I am hopeful that in twelve months time our Board will be able to report increased revenue and participation in the sport as well as the continued progress we are expecting with our elite athletes and our grand prix program.

My thanks to all those at all levels of the sport who have worked so hard in the last year to achieve our successes.

PROF. TERRY DWYER
PRESIDENT



National Executive Director

Significant progress and achievements have been made over the past year and it is pleasing to report an impressive list of results against our key performance indicators.

Last season's Optus Grand Prix Series attracted a total combined TV audience of 1,417,084, helped by excellent audiences for the National Championships shown on Wide World of Sport.

The telecasts of the Melbourne and Sydney editions of the series won market share for the Nine Network with in excess of 30% of the viewing audience across Australia watching the broadcast of the events.

The audience figures are impressive and indicate the considerable potential of Australian athletics as a televised sport.

Four meets in the Optus Grand Prix Series (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart) plus the National Championships were televised by both Optus Vision and the Nine Network.

Total attendances at Grand Prix events for the year were 41,884 which was also up on previous years and some were lucky enough to see a new World Record set in the Women's Pole Vault at the Grand Prix Final in Brisbane.

The increase in the number of athletes competing in the series came as a result of Nike Sports Entertainment's investment into the Melbourne and Sydney meets and there was a substantial flow-on of talent to other meets as well. It is noteworthy that the Sydney meet was awarded Permit status by the IAAF from 1998. The Melbourne and Sydney meets, with large world class fields, obtained significantly improved IAAF ratings.

Surpluses were again recorded on most Athletics Australia events but these must be increased substantially particularly at all Optus Grand Prix Meets if the Series is to continue to grow and capitalise on the 2000 Games flow-on effect.

The results achieved by the Optus Southern Stars at the World Championships in Athens in August were our best for many years. Four medals were won and there were many other strong performances in the finals of a range of events.

It is disappointing to report that our total registrations are only 18,163 but it is pleasing to see that this figure

confirms that over the last 2 years we have been able to arrest the steady decline in registrations which has occurred from at least the beginning of this decade.

There is no doubt that the concerted effort made by all Member Associations and their clubs to rebuild their membership has had an effect and in the near future we should see an upturn in our registrations.

These achievements are laudable and all of the sport's stakeholders - the clubs, athletes, officials, administrators, supporters and sponsors - should be proud of them.

The question we must ask ourselves is, "How can we continue to improve and deliver the sport in a way that attracts more people and helps develop athletics at the grass roots level?"

The Board of Athletics Australia has taken some strategic decisions during the year which we believe will help ensure this sport has a prosperous future beyond 2000.

The sport gained enormous media exposure upon the announcement of the new Director of Coaching late in 1997. The Board ultimately chose not to proceed with the appointment and restructured the management of the High Performance program which led to greater emphasis on the role of the High Performance Manager in the management of the system and a refocussing of the Head Coach's responsibilities.

Also late in 1997 it was decided to undertake a structural and governance review of the sport to determine how the sport could be better administered and managed. The review was initiated at the beginning of 1998 by engaging the consulting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers. This engagement was made possible by combining our own funds with financial support from the Australian Sports Commission. The report is due to be delivered to the Board in August, 1998.

The penetration of our schools programs is prodigious. Hot Tracks is in 936 schools (44% of all High Schools) with 108,698 certificates awarded, Power Pack has been purchased by 244 Schools and 4548 students in 465 teams representing 174 schools have entered the Schools Knockout competition.

Our research commitment to monitoring membership issues and the performance of our programs continued during the year and indicated a satisfaction rate above 80% with our major schools resources (Hot Tracks, Power Pack, and Schools Knockout).



All traditional national championships were successfully staged in 1997/98. For the first time the Schools Knockout National Final was held at a different but associated venue to the All Schools Championships. The "Launceston Experiment" was most encouraging and has raised many opportunities for regional centres which are developing all weather facilities.

The schools and national cross country championships were very successfully jointly staged at Oakbank in South Australia. Entries for most national championships were either steady or slightly up on previous years, although those for road walks continue to decline.

A major initiative in 1998 was the development of a winter track and field culture in Australia. Five mainland Member Associations were able to schedule meets, some expanding upon existing embryonic competitions whilst other events were new. The final listing showed more than 60 opportunities for athletes to compete during the Australian winter either in preparation for major internationals or just for the chance to compete more often.

The submission to the IAAF, with the assistance of the NSW State Government, to host the 1999 IAAF Grand Prix Final as a major prelude to the Olympics was confirmed but the IAAF Council deferred a final decision on several occasions as it explored the possibilities for new financial conditions for staging this event.

The 1999 Australian All Schools Track & Field Championships and the Olympic selection events for the marathon and road walks in April 2000 were selected as the official "test events" for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Our integration program took a significant step forward during the year with the National Track and Field Championships for Athletes with a Disability attracting well in excess of 170 participants. In addition to the championships, the integration program continued to successfully implement activities which aim to bring disabled athletes into all aspects and levels of the sport.

We have enjoyed the increased willingness of many volunteers to take on tasks and responsibilities undertaken by paid staff in the Competitions department in recent years. This is an encouraging trend and will ensure that we can continue to expand the presentation of the national competition programme.

Investment in competition support programmes continued throughout the year with useful modifications made to Meet Manager and further competition equipment purchases for Member Associations from event surpluses.

Athletics Australia has had extensive involvement in the development of Active Australia. The benefits from this program will not be realised until next year. While it is expected that Active Australia will assist us in improving the quality of performances of our clubs during the next 12 months, the extent to which it will be successful will be largely dependent upon the commitments we obtain from individual Member Associations.

During the year we undertook the relocation of the National Office from North Melbourne to St. Kilda Road. There was little time between the sale of the O' Shanassy Street premises and the purchase of the new St Kilda Road premises and that resulted in a fast tracked refurbishment of the new premises. Relocation over the Christmas/New Year period without dislocation to normal activities went smoothly and we were able to commence operations from the new premises at the beginning of the new year.

As the year closes we are planning a complete Y2K audit as part of our strategy to deal with the Y2K issue.

Matters of future significance include the outcomes from the review undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the consequences arising from the demise of SportsVision.

In regard to the review and the possible recommendations for structural change, we will incur expenditure in finalising the review and should there be implementation of substantial changes to the organisation structure additional resources will need to be invested into the implementation program.

In regard to SportsVision, as the year closed we learned of the appointment of a liquidator to the company. SportsVision was the licenceholder of our TV rights. As soon as we are able to do so we will enter into negotiations with other TV service providers and the TV networks in an effort to sell the licence with no loss of benefits.

There are two significant challenges ahead. First, we must ensure we continue to drive our high performance program as well as our resources allow and that we provide an excellent preparation program for the athletes who will represent Australia in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Second, we must strengthen and improve the foundations of the sport so we can use them as the springboard into the next millenium.

Critical to these challenges is the support we receive from our supporters and sponsors - C & W Optus, our principal sponsor; Ansett Australia, our official airline; Nike, our uniform supplier, Comet, our freight carrier; the



Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee. Our success would not be possible without their commitment and input.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Athletics Australia I would like to thank each member of staff of Athletics Australia and all those working with Member Associations and athletics clubs for their contribution to a

good year for this sport. I would also like to thank the thousands of honorary workers, the volunteers, whose tireless efforts are so valuable to all athletics clubs and associations in Australia.

Martin Soust
National Executive Director

The Hon Andrew Thomson, Minister for Sport and Tourism and National Executive Director, Martin Soust at the official opening of the new Athletics Australia office, May 29th 1998. Photo courtesy Tony Feder, Sporting Pix.

Member Association Reports

ACT Athletics

President: Brian Gleeson
Exec. Director: Phil Spring

1 997/98 has been a year of mixed fortunes on and off the track for ACT Athletics.

As mentioned in last year's report, a major issue faced by the Association over the last two years has been the negotiations for a new all-weather track for Canberra. The ACT Government funded a feasibility study for a new track at Woden and a grant of a further \$4 million had been foreshadowed for the first phase of the installation in the 1998-99 season. It is therefore a great disappointment to report that although the feasibility study supported the proposal, the ACT Government decided it was not able to provide the necessary funding, at least for the time being. The Government has instead raised the question of whether it should purchase the AIS track, but the costs involved would be substantial as the AIS track is currently in need of significant repair and upgrading and there are concerns about the safety of users at present. The Association will continue to press the need to develop a new all-weather facility in Canberra as a matter of urgency.

The Association has been concerned about a continuing drop in registrations over recent years and which now have returned to 1980 levels. The lack of a spin-off effect from the forthcoming Sydney Olympic Games resulting in increased interest in athletics generally, is particularly troubling and the Association is looking at a vigorous publicity and recruitment campaign to reverse this trend.

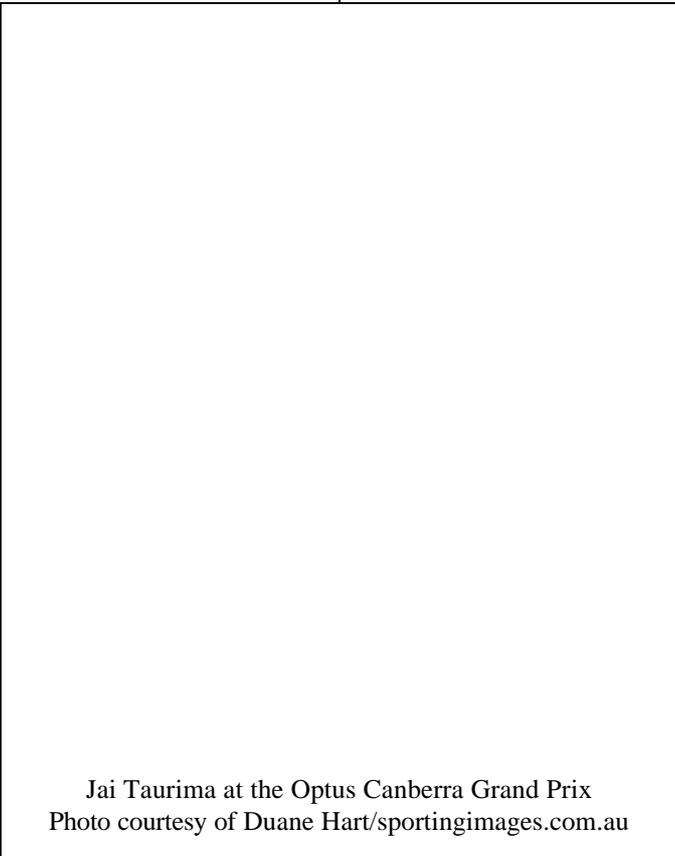
On the positive side, the Association again ran a successful competition season, which included the regular championships, the successful twilight series and the Optus Grand Prix. The Association again conducted the Australian Championships for Athletes with a Disability which, as last year, was evaluated to have been highly successful.

