

A flood of medals in Brisbane – Sarah Ladwig’s report on the AMA Championships

Forty five intrepid members of MAWA attended the National Masters Athletics Championships in Brisbane. As we arrived to register on Wednesday and Thursday, some of us were in awe at the sight of the huge QSAC Athletics Stadium built in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games and wondered how many spectators were likely! The smaller stadium across the road was less daunting and used for the warm ups. I am sure many of you will be looking at the results on the MAWA website so I shall not give a lot of detail here but enough to say, we did achieve several gold, silver and bronze medals in many events and broke a few records at the same time.

The enthusiasm and support amongst the members was fantastic and I am sure contributed to some great performances. It was a first Nationals for several members, including Regina Crouch, Julie and Greg Wilson, Brenda Painter, Kim Thomas and several others. They all threw themselves into events with great gusto, some entering fifteen events over the four days.

We had good representation in the sprints, middle and long distance runs on the track, hurdles, steeplechases (where almost half entered were from MAWA), pentathlons, throws, the 8km cross country, walking events and relays. Our club uniforms were easy to pick out and MAWA voices shouting encouragement were well heard by their team mates. One delightful lady, in particular, did a great job. Bob and Lynne Schickert were busy selling the AMA history *Age is no Barrier* with some assistance from other members including Margaret Saunders. Margaret unfortunately had an injury early in the 800m run, which she looked very likely to win in its early stages.

There were a few delays, starter guns going off spontaneously, protests over the relay events and the usual tensions of a big event but the Queensland Masters were welcoming and informative and put in a lot of hard work to make the event so successful.

Finally, on the Sunday evening we met at the Mt Gravatt Bowls Club for a well-earned dinner. Trophy presentations and speeches followed. Two MAWA members to receive trophies were Lyn Ventris and Lynne Choate. They were both up against strong competition, so congratulations to both. Some of us then played barefoot bowls to end the evening and showed how absolutely no practice and experience can create chaos very quickly! Thank goodness we were better prepared for the athletics.

Sarah Ladwig