Senior ACT athletes including Shaun Creighton, Stuart Rendell, Mizan Mehari, Chris Cook, Patrick Johnson and Susan Hobson, and ACT juniors including Kelly Roberts, Paul Fenn, Mark Thompson, Tim Curran and Chris Thompson performed very well during the year.

ACT Athletics was again fortunate to maintain valued sponsorship from the ACT Government Bureau of Sport, Recreation and Racing, from Coca Cola Amatil, Powerade, Instant Colour Press, Sunsmart, Optus, Baker's Delight, Toshiba, Belconnen Fruit Markets, The Runner's Shop and ACT Healthpact. Without this support the Association would not have been able to conduct its activities successfully.

1998-99 presents a number of challenges for the

Association, most importantly action to raise the profile of the sport and increase registration numbers, as well as the continuing question of appropriate track facilities in Canberra. That the Association has a strong and highly competent organisation is reflected in the fact that it will be conducting several Australian championships in the coming year, the Australian Cross-Country and All-Schools Championships, the Australian All-Schools Track & Field Championships and the Australian Championships for Athletes with a Disability and it looks forward to these challenges and the future with confidence.



Jai Taurima at the Optus Canberra Grand Prix
 Photo courtesy of Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au



Athletics New South Wales

President: Ralph Doubell
Exec. Director: John Patchett

1998 was a year of change and progress for ANSW.

In the past 12 months we have seen the organisation regain control of its strategic direction and financial capacity. We have adopted a Business Plan for the next two years with a focus on increasing the levels of participation, reviewing the type of competition we offer and increasing our capacity to assist in the development of the sport throughout the State.

The progress and change must continue if we are to succeed in gaining the support of new sponsors and the continued support of existing sponsors.

New ideas and initiatives must be reviewed objectively and we must be willing to experiment with a different approach to conducting Championships and all other events. Some events may be conducted on a joint venture basis with an independent operator, such as our plan for the Sydney Marathon, while other events could potentially be conducted with specific sponsors or other organisations.

Our strategic direction will also be influenced by the outcome of the Athletics Australia study which will review the overall rationale for the management of athletics in Australia.

The next two years are very important. We need to be flexible and innovative in our approach to the development of the sport, while at the same time provide support to our elite athletes as they focus on their preparation for the Sydney Olympics.

These objectives are wide ranging, but so long as we focus our efforts where we have the expertise and capacity, we can succeed in rebuilding the popularity and image of athletics in Australia.

Turning to the competition front, NSW athletes dominated the Australian Championships both at senior and junior level. The Australian All Schools Championships held in Hobart attracted some 229 athletes. Although for the first time a serious challenge was mounted by the Queensland contingent, the NSW team lifted their performance and secured the team trophy. This is the 20th straight year we have emerged as

the leading state which is a tremendous effort. The biggest challenge facing the entire athletic community must be to devise a program to ensure we retain our outstanding junior athletes for the transition to the senior ranks. The Open & U20 National titles held in Melbourne in March saw, for the first time in 40 years, NSW victorious in the major point score. This is testimony to the successful implementation of the NSW Institute of Sport's programs and athletics generally in the state. We undoubtedly have the foundations to take the sport to a unprecedented level in the next few years. Adelaide hosted 216 NSW athletes for the Underage Australian Championships in late March and whilst participation rates from some States decreased, the overall standard was very high with NSW to the fore.

The local competition commenced with the "club challenge" but unfortunately it would appear that the format does not fit the athletes needs, as it was very poorly attended with the exception of a couple of clubs. A rethink and innovative action is required to tailor a more attractive event for this time of the year. Interclub was conducted under a new set of rules and although it had its share of critics the athletes supported the concept and standards were high. Adjustments to next year's schedule will improve the competition. My congratulations go to the Saucony Sutherland club who won the B grade, U/18 and U/16 point score in the men's division and also the A grade, B grade, U/18 and U/16 in the women's division. A fantastic effort. The Bankstown club secured the A grade men's trophy for the first time and my congratulations go to them also.

The "MOOVE" games continues to gain momentum and popularity and must surely be the pinnacle of the schools' calendar. This year's event attracted over 1500 athletes from all over the state with 3350 entries in the 293 events on offer. Other events including the State Relays, State Championships and Country Championships all contributed to a successful track and field season.

The Cross Country and Walks competition continued to attract good fields and as part of a 1998 initiative, clubs have been asked to tender for events for a four year period. This will allow continuity and long term planning to take place.

In summary, the past year has been a year of re-establishing our direction and confirming our priorities. Sometimes decisions made were unpalatable but had to be made. Good progress has been achieved in the financial management area without inflicting too much pain although the price paid was the withdrawal of some

services. We are well placed to grow in the coming years and take advantage of opportunities leading up to the Olympics. New events need to be created to cater for the

ever changing demands of the public and joint ventures will emerge.

The “find” of 1997/98, sprint sensation Matt Shirvington.
Photo courtesy of Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au



Northern Territory Athletics

President: Brian Webb
Exec. Director: Sam Nash

The past year has been an extremely challenging and rewarding year for Northern Territory Athletics. The first half of the year was devoted to planning and re-building our association towards and beyond 2000. 'Back to basics' was the starting platform to mend the wounds of the past couple of years. For the first time since 1995, we retained a full-time Executive Director and a continuous Board of Management.

Competitions: NT Athletics introduced a shortened "Green Season" competition during the wet season to prepare our athletes for the Nationals in March and to invite new members to participate in a quick & fun program. The program was very successful and we sent our largest team to the nationals in many years. The domestic track and field season commenced at the beginning of May and will conclude with the NT Championships on the 19th/20th September 1998.

The domestic season introduced new social events such as handicapped events, special relays and social BBQ's into the program. A Pentathlon Pairs Competition proved to be extremely successful, attracting many first-timers to athletics. NT Athletics looks forward to introducing more changes to programs in the year ahead.

A well-organised Litchfield Gift was held in May at Fred's Pass Reserve. Registrations were strong, attracting wide media coverage and local support.

The 1997 Schools Knockout Competition attracted students from all over the Territory to Darwin. This was reciprocated in the Primary Schools Exchange also conducted at Arafura Stadium in Darwin. The problems that existed in '97 were that the competitions were conducted at the conclusion of our domestic season. The new Green Season will aim to retain these students into competitive track & field competition.

The City to Surf proved to be our most successful competition, confirming yet again the dominance of the casual fun runner in the Territory. Entries doubled from the previous year paving way for a very strong event in 1999.

Registrations: There has been a 10 per cent increase in registrations in 1998 compared to 1997. It is anticipated that this will continue to increase in 1999 should we

continue to implement changes to our programming to suit the needs of our customers. The Darwin Runners Club constitutes the bulk of NT Senior members – yet again a reminder of the fun, social runner's presence.

Development: Level 2 Sprints Coach, Warren Medcalf was employed under a four-month contract to co-ordinate the NT Institute of Sport Development Program and prepare a squad for the Nationals. The placement proved extremely beneficial to our development program, however the program failed to continue at the conclusion of the contract due to limited funding. Warren's short-term placement highlighted the urgent need for a full-time development position in the Territory. Since Warren's departure, the athletics development squad has been dropped from the NTIS due to the absence of a permanent development and performance co-ordinator. Our inclusion into this squad is essential and will become an earnest mission in 1998-99.

A level 1 AT&FCA course was held in May, which doubled the existing number of level 1 coaches in the Territory. The success of this course reinforced the need for a committed approach to our coach development and the urgency to run regular courses. A new NT Coach, Deidra Attwood, has continued to work with Warren's squad by correspondence.

Club Development has been a forefront objective for 1998. While clubs have been encouraged and supported to work through the Active Australia criteria, the benefits of club development will not be fully recognised until 1999.

The past twelve months have been totally committed to creating community awareness and communicating with our members to provide the types of services that they want. We feel confident that we have come a long way in achieving these objectives.

NT Athletics is now at an important crossroads. Until we employ a permanent development position, our past success will remain stagnant. It is crucial that we take this next step should we seriously wish to advance as an association. Increased registrations, Active Australia status and improved public relations will make the year ahead one of further advancements towards our Year 2000 goals.



Queensland Athletics

President: Gary Bourne
Office Manager: Brent Hundloe

The past year has been one in which Queensland Athletics began a process of change aimed at re-structuring and reforming the organisation to enable it to better develop the sport at the grass roots level and serve the interests of all members and clubs across the State. The process of change always engenders a great deal of discussion and argument in any organisation. Ours was certainly no exception.

Despite having to contend with the enormous workload created by the reform process and the many disputes that arose as a result, the organisation has achieved its best performances on record. Record entries were achieved in all major championships and the Company achieved a record operating profit.

Many people have been unaware of the outstanding achievements of Queensland Athletics over the past twelve months because of the diversion created by the disputes and the re-structure. In this report therefore, I wish to draw people's attention to some of our achievements in this period.

In the schools development area we had over 1,700 individual entries to our State All-Schools Cross Country Championships, in excess of 2,400 individual entries to our State All Schools Track & Field Championships, and we continued to successfully conduct our annual international athletic, educational and cultural exchange for school age athletes with Gifu Prefecture in Japan.

We introduced an All Schools Track & Field Event Relay Championships along with an All Schools Cross Country Relay Championship. Both these ventures were highly successful and a platform is now set to further develop, expand and market these ventures in 1999 and beyond.

In addition Queensland Athletics achieved a record 30% increase in the number of schools participating in our School Knockout competitions, the highest level of any State, and this comes on top of the fact that Queensland already had the highest participation numbers in the country for this event. We also staged a highly successful under 14 years Schools Knockout competition, the only one in the country.

At club level we retained our State Championships structure for 1997-98, whilst providing some variety in

our competitions by introducing an inter-club Knockout competition for open and age-groups (Using the schools model), along with a series of Twilight Meets (based on the GP structure), and some odd distance/event competitions.

Our club registrations have increased over twelve months despite the difficult circumstances in which we have operated. The foundations have been laid here through the work we have done at the schools development and club competitions levels, to substantially grow the sport in Queensland in the future.

From a business management perspective, our Board has dramatically turned around the financial position of the organisation, producing an all-time record profit of \$74,000 for the 1997 calendar year and a projected profit in excess of \$100,000 for the 1998 year.

These are the first trading surpluses this organisation has produced in at least the last seven years, and are a clear endorsement of the strategic business planning decision made by this and the previous Board and they have been achieved despite the State Government reducing our funding over that period.

To those outside of QA who have been so critical and destructive in their behaviour we say; "look at the scoreboard". The current and most recent Boards of Queensland Athletics should be commended for their record. We have been the most successful Boards in the history of this organisation. The motives of those who have sought so desperately to remove us, as we have said before, need to be questioned.

Over the past year we have implemented professional development courses and programmes for staff and some Board members. We identified professional development at our level a crucial to success and we did something about it. We supplied new shirts and hats as part of a new uniform for our officials and developed a new cradle to grave squad structure to address the developmental needs of athletes and their coaches at all levels. To support this we instituted a programme of junior development clinics.

We have developed and serviced new sponsorships with Ansett Airlines, Sunstate Airlines, Schweppes and Capital City Connections along with other minor sponsorships. In addition we have completed preliminary discussion with a major sponsor who has indicated their desire to come on board during the 1999 year. We have also developed a merchandising programme to supplement our regular income from our track, canteen and competitions.



A new Board will be elected for Queensland Athletics in November 1998. We believe we have provided a solid foundation for this new Board to build on. Over the past months we have focussed on organisational reform, responsible financial managements, improved communications and re-unification of the membership. The evidence is clear that we have delivered in all of these areas.

As one not standing for re-election, I wish to thank all those who have contributed in a positive way to athletics in Queensland over the past two years. I also extend an offer of support to the many friends I have made in other states and wish them and their organisations the greatest success in the future.

Joanna Stone takes the silver medal at the Athens World Championships
Photo courtesy of Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au

Athletics South Australia

President: Barry Stanton
Exec. Director: Sophie Keil

accompanied by the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Graham Ingerson and the Minister of Recreation and Sport the Hon. Iain Evans officiate at the opening ceremony.

The past year has truly been

We are pleased also to register our thanks to the South

historic for Athletics SA. Following three and one half decades at the beautiful Olympic Sportsfield at Kensington Park, Athletics SA has relocated to the new facility at Mile End.

The Santos Stadium has provided athletics in South Australia with a wonderful new facility which will provide greater opportunities for the development of the sport over the next three decades.

Athletics SA is truly grateful for the many people who have been involved in the progression to obtain the facility following first overtures made to the government in 1991.

In particular the government of South Australia is to be congratulated for its acceptance of the need for and the provision of, a permanent facility for track and field in South Australia.

Without the support of the Premiers, Ministers and the Chief Executive Officers of the Recreation and Sport Division of the government we would not be in our current situation of being able to manage the facility on behalf of the government and for the benefit and development of the sport for all South Australians.

Opening day for the new facility saw a record crowd in excess of 8000 people witness the Adelaide leg of the Optus Grand Prix Series. We were privileged to witness the Premier of South Australia, the Hon. John Olsen,

Australian government and the Office of Recreation and Sport for financial support to assist us in the appointment of Ms. Sophie Keil as our Executive Director. Sophie has done a great job in masterminding the move from Kensington to Mile End and the establishment of our offices and administration within the new facility.

On the track, the highlights have included international selection and an Australia title for Jagan Hames for the world championships and four members being selected in the National Junior Team to compete in Annecy (France) at the World Junior Championships later this year. We wish Ronald Garlett, Brooke Kreuger, Christie Elwin and Liam Murphy all the very best in these competitions. We also congratulate Graham Boase who has been chosen as Head Coach for the Australian Team.

During the Grand Prix, we witnessed an Australian allcomers record in the Pole Vault with Dimitry Markov clearing 5.85 metres. Dimitry, Victor

Tchatistokov, Tatiana Gregorieva and their coach Alex Parnov have chosen Adelaide as their new home and training venue. We welcome them to South Australia as well as Emma George, the women's World Record holder for the indoor and outdoor Pole Vault who has chosen to train in Adelaide with Alex Parnov. Athletics SA is grateful to the work of Alan Launder for his efforts in attracting such a great coach and athletes to Adelaide.

Australian Decathlon Record Holder Jagan Hames
 Photo courtesy of Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au



A very special congratulations is offered to Neil Fuller. Neil has been amazing in his performances during the season and particularly overseas. Neil now holds the World Record for the 400 and 800 metres in his amputee classification and has, of course been selected to represent Australian in the forthcoming World Championship for Athletes with a Disability in England later this year. We also congratulate Katrina Webb for her selection for the World Championships for Athletes with a Disability and Jason Smith and Sanya Parker for their selection for the World Blind Games to be held in Spain in July. Athletics SA is also pleased to recognise and congratulate the very successful coach of these four athletes, Marius Ghita who has also been selected to travel as a team coach with the Australian Team to England.

At school and junior levels, we have seen excellent performances in state and national championships by a group of very talented young athletes. While the Pole Vault group under the tutelage of Alan Launder have been outstanding, we have also had success in sprinting, hurdles, race walking and hammer throw.

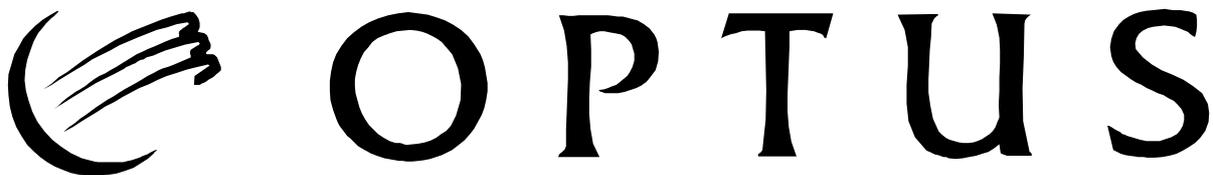
Our winter season for 1997 was again very successful venture. We returned to Oakbank to conduct the National schools and National Under Age Cross Country Championships. This proved to be very successful and

my congratulations go to those who were involved in this huge undertaking. At the national level, our Women's Team in the National Marathon Championships were again successful and we congratulate Bev Lucas, Leah Wright and Lisa Wright for the continuing high level of performance.

The officials group within our sport have continued their pathway of improving their qualification and their involvement in state and national events. Athletics SA is very thankful for their continuing support at all association and school events and wishes them well for ultimate selection for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

To our coaching fraternity, and especially to Lyn Larsen, Athletics SA Coach of the Year, many thanks for your dedication and commitment to our sport.

For the future, I believe that we will need to strengthen our club base within the association. It is only with strong local clubs who provide the best sporting and social environment that we can be assured of maintaining and increasing our numbers, our place in the national family of athletics and our service to the community of South Australia.





Athletics Tasmania

President: Terry Dwyer
General Manager: Pat Scammell

The last twelve months have been a time of settling in for the staff, as the association took a complete change of staff at the end of the last financial year and the beginning of the first quarter. To this end I'd like to thank Karen Leavey for her contribution to the association over a five year period.

Haydyn Nielsen, who over the last twelve months has settled into an office at a time of complete change, has made a most valuable contribution as the state development officer. I thank Haydyn for his efforts.

The administration assistant's position now forms part of a traineeship and in the last quarter the association placed Valerie Hall in this role. Valerie is adapting very quickly to a challenging position in sports administration. In accordance of the requirements of the traineeship Valerie works full time four days and spends one full day per week at college.

The year has seen some highs with the success of our distance and middle distance runners who are in the top echelon of their events in Australia and our junior programs, in a diverse section of events, are making significant developments.

Further highs included the ratification of board member Wayne Fletcher as an accredited IAAF walks official. The success of the Schools Knockout competition which culminated in the national final being held in Launceston and the Australian All Schools competition held in Hobart in December. To the committees of those competitions on behalf of the association thank you for your time, energy, enthusiasm and professional approach to your responsibilities in the success of these events.

Further to these was the annual Optus Grand Prix and relays meeting which saw the introduction of a new sponsor, the Commonwealth Bank. This support was significant as it enabled us to be able to again conduct an international meeting for the Tasmanian community. The day witnessed some exceptional performances highlighted by Brendan Hanigan's win in the 800m. The only disappointment was the weather.

We had the sad loss of Greg Blake. Greg made a significant contribution to our sport through his athletic prowess.

Participation

In a difficult period due to staff changes, the association saw a virtual status quo in participation numbers. Having said that, I believe we are now in a position to start making significant progress in terms of participation. Haydyn is working closely with Athletics Australia's participation department. The initiatives that we are developing and implementing should see the association in a stronger position in terms of registrations. This area is vitally important for the long term viability of the sport.

Commissions

Some progress has been made in the last twelve months in the restructuring of our commissions with both the Winter and Summer commissions now communicating on a more regular basis, while this is an obvious positive, I know that myself and the coordinators of each commission believe that we still have significant work to do to make these into one of our strongest volunteer based groups. I would like to thank all members of these committees for their time and effort as they all have additional responsibilities in their respective branches and clubs.

Competitions

In last year's report I noted that this is one of our biggest challenges in Australia. Competition is the product that we put up to attract members to our sport and I am happy to report that the state is making significant gains in the structure of its product e.g. endeavouring to run shorter more attractive programs with some innovative events. While it would be nice to be able to change more quickly, the initiatives on competition that the branches are putting in place are starting to make a difference. I thank those who aren't against change but are embracing it and are really endeavouring to deliver an attractive product for our members.

All competitions take up considerable time. I thank all regions on behalf of the board and the staff of Athletics Tasmania for the many volunteer hours, which are contributed to run and officiate our meetings across the state.

Marketing/Sponsorship

It has been a difficult year for us in some respects with the loss of two of our major sponsors through financial collapse. As a result this has placed financial pressure on the association during the year. A considerable amount of my time and the staff's time has been spent on endeavouring to attract new sponsors. Rosella in the schools program and the Commonwealth Bank in the national relays have come on board with significant



sponsorships. At the time of writing we are still negotiating with major sponsors for our interclub programs and special events.

The overall marketing of the sport is being worked through strategically but due to limited overall funds, our marketing plans are generally associated with specific events. This year will see us upgrade this with the production of our own television commercials in an attempt to increase membership for the summer and winter. Our position as the banner sport of the Olympics thankfully keeps us in the media focus. Our marketing initiatives must always remember this as it is our greatest marketing tool.

On behalf of the association I express our thanks to the State Government and The Office of Sport and Recreation for their major financial injection and to our sponsors, particularly the Commonwealth Bank, Rosella and Cadbury's.

Facilities

Thank you to all branches for the contribution towards facilities and equipment upgrading across the state. We realise this is one of the biggest drains on your financial position. Your efforts are imperative so that our members can have the equipment and facilities to enable them to participate at their chosen level.

The proposed facilities upgrade at the Domain for a national standard athletic centre saw the introduction of a new fundraising committee under the auspice of the Bill Barwick Memorial Appeal Committee. At the time of writing this committee is working towards securing funding which would enable building to commence in the next 12 months. In the last 12 months we saw Rob Glade-Wright, who was the original chairman, leave the state. On behalf of the sport I thank Rob for his tireless volunteer work on this project. As we are the only state that does not have a national standard facility it is imperative that we continue to work with the appeal committee and all associated parties to have this facility up and running as soon as possible for the future of our sport.

Finance and Administration

Our financial report reflects the difficulties we had in sponsorship over the last 12 months and emphasises the importance of sponsorship and an increase in participation for our long-term financial viability. The administration requirements of the sport continually place pressure on the office. I would personally like to thank my staff and the board for their continued support and their contribution of volunteer hours.

This year will see a review of the sport in Australia by Coopers and Lybrand. This review was initiated by Athletics Australia and its member associations, the aim being to review all processes of current operations around Australia to determine the most effective method of administering athletics throughout the country. I am confident that this review will be a productive initiative that will see our state and other member association's benefit from the recommendations resulting from this review.

Elite Program

Thank you to John Quinn and to the TIS for the contribution being made toward athletics in the state. The sport is making significant progress in many areas, particularly the junior area as I mentioned earlier.

Congratulations to our elite athletes on their performances over the past 12 months and on behalf of the association I wish you all well in selection for the Australian team for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Conclusion

In concluding I would like to thank all the volunteers throughout our sport. In all our strategic initiatives volunteers are the cornerstone of implementation. If it was not for their dedication the sport would not exist. I feel that we are well placed to make some significant gains this year. With a coordinated effort and effective communication our sport will continue to grow in Tasmania.



Athletics Victoria

President: John Higham
Executive Director: Don Blyth

Athletics Victoria experienced a very interesting year in 1997/8.

Highlights of the year included a strong track and field program as well as a full range of winter events. The involvement of the Association in events involving non registered athletes e.g. Schools Championships was a major growth area and one we need to concentrate on in terms of future membership.

Athletics Victoria was very pleased to again host the Open & U20 Australian Track and Field Championships.

Without doubt the pinnacle of the year was the Melbourne Track Tour, part of the Optus Grand Prix Series, which saw the greatest group of national and international athletes assembled at Olympic Park for many years. The almost capacity crowd was testimony to the quality of the athletes and the competition.

Sponsorship from Tattersall's enabled the Association to conduct a special athletics carnival over 3 meets with the finals being conducted in association with the Victorian Championships. This program proved to be very popular with athletes.

Our competition programs were magnificently supported by our willing and able officials. In some weeks they were required to work on 4 and 5 days and did so without hesitation. The sport of athletics owes a great deal to these voluntary helpers. If the sport had to pay them for their professional services, the costs to athletes would greatly increase.

Competition at Olympic Park during the year was at times difficult with the major refurbishment works in progress. The inconvenience was worthwhile however, as the end result is that we have a venue of international standard.

Unfortunately, registration numbers again declined and the loss of income from this source was a major reason for the Association recording a financial loss for the year. Despite the loss, the Association is still in a very sound financial position.

Like other Associations, Athletics Victoria relies heavily on the support of sponsors and we were delighted with the

continued support from the organisations which provided funds and other support in our winter and summer events.

To address the decline in membership, the Board has instituted a major review of membership and competition. The Board is of the view that the two issues are closely linked as the nature and quality of competition not only attracts new athletes but assists in retaining existing athletes. To obtain feedback from athletes over 2,000 questionnaires were sent out and over 50% responded. The results of this survey will be a major determining factor in future forms of membership and competition.

During the year continuing and useful discussions were held with the Victorian Little Athletics Association and the Victorian Athletic League through the Victorian Athletic Council. In the forthcoming track and field season some new initiatives, including dual registration, will be trialled with the Little Athletic Association with a view to having these athletes retained in the sport once they reach the maximum age level as Little Athletes.

The Association was pleased to be involved in the review commissioned by Athletics Australia into the future administration of athletics in Australia. The Board and a significant number of interested parties met with consultant, Neil Plumridge of Coopers and Lybrand, and were given a very good hearing.

Athletics Victoria was also involved in the trial Sportnet communications proposals. At this stage the Association is keeping an open mind on the matter but does have serious reservations that the time and effort involved in developing its own membership and competition systems as well as the Internet and e-mail arrangements may be lost in the process.

In the development area the continued support from VicHealth through the Heart Health Foundation allowed the Association to maintain its development programs in clubs and schools. Over 300 athletes are involved in the Hearthealth Going Beyond 2000 Squad. Support from Sport and Recreation Victoria was also a vital factor in funding the development area.

Sport and Recreation Victoria also provided funds to enable the Association to conduct a Regional Athletics Venue Expo (RAVE) in Bendigo. The expo involved local sporting bodies, schools and coaches. Excellent coverage was provided by the local media. It is hoped that the project will have flow on effects for athletics in the Bendigo district.



During the year the Association received from Sport and Recreation Victoria a one off grant which enabled us to upgrade our computers and develop a networked system. In association with the capacity to communicate with members and clubs electronically, we introduced credit card and EFTPOS facilities to facilitate on-line registrations and event entries. Some preliminary steps have been taken to develop on line communications with clubs for the dissemination of important information.

1997/8 saw a number of significant changes on the Board of Athletics Victoria. Following the resignation of President, Kevin Dynan, in October, John Higham was elected in December to take over this major role. Paul Webster, Vice President, resigned his role to contest the presidency and on John's election was unfortunately lost to the Board. Grant McKay was elected as Vice President. Earlier in the year, Pam Ryan retired and Matt Scholes, a former AV Development Manager, was elected as her replacement. Treasurer, Peter Dunn, retired at the end of the Association's financial year and Ian Williams was elected in his place.

In last year's report reference was made to the number of changes in the Association's office. This continued in

1997/8. The Executive Director, Lachlan Tighe, left in October and was closely followed by the Competitions and Media Manager, Graham Glassford. The third major member of staff, Development Manager, Evette Cordy, left early in 1998 to undertake a Master's degree full time. More recently, Data Input Operator, Christine Rouse, left to take up a full time position.

Don Blyth was appointed General Manager in December 1997 and new Competitions Manager, Tom Rickards, joined shortly after. To recognize her efforts as Development Officer and to provide continuity in the development area, Emma Davies was promoted to Development Manager to replace Evette.

At the time of preparing this report, the Association had just received the reports from PriceWaterhouseCoopers on the future administration of athletics in Australia. Copies of the report have been distributed to the Board and other senior members of the Association for consideration and comment. Once the Board has considered its stance on the report's recommendations, the views and decisions of the Association's members will be required.

Steve Moneghetti celebrates his bronze medal winning performance in the marathon at the Athens World Championships.

Photo courtesy Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au



AthleticA

President: Rod Carter
Executive Director: Chilla Porter

The last 12 months have seen major change and development in Western Australia. A new structure has been established under the Western Australian Athletics Commission (Inc.) trading as AthleticA.

AthleticA is responsible for the management of athletics in Western Australian and is the affiliated body to Athletics Australia.

All Clubs in WA have entered into a licensed agreement arrangement with AthleticA.

Finance

Senior Athletics has experienced some financial difficulties in the past, however new measures are successfully working these issues through.

Virtually all sponsorship including new major sponsors in BC The Body Club and Hungry Jack's along with a range of projects and event sponsors are new to athletics. This in itself, in the current environment, is an accomplishment.

Registrations

We have enjoyed a significant increase in registration numbers in the previous year from 1995/96 576 to 1996/97 1046 registered members.

The principle focus for the year was to put plans in place for the development of existing events, introduce new events and projects to broaden the base of participation and develop revenue for AthleticA.

Events/Projects

The Perth Optus Grand Prix went smoothly, it was well attended and certainly, for all present, was an enjoyable and successful day.

A modified programme for the traditional weekend Strive Summer Competition was introduced. The length of the programme, on each day of competition, was shortened, by amalgamating genders and age groups in a number of events. Generally this was well received however further

changes based on feedback, will be incorporated in the coming season.

The standard State Senior and Underage Championships, All Schools and Winter Competitions all went well, with increased numbers in the winter competition.

Out of Stadium

A number of out of stadium projects and events were introduced. They include: Roller-Chair-Run, Overtake Safety Gift and the FDT Athletics Cup where expertise to develop speed is sold to other sporting codes through various packages.

Teacher's Resource Kit

AthleticA has developed a Teacher's Resource Kit designed as a basic technique introduction to athletics in schools.

It has been well received in Western Australia and it is planned to market the product in other states and overseas.

Communications

Communications between AthleticA and Clubs, Club administrators, Officials, Athletes and Coaches has improved markedly. Regular monthly meetings with Clubs, distribution of newsletters and individual contacts, maintain a constant two way flow of information and feedback, at healthy levels.

AthleticA is progressively working with Clubs on development and their levels of activity.

AthleticA has developed strong links with the Northern regions of Western Australian which has a quite strong multi code organisational base including athletics.

Facilities

The need for new facilities in Western Australia remains a key focus for us. Our facility study has been completed and provided to the State Minister for Sport and Recreation.

There are a lot of players in a project of this size and AthleticA will continue to communicate with all key people to drive our need for new facilities in Western Australia.



The Stadia Feasibility Study recommends the new facilities be located on a campus in high density primary and high school areas and high growth regions.

The study further recognises the need for a sport like athletics to locate facilities as near as possible to participants and key target markets, schools.

Next Phase

AthleticA will continue to examine its principle target markets, schools, tertiary institutions and the community.

We are exploring new market opportunities, appropriate products and cost effective marketing techniques to

broaden the base participation and increase revenue streams.

As we grow stronger we will progressively attempt to pull the various sections of the sport closer together for a more cooperative and mutually beneficial end result.

We thank all those who have supported and helped athletics in Western Australia without whom it simply would not be possible to conduct or develop our sport of athletics.

National 400m Champion Declan Stack. Photo courtesy Duane Hart/sportingimages.com.au



Standing Committees and Commission Reports

Track and Field Commission

During the 1997-98 year Athletics Australia revamped the Track and Field Commission and gave it greater responsibilities. The Commission has enthusiastically taken up the challenge to progress track and field competition in Australia. I am indebted to the efforts of Margaret Mahony, Richard Carter, Khan Sharp and staff liaison Brian Roe.

The Commission has modified the events and specifications for national championships and reviewed the eligibility criteria for national championships. It has also dealt with the more mundane roles of the Commission in setting national qualifying standards and competition schedules as well as appointing Technical and Administrative Delegates to national championships. The women's steeplechase becomes a championship event as from the 1998/99 season.

New age groupings were introduced for the All Schools Track & Field Championships and a new rule introduced for the determination of age groupings for all other competitions as from 1st April 1998.

To make competition more meaningful to the club athlete the Commission is working to introduce club competition at the national level, inaugurating a knock-out style club competition immediately following the 1999 Australian Open Championships. Criteria are being developed to coordinate the staging of competitions in Australia prior to the 2000 Olympics.

**PETER HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN
TRACK AND FIELD COMMISSION**

Track & Field Selection Committee

I would 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 enthusiastic and diligent in their approach to team selection.

We thank 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 1997-98 year we saw athletes compete at the World Championships in Athens, the World Student Games in

Sicily and on a Junior Tour to New Zealand. We also selected teams for the 1998 World Junior Championships in Annecy and the 1998 Oceania Championships in Tonga.

The World Championship team performed very well with one gold (Cathy Freeman in the 400 metres), one silver (Joanna Stone in the javelin) and two bronze medals (Tim Forsyth, high jump and Steve Moneghetti, marathon). These medals represented the highest medal count at the Olympic Games or World Championships since 1968.

The World Student Games in Sicily saw the international outdoor debut of the women's hammer and pole vault where Emma George won the pole vault and Debbie Sosimenko was placed third in the hammer throw. These were the highlights from a young team looking for international experience.

While the team for the Oceania Championships was selected at the completion of the domestic season it was unable to compete in the event until into the 1998-99 year as competition was postponed a number of times.

In addition to these higher profile events, Australia was also represented at a number of invitation competitions.

At the conclusion of the domestic track and field season we developed criteria for major events in 1999, the World Championships, World Student Games and the World Indoor Championships.

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 committee remained unchanged during the last 12 months and again I would like to express my thanks to Brian Roe and John Gilbert for their work in both the selection matters and in the preparation of criteria.

Criteria have been set for the 2000 Olympic marathon and road walks, the 1999 World Cross Country Champs, the 1999 World Walking Cup and the 1998 World Half Marathon and Mountain Running Championships.



For the first time there was both a long and short course championship at the World Cross Country Championships. However the current policy of the committee is to select teams for the traditional longer event only until such time that Australia improve their team ranking and depth. Teams were selected in the Open Men's, Open Women's and Junior Boys championships with only one Junior girl being selected.

The IAAF have confirmed that as from 1999 the distance of the women's road walk is increased from 10k to 20k. Teams consisting of 6 men and 7 women were sent to the Japan Chiba Ekiden Relays in November 98. The men finished in 3rd place and the women's team were 7th. In February and April teams of 8 women went to the Beijing and Seoul International Women's Relays and finished in 9th and 6th place respectively.

Athletes have also been selected for a number of other road races including the Beijing Marathon, Singapore ½ marathon and the Hong Kong Mile.

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

International Tours and Competitions Commission

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

During the report period, twelve overseas tours were undertaken by Australian Teams.

In addition to the major tours to the World Championships in Athens, World University Games and World Cross Country Championships, smaller teams embarked on tours to Europe for the World Half Marathon Championships, World 100km Road Challenge and the World Mountain Running Trophy. Three teams travelled to East Asia for the traditional ekiden fixtures in Chiba, Beijing and Seoul.

An Elite Junior Team toured South East Asia with good results in October whilst a team selected from remoter areas of Australia took part in the Oceania Under 18 Championships in Fiji. A near full size junior team toured New Zealand for its Grand Prix Series in January in preparation for the 1998 World Junior Championships in France.

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. The New Zealand Junior Tour was again supplemented by the Juniors on Tour programme within the Optus Grand Prix Series at home.

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 decided to maintain the policy of ensuring that increased numbers of medical personnel could be included within the staff of all major teams, in accordance with the wishes of the athletes. Support programmes were also continued to personal coaches, where possible.

Nudgee College in Brisbane was selected as the Australian Junior Team base prior to Annecy, whilst preparation camps for the 1998 Commonwealth Games were set for both Brisbane and Darwin.

Unfortunately, the ASC reduced funding to the sport of athletics under the OAP scheme continued in the report year and as a result some tours were again curtailed and personal levy contributions rose, although not to the level of some years ago. In response, the Commission and Interim Head Coach Committee placed increased emphasis on camp and competition preparation at home.

Nike continued as a valued uniforming sponsor.

The *Optus Southern Stars* made their debut under their new banner in Athens.

Increased interest continues to be shown by overseas countries and individual athletes in training and competing in Australia in the lead-up period to the 2000 Olympics and the Commission continues to work with the Track and Field Commission to create new international competitions in Australia including a planned throws match against Germany and New Zealand in March 1999.

The Optus Grand Prix Series continues to be a great success and is increasing in stature throughout the World. It is perhaps only in Australia that its current standing as a viable international competition opportunity in its own right is overlooked.

Results at most international competitions were pleasing (see Selection Committee reports and the Handbook of Records and Results), with the four medal haul in Athens being the most significant achievement - Cathy Freeman,



Joanna Stone, Tim Forsyth and Steve Moneghetti all affirming their places as world stars of the sport.

Acknowledgments are made of the work of all Commission Members and of all team officials - managers, coaches and medical staff who contributed to the successful tours of Australian Teams in 1997/98.

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

Officials Sub Commission

1997/98 has again been a busy and eventful year for the Officials Sub-Commission.

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 other than Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane where all appointments are made.

Assessments and appointments

The Officials Sub-Commission has continued throughout the year with its policy of appointing talented younger officials to key positions at its All Schools and Junior Nationals in order to assess their performances in their roles under championship conditions and the Sub-Commission has also made a small number of similar appointments to the Optus Open and Under 20 Track and Field Championships.

This policy has received universal acceptance from the general body of officials and has proved to be a valuable training experience in the development of the next generation of Chief Officials and Referees. It is expected that a number of officials involved in this procedure will win key roles for the 2000 Olympics.

In order to assist the Sub-Commission with its appointments to major events and to ensure that all officials receive a fair assessment, all Referees and Chief Judges are required to prepare confidential reports on their Panels after each National Championships. These assessments are an integral part of the selection process and are also used for counselling and to identify education requirements.

Examinations

Examinations for "C" and "B" Grades are conducted by each Member Association's Officials Education Liaison

Officer (OELO) in accordance with the individual Member's requirements. Examinations for "A" Grade are conducted following application to Athletics Australia and these papers are marked by two independent assessors.

All papers for Track, Jumps and Throws have been rewritten and incorporate the new IAAF rules and are effective from 1st April 1998. The "A" papers have been completely re-assessed and greater emphasis has been placed on "Referee-type" decision making to ensure that our "A" grade officials have the knowledge, ability and understanding of the rules to operate effectively as Referees at the highest level.

New papers for Administration and outside Events are being finalised and will be available as soon as they have been printed.

Education Courses and Seminars

Generally Member Associations are responsible for organising basic and refresher courses for officials either by their own Association OELOs or by the Officials Sub-Commission Chairman. In addition Athletics Australia has assisted with expenses to enable courses concentrating on athletes with a disability to be conducted in a number of states including ACT, Victoria and South Australia.

The Officials Sub-Commission is also available to conduct basic courses for school teachers and in the past 12 months such courses have been conducted in Sydney, Dubbo, Cobar, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

In some areas their courses have resulted in the recruitment of new officials to our Member Associations but it is equally invaluable that they ensure that the standards of officiating in our schools are greatly improved.

In April 1998 the Oceania Amateur Athletic Association conducted the first ever Area Technical Officials (ATO) course for the IAAF. The course was a one week residential one organised by the Oceania AAA Regional Development Centre. The lecturers were Mr. Brian Roe (Australia) and Mr. P. Solomon (Malaysia).

A total of 19 officials were selected to attend the course which had strict criteria, 8 Australians, 8 New Zealanders, one each from Fiji and the Cook Islands and the Director of the RDC. The final exam was a 3 hour written paper followed by an oral test and was in fact close to the higher level ITO exam.

Five Australians (Reg Brandis, Peter Hamilton, Chris Wilson, Peter Donovan and Laurie Keaton), the Director of the RDC, Fletcher McEwen, and four New Zealanders were successful in this course and have been appointed as ATOs.



In conjunction with the Optus Australian Open and Under 20 Track and Field Championships an advanced course for Referees and Chief Officials was held over 1½ days in Melbourne which successfully addressed issues confronting higher level officials and considered the first steps towards an "Australian Way" of officiating.

Future Activities

SOCOG have generously provided Athletics Australia with some funding to assist with officials education in the lead-up to the 2000 Olympics and this will enable a series of advanced courses to be conducted in addition to the Sub-Commission's on-going activities of basic and schools courses.

A further Referees and Chiefs courses will also be conducted in conjunction with the National Championships.

The 1998/99 year will also see the introduction of two new and much needed courses for Competition Management and for Technical Management. The Sub-Commission hopes to be in a position to have representation from all Member Associations and major Schools bodies involved in these courses.

The Sub-Commission has, in the period since the period covered by this report, selected some 40 Referees and Chief Officials for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and will in coming months be doing final assessment on the remainder of the National Technical Officials (140 to 160 depending on the SOCOG budget) for the Games.

We anticipate that all successful nominees will be advised in May 1999 after which further training will be organised.

Finally I wish to express my sincere thanks for the efforts of all OELO's in all areas, my fellow Sub-Commission members Chris Wilson, Lorraine Morgan, Janelle Eldridge and Staff Liaison Officer Brian Roe, together with Bill Bailey and Sam Culbert of SOCOG, Tina Folmer of Athletics Australia 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 1997 to June 1998. During this period the Commission membership included Dave Cundy, Denis Wilson, Trevor Vincent, Chris Wardlaw, Susan Hobson, Dusty Lewis, Dick Telford and Pam Turney.

Meetings

The Commission held one formal meeting, coinciding with the Zatopek in December. In addition, the DRC participated in the Distance Forum in Melbourne on 15 November 1997.

Events

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

- Australian Marathon Championships, Gold Coast, July 1997
- Australian All Schools Cross Country Championships, Oakbank, September 1997
- Australian Cross Country Championships, Oakbank, September 1997
- Australian 100k Ultra Marathon Championships, Traralgon, April 1998
- Australian Mountain Running Championships, Hobart, May 1998
- Australian Half Marathon Championships, Lake Macquarie, June 1998.

Assistance from the Commission included date and venue selection, course design and measurement, and the appointment of technical delegates.

Major activities

Distance Forum:

A Distance Forum was called by the AA Board in November. Commission members participated in the preparation of discussion papers and forum discussions. The recommendations of the Forum were:

That AA sponsor a further workshop comprising 8-10 people (including Martin Soust, Brian Roe, Dave Cundy, Denis Wilson, Brian Gleeson, Chris Wardlaw, Jason Hellwig) to take forward the issues raised in this forum and in the written submissions and develop a coordinated set of recommendations/actions.

That these recommendations be considered by the AA Board at its next meeting.

That AA sponsor a further workshop to provide detailed recommendations for the AA Board that would include:

- development of the concept and objectives of a Distance Division within the corporate and business plan of AA
- definition of the relationships of a Distance Division with the Board and AA office
- maximisation of authority, responsibility and accountability for the Distance Division within the business plan agreed by AA
- identification of the key elements of the Distance Division business plan
- specification of the scope of those identified elements of responsibility
- targeting available resources to be used by the Distance Division, specifically for a professional



service (appointed or contracted) and prepare an initial one year budget

- identification of specific sponsorships and revenue sources to address the objectives of the business plan of the Distance Division
- a communications strategy so that all the key stakeholders understand the nature of the business plan of the Distance Division
- scoping the key unresolved issues that the Distance Division will develop with a view to putting further recommendations to the Board at a later date
- a timeline for implementation
- scoping and planning a targeted 'Olympic 60 days of Opportunity' for further consideration by a Distance Division to put to the Board at a later date.

Workshop:

A further workshop was held on 19 December at which it was agreed that a Distance Division be established by AA.

Board consideration:

At its meeting on 7 February the Board considered a proposal for a Distance Division and resolved that the creation of a position of Development Officer (Road Running, Walking & Cross Country), part time, be approved with the position to report to the Senior Member Services Officer.

Appointment of Out-of-Stadium Events Development Officer:

Dave Cundy was appointed in May 1998 to a part-time position with Athletics Australia to focus attention on out-of-stadium events and issues. The priorities of this position over the 12 month period from May 1998 are:

- management of AA's permit system (as it relates to out-of-stadium events) to ensure quality of events and maximisation of revenue.
- development and implementation of membership programs for out-of-stadium events in line with the national membership program.
- establish strategic partnerships with key bodies and personnel to promote the governing role and benefits of association with AA.

**DAVE CUNDY, CHAIRMAN
DISTANCE RUNNING COMMISSION**

Coaching Commission

This report covers the period from July 1997 to June 1998. During this period the Coaching Commission members were: Marlene Mathews (until March), Joan Cross, Kirsteen Farrance (from March), Peter Bowman, David Cramer, Mike Edwards (until March), Harry Summers and Tony Rice. Marlene Mathews chaired the Commission until her resignation in March, when Peter

Bowman was elected to replace her. 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 monitors and develops 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.

The period has been another one of great activity and significant progress in a number of areas and particular upheavals and drama in others. It is pleasing and rewarding to record the continuation of an upward trend in coach registrations to 2606 from 2457 in the previous reporting period. A full breakdown of these figures by state and accreditation level appears in the consolidated registration figures contained elsewhere in this report.

Coach Accreditation Programmes:

Inevitably it is the role of athletics clubs and little athletics centres to recruit potential coaches and encourage them to be accredited. New coaches enter our sport from a variety of sources, including: former athletes, physical education/human movement graduates; and interested parents or friends of young athletes (the largest group).

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

A total of 37 Orientation to Coaching and 28 Level I Courses were conducted throughout all States and Territories during the period; it is pleasing to see how many of these are being held outside the capital cities.

Only one National Level II Coaching Course was held, in Adelaide in April, after a course planned for Perth in September did not go ahead due to an insufficient number of applications being received. Consequently only 18 new Level II Coaches were accredited during the year.

Congratulations to the following six coaches who have been awarded a pass at Level III - Senior Coach, after successfully completing all aspects of the rigorous programme of development and assessment: Mark Donahoo (Race Walking); Bob Fowler (Middle Distance Running); Penny Gillies (Hurdles); Steve Rippon (Pole Vault); Kathy Lee (Hurdles) and Eric Brown (Multi Events). Alex Parnov, formerly of the Soviet Union has been awarded reciprocal accreditation at Level III in respect of his qualification gained overseas.

During the year progress has been made, albeit slow progress, towards reviewing and refining the NCAS. The



Level I document was submitted to the Australian Coaching Council for consideration of their external reviewers, and the outcome is awaited. The Level II document was almost finalised by the end of the period, and it is anticipated that the Level III document will be completed before the end of 1998.

The administrative processes for coaches to update their accreditation were reviewed and subsequently changed during the year to simplify the process, especially for Level I coaches.

National Coaching Congress:

The third National Coaching Congress took place from 2nd - 5th October at the University of Melbourne with two themes, "High Performance Coaching" and "Coaching Athletics in Schools". The Congress was well attended, with 144 coaches taking part in plenary sessions, options, workshops and practical demonstrations, as well as a number of social activities.

We were pleased to welcome Professor Dr. Gunter Tidow back to Australia as the keynote speaker from overseas. Gunter Tidow is regarded world wide as a specialist on strength training, biomechanics and technical analysis of athletics events. He was National Junior Decathlon Coach in Germany for nearly twenty years. Gunter Tidow is currently Head of the Faculty of Human Movement and Sport at the Humbolt University in Berlin. His sessions were thought provoking, being well supported by a wealth of practical sports science knowledge.

Other interesting and informative sessions were conducted by Australia coaches in areas as diverse as Alan Launder's series on Coaching in Schools and Peter Le Rossignol's Practical Application of Sports Science of Distance Running.

The "Call for Papers" from coaches, academics and sports scientists from around the Nation established in 1996 was repeated and brought an unprecedented response, with more than twenty papers put forward. Unfortunately not all could be accommodated on this occasion. It proved very popular, and resulted in some very good work being brought to the attention of coaches.

Papers presented have been made available for coaches unable to travel to Melbourne.

Other Projects:

Other activities and projects included:

- Revision and reprinting of the Orientation to Coaching Handbook.
- Publication of "Developing Leg Power" by Merv Kemp.

- Presentation of the Henri Schubert Memorial award to Frank Day; sadly Frank passed away later in the year.
- Production of a National Performance Plan covering the total picture of athlete development within the sport of athletics.
- Drawing up protocols in conjunction with ASC and ACC for dealing with cases of improper behaviour of coaches and linking procedures for application and renewal of membership to written acceptance of the articles, rules and code of ethics of AT&FCA.
- Made recommendation to Athletics Australia for a number of coaches to be honoured with Athletics Australia Centenary Diplomas.

Thanks:

The Commission thanks the many non-members throughout all states and territories who have made significant contributions during the period.

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

It has been another challenging but progressive year for Athletics Australia and our development as an organisation and sport providing quality opportunities for people with disabilities.

It has been interesting to note the cultural change that is happening as the notion of specific programs for integration become less distinguishable amongst our normal activities. This has been very encouraging. Within the Athletics Australia office, and those of our state Member Associations, people are thinking less about "integration" as an issue and doing more as part of their normal business to actually make it happen. I am certain this trend will continue into all areas of the sport.

The Disability Commission has continued to play a very useful and important role in setting the policy and direction of our integration program.

The highlight for the year was the National Track and Field Championships for Athletes with a Disability in Canberra. Entries were the highest ever, and Athletics Australia committed significantly more resources so that the event was conducted as a true Championship. With a



full crew of officials, some of whom came from as far away as Darwin, the event provided an excellent opportunity for the athletes to perform to their best.

The production of a video of coaching techniques was another step forward this year. The video has been very well received and is now being shown at every level 1 coaching course.

It has been pleasing to note the development of the Athletes Committee this year. We now have a strong and constructive forum in which athletes can have a direct and say on how we should develop.

Finally, it is appropriate to acknowledge the support the commission has received from the Australian Paralympic Committee and the various National Sporting Organisations for the Disabled, their support and guidance is essential to our efforts.

**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 two occasions during the year at no cost to Athletics Australia.

The proposed dates and venues for Australian Championships and Trials up to and including 2000 have been submitted for endorsement by the 1998 Annual General Meeting.

The reports from Technical Delegates appointed to Australian Walking Championships and Trials have been reviewed and recommendations made for consideration of the Competition Manager and if necessary the Board.

Australian International Walking Judges attended an IAAF Walk Judge Education Course in Bangkok and I am pleased to note that as a result they have all been confirmed in the smaller IAAF Walking Judge Panel.

The Commission adopted the "IAAF The Judging of Race Walking A Practical Guide" booklet as the guide for walk judging in Australia. Our local dispensations, Judge Panel Selection Rules and other Local Rules have been included as inserts in any copies of the IAAF Booklet obtained from Athletics Australia.

The Commission's views on selection criteria for walkers have been conveyed to the Selection Committees as required.

The Commission is continuing its campaign to have the IAAF Walking Committee remove its maximum 50 years of age bar on new appointments to the IAAF Walking Judge Panel. Also the Commission believes that the refreshment rule for walking should be the same as for road running.

**DENIS WILSON, CHAIRMAN
WALKING COMMISSION**

Doping Control Commission

The 1997/98 report period was generally a quiet one for the Commission. Fortunately there were no positive tests involving Australian athletes and attention was therefore focused on education and policy development.

A decision was handed down by the Athletics Australia Doping Tribunal in respect of a difficult testosterone case involving a club level female athlete, in the athlete's favour. The Tribunal found that there were significant factors particular to the case which did not warrant a positive finding.

The IAAF accepted proposals at its August 1997 Congress to reduce penalties for major offences to two years, with appropriate similar reductions for the lesser drug. Athletics Australia fell into line, reluctantly, at its November AGM.

Athletics Australia through Doping Control Commission Chair, Brian Roe, played a significant role in the Australian Sports Commission's review of its Doping Policy. The much publicised "dispute" between the ASC and AOC over their respective doping policies and their expectation of their national federations, created some interesting challenges for Athletics Australia. Both umbrella bodies eventually accepted Athletics Australia's stance that Athletics Australia's adoption in full of the IAAF Doping Rules and Procedural Guidelines was to take precedence.

Moves to have marijuana classified as a banned substance in all sports continues to be opposed by Athletics Australia and the IAAF.

The Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) continued to be recognised by both Athletics Australia and the IAAF as their official doping control testing authority in Australia. Controls were made both in and out of competition, within both the Australian and the IAAF's world wide testing programme. In total 279 controls were undertaken in Australia during the report year, 112 in competition and 167 within the out of competition programme.



Increased interest by both the IAAF and Australian authorities in testing for the traditional asthma medication placed strains on Athletics Australia's procedures for the operation of the Permitted Usage Register.

Athletics Australia is now working with ASDA to develop a workable and practical policy to cover all athletes at elite, developing and club levels, who legitimately need to use these medications.

As usual recognition is made of those who made significant contributions to the Commission's work during the report year, especially Tribunal Chair, Margot Foster, Commission Member (in Peter Brukner's absence) Chris Bradshaw and the staff of ASDA, especially our very committed and helpful liaison officer, Suzanne Henderson.

**BRIAN ROE, CHARIMAN
DOPING CONTROL COMMISSION**

Statisticians Report

The World Championships in Athens, Greece highlighted a very busy season for Australians both domestically and overseas.

Unfortunately the Athletics Australia Handbook of Records and Results came out very late and hopefully this will not occur again.

Even with electronic mail and internet some results are not getting through. The Northern Territory and some venues in Victoria still do not submit some or all of their results. Fortunately more and more people are seeing the rankings and results and I have been fortunate to have missing results and amendments sent in. I continue to encourage people to point out errors and omissions. The more accurate the rankings the better for all.

Two points I wish to raise in this report. They are the History of Athletics Australia and the Hall of Fame. I completed work on the History of Athletics Australia nearly 2 years ago and it sits with the publisher waiting to be printed. I would like to see Athletics Australia give the final go ahead for this work. The same situation has occurred for the Hall of Fame. I convened a committee which established criteria (accepted by AA) and chose the athletes. There has been no further action by Athletics Australia for over 18 months. Again this would be very nice to be finalised and those great athletes in Australia be recognised in a Hall of Fame. Other sports are doing this as well. AA must act and not let this project gather dust on the shelf with the history.

On a final note I wish to thank David Tarbotton for his great assistance, Peter Hamilton for guiding me through the intricacies of the electronic mail and Brian Roe and the staff of Athletics Australia for ensuring results come my way.

**PAUL JENES
AA STATISTICIAN**

Facilities and Equipment Sub Commission

During the year the sub-commission consisting of Phillip O'Hara, Greg Gilbert, John Hamman and Denis Wilson made recommendations on specifications for under age implements not covered by IAAF specifications.

A paper on track certification prepared by Denis Wilson and endorsed by the sub-commission was submitted to the Board of Athletics Australia.

A paper on the management of athletic equipment at the Sydney International Athletic Centre was submitted to the management of the facility.

The first round of equipment purchases for Member Associations and for the central pool of equipment was completed.

During the reporting period a large number of new all-weather facilities were either completed or begun. The new track and Stadium in Adelaide, the resurfacing of Launceston and four tracks in suburban Melbourne; Nudgee; University of Queensland and Griffith University in South East Queensland. There are plans for new developments in Sydney, Newcastle, Perth and the Sunshine Coast.

**PHILLIP O'HARA, CHAIRMAN
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT SUB
COMMISSION**

Records Committee

In this past season there was a big increase in the women's records. The pole vault still has a big influence on these figures with more younger girls taking to this event.

The Melbourne and Sydney Grand Prix were another source of excellent performances resulting in more broken records. The international athletes who competed were of such high quality, it was expected some of our records be bettered.



With the change of rule re the age as at 31st December, which has already effected a couple of our potential record beakers, it will probably be harder to now become Australian Record Holders.

It was decided to amend all the Under 20 records, retrospectively, to the best performance under the new Age Rule, but to retain the U18 and U16's as they stand.

	Men	Women
Australian National	4	14
Australian All Comers	7	9

Under 20	4	8
Under 18	5	8
Under 16	1	1
Commonwealth	-	4
World	-	4
Indoor	-	3
	21	51

RONDA JENKINS
RECORDS OFFICER

Obituaries

FRANCIS JAMES DAY OAM

Passed away on 5th April 1998, aged 81 years.

Frank commenced his athletics career in 1938 and started coaching Triple and Long Jumping in 1939 whilst still competing. He was State Title and Record Holder in the Triple Jump from 1940 to 1950 and Australian Champion in 1949.

As a member of the Mt. Hawthorn A.A. Club 1941-51 and as well as competing in Jumps, he also threw the Discus, Javelin, Shot Putt and Hammer, gaining 3rd place in the State Discus Championship in the years 1946, 47 and 48. In 1951 retired from active competition and concentrated on coaching wherever members of clubs in Jumping required assistance. From these athletes have come State and Australian Champions, M. Cunningham, D. Ryan, L. Hickey, Kevin Salt, Bill O'Grady and, in conjunction with coach Ron Hoey, developed Brian Oliver to State, Australian and Commonwealth Games Titles. Coached Ian Tomlinson to State, Australian and Commonwealth Games Titles and Records having competed in Cardiff, Rome, Perth, Tokyo and on the Continent representing Australia. Coach of Phil May, State, Australian and Commonwealth Title holder and Olympic representative. Coached Eva Vlahov (nee Kampe) to 4th place 1962 Commonwealth Games Perth and Christine Staton High Jump Gold medallist Commonwealth Games 1970.

With numerous years coaching, Frank was also a dedicated Official for the Western Australian Amateur Athletic Association serving positions as Conference Delegate, Executive Member, State Selector, Rules Committee and Delegate from the Scarborough A.A.C. (foundation member). He was awarded Life Membership in 1969 of the W.A.A.A.A. for his contribution.

Member of Coaching Coordination Committee and the development of Coaching throughout Australia.

In 1991 Frank Day became a recipient of the Merit Award given by Athletics Australia in recognition of his contribution to the sport of athletics.

EDNA GODFREY

When Athletics NSW life member Edna Godfrey or "Mrs G" passed away on Sunday 23rd November 1997, athletics lost a great sporting pioneer. Edna founded the Ryde Women's Amateur Athletics Club in 1948, after holding a public meeting for "expressions of interest in an athletic club for women". Following the successful establishment of the club, Edna served as an active member until her retirement in 1977.

Edna was born on the 3rd December 1913 in Eastwood and it was in North Ryde she spent her young life. She was an active member of the Girl Guides Association and later, with the birth of her three daughters, Yvonne, Beryl and Joan, became involved in Brownies, Physical Culture, Athletics and other school committees. Edna retired in 1977 and took up lawn balls and attained league champion status on numerous occasions.

After leaving school Edna became a qualified seamstress and used her talent on many occasions including making the uniforms for Ryde Women's Amateur Athletics Club from 1948 to 1963. Edna married Eric Godfrey

in 1935 after Eric at age 14 years had fallen in love with Edna after being crowned "Wattle Queen" at the annual Arbour Day celebration.

Edna was also a fine athlete competing in a NSW State Schools team against Queensland, then later as a member of Eastern Suburbs Women's Amateur Athletic Club. After establishing the Ryde Women AAC in 1948, Edna became an accredited NSW Coaches Association club coach in 1958. She coached many club girls and teams to success. Edna was also the official race starter for the NSW Women's Amateur Athletics Association for 28 years, as well as holding other official certificates for other events. Over the years, Edna managed a number of women's representative teams, touring outback NSW and Interstate. She was also indirectly associated with the Melbourne Olympics and the Perth Commonwealth Games.

For these services to Women's Athletics she was awarded a Merit Award, a 25 year service award and Life Membership of the Women's Association. She was also awarded life membership by the Ryde Athletics Club as well as the newly formed NSW Amateur Athletics Association and she was a member of the ex Athletics Association.

Edna was always a lady to the end, polite, apologetic and never wanting to offend. She appreciated orderliness and in every way endeavoured to practice this trait. She loved gardening, the bush and all its creatures. Edna leaves behind, her devoted and ever caring husband and her three daughters, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. All her relatives, friends and associates made over an active lifetime will miss her sadly and always remember her with the greatest of respect.

TED F. HANTKE

Long serving athletic Official Ted Hantke died in South Perth, Western Australia on the 13th July 1997, aged 92.

His athletic career commenced as a student while attending Hale School where he excelled as a sprinter. As time progressed he became a member of Hale School where he excelled as a sprinter. As time progressed he became a member of Hale School Old Boys Athletic Club, later named Old Halians.

He soon became involved in the administration of Athletics for the Western Australian Amateur Athletic Association where he became Chairman of the Sports Committee 1930, 31 and 32. A member of the Executive Committee 1934 - 1949, Honorary Race and Records Secretary 1933 through to 1953; State Selector 1938; British Empire and Commonwealth Games Official 1938 and Conference Delegate 1938. Delegate of W.A.A.A.A. to the W.A. National Fitness Council; Vigilance Committee 1940, 41; Records Committee 1940-42; Management 1940; Amateur Sporting Federation President 1940-42; Chairman of Council 1940-41; Chief Track Judge 1956 Olympic Games and Chief Track Judge 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

He was made a Life Member of the Western Australian Amateur Athletic Association in 1949 and then in 1968 Merit Award Recipient of the A.A.U. of A.

Ted had another interest in golf, being a Life Member of the Royal Perth Golf Club in 1965 and Life Member 1950 Western Australian Golf Association.

CLARICE KENNEDY

1908-1998. First and foremost she was a sportswoman - one of Australia's finest athletes - but there was more to her than supreme sporting prowess. Dr. Clarice Kennedy, who died of cancer in Sydney at 89, lived a life of astonishingly varied achievement.

She was a nurse, a poet and a physiotherapist, a teacher, a pianist and a ballet-mistress, an actress, a typist and a scholar. Most memorable, however were her exploits in track and field where she excelled as a sprinter and hurdler.

In the '20s and '30s the fair-haired and medium built Kennedy managed to hold every Australian track record from the 60 yard dash to the 800 metres, as well as the shot put and the javelin and 60, 80 and 90 yard hurdles.

In 1930 she broke the world record for the 80 metres hurdles and in 1938 she was chosen to represent her country in what was then called the British Empire Games, where she came fourth in the 80 metres hurdles.

Kennedy was a wonderfully versatile athlete. In swimming, she won 50 and 100 yard titles in backstroke and freestyle. She was also an A-grader in hockey, basketball, vigoro and tennis.

During her 20 year athletic career she won enough trophies to furnish a living room. Little is known about Kennedy as a person; even close associates and relatives do not know where she was born. They said she was an extremely "private individual" and "that she kept to herself".

Clarice Mary Araluen Kennedy - she never married - went first to Darlinghurst Superior Public School and then to Fort Street Girl's High, where she would be rated among the 10 outstanding pupils of all time.

As a girl, she shone in literary activities, writing plays and verses, her play about King Charles I came second in a NSW contest. She was one of the first child actors on 2BL - Cousin Clarice in a children's program.

But the young Kennedy, who grew up in Double Bay with her parents and two brothers, was always destined to run, and run fast. In 1951, she told a magazine: "I had to run fast when I was a kid or the boys would've murdered me." She could hardly blame them for that; tomboy Kennedy took delight in dashing off with their caps.

Her sporting achievements started in High school; for six successive years she was the school's athletics champion. While justly proud of Clarice's performances, her headmistress, Miss Emily Cruise, was moved at least once to admonish her: "If you paid as much attention to your lessons as you did to your sport, you would be a brilliant student!"

She simply ignored a social life, devoting her time to study or to training to break more records. This ascetic lifestyle was carried into adulthood when she became a teacher at Shirley Ladies' College, teaching English, French, Latin, geography and history.

The serious-minded Kennedy rarely went out. Evenings were spent conducting physical culture classes or with her parents, although she indulged a love of music, playing piano and organ.

Determination was the keynote of her character, her life a tribute to the triumph of perseverance over luck and talent. An example of this was her determination to go to University.

Kennedy took her time to undertake higher education. Indeed, she was 59, the oldest student at the then newly opened Macquarie University, when she enrolled in arts. Three years later, she started the longest race of her life

- 12 years of a part-time study to complete a Master of Science degree with honours. She followed that with a PhD (her thesis dealt with microscopic pseudoscorpions).

Why the late start on study? “I’ve never had time to study because I’ve been too busy during my life just earning a living. It’s always been a dream of mine and now I’ve got the time to make it come true.”

Not content with these academic achievements, Kennedy also successfully completed diploma courses in Biblical studies and theology, with a major in counselling, at Moore Theological College.

She had completed the first year of her Bachelor of Divinity when she died.

She was, quite simply, a pillar of strength and courage and nothing captures that better than her remarkable win in a hurdles title carrying a fractured knee-cap. It was 1930, Kennedy was leading the race and was leaping the fifth hurdle when a sudden contraction of muscles in her thigh broke the patella; spectators heard the awful snap. Kennedy kept going and won the race - in a new Australian record.

In the same year, she saved a life at Bondi Beach. A boy was trapped in an outlet while swimming in the baths as they were being emptied for cleaning. Kennedy, who a year earlier had become the first successful candidate for the Australian Bronze Cross, saw the boy kicking desperately under water.

She dived in and tried to pull him but his head and shoulders were stuck. After several minutes she made a noose in a rope, which was knotted around the boy’s legs, and dragged him free. He was taken to hospital and lived to thank his rescuer.

Sydney Morning Herald, 5th February 1998

LILLIAN NEVILLE OAM

Born in Melbourne in 1905, Lillian Mary Neville was involved in athletics for most of her life. She was a member of the Victorian Women’s Amateur Athletic Association from its first season of competition in 1929 and was secretary of her club for 38 years, the entire period of its existence. She fulfilled many roles throughout her life long association with the sport. At state level she was a team manager and a Victorian selector for 40 years. Over a 30 year period at the National level she was at various times, a member of the Executive of the Australian Women’s Amateur Athletic Union, Records Committee, Statistics Officer and Australian Selector.

She officiated at the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956, one of only three women to do so, the Perth Commonwealth Games in 1962 and the Christchurch Commonwealth Games in 1974.

In 1950 she was the Manager of the women’s athletic section to the Auckland Commonwealth Games.

After the amalgamation of the mens and womens unions and the establishment of the AAU/AA office, Lil became a regular volunteer staff member and in particular played a significant role in the archiving of the sport’s historical records and cataloguing of library materials.

She was a delegate to the Victorian Olympic Council for 25 years and was awarded Life Membership of Athletics Australia, Australian Women’s Amateur Athletic Union, Victorian Railways Institute, Victorian Railways Institution Women’s’ Amateur Athletic Club, Victorian Women’s Amateur Athletic Association and the Victorian Amateur Sports Council, also serving as Vice-President of the latter body.

In June 1989 she was awarded the Order of Australia for her services to sport, particularly athletics.

Honorary Life Members & Merit Award Recipients

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Elected by A.A.U. of A.

- * Mr Hugh R Weir CBE (1957)
- * Mr C Ronald Aitken CBE (1965)
- * Mr Arthur J Hodsdon MBE(1965)
- * Mr Norman G Hutton (1968)
- * Mr Leonard B Curnow OBE(1968)
- * Mr Robert E Graham OBE(1968)
- * Mr F Theo Treacy OBE (1969)
- * Mr George Soper (1969)
- * Mr 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)
- Mr H George Carruthers MBE (1977)
- Mrs Joyce Bonwick OAM (1978)

Elected by Amalgamated Union

- * Mr Thomas C Blue AM BEM (1980)
- Mr Clive D Lee AM (1984)
- Mrs Flo Wrighter OAM BEM (1986)
- Mr Noel J Ruddock AM (1989)
- Mr Graeme T Briggs AM JP (1990)
- Mrs Brenda Pearl OAM (1992)
- Mrs Stella McMinn AM JP (1992)
- Mr Fred W Napier OAM (1992)
- Justice Allan W McDonald QC (1993)
- Mr George Tempest (1994)
- Mr John D. Bailey AM (1995)
- Mr Paul Jenes (1995)
- Mrs Margaret Mahony OAM (1997)
- Mr Denis Wilson AM (1997)

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	Mrs E	Murphy OAM	Q	1990
E	Bartholomeusz	Q	1986	PI	Hamilton	N	1996	Mrs R	Owens	N	1996
DF	Bell OAM	V	1985	Mrs M	Heffernan OAM	S	1980	* RW	Pannell	V	1992
GT	Briggs AM JP	T	1981	Dr B	Hodgson	V	1994	Miss MJ	Patterson	V	1986
LR	Boyd	V	1995	RK	Hood AM	T	1989	Mrs J	Petfield	Q	1987
DP	Cross	Q	1994	LA	Hutton	N	1993	HL	Ralph OAM	N	1979
Mrs JM	Cross OAM	Q	1985	Mrs J	Huxley	N	1996	BS	Roe	T	1996
DB	Cundy	A	1997	J	Jarver	S	1994	* HJ	Schubert MBE	V	1987
Dr JA	Daly OAM	S	1993	P	Jenes	V	1992	GW	Tempest	W	1990
*F	Day OAM	W	1991	DW	Jowett	Q	1993	Mrs P	Turney	V	1994
*Mrs WMEy	BEM	S	1993	PW	Lucas	N	1989	DP	Wilson	A	1994
DG	Ferrier	V	1984	Mrs ML	Mahony OAM	V	1994	* CA	Wise	T	1979
*JD	Forrest	Q	1984	* ES	Martin	Q	1991				
I	Galbraith	A	1994	Ms M	Mathews AM	N	1988				

* Deceased.

In addition to the 1997/98 Athletics Australia Annual Report, the 47th 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.