

President's report 2018/19

This has been the year when our long term goal of being to hold our Championships at ECAC with our own resources was finally achieved.

During the track and field season we had regularly used our new photofinish equipment, and thanks to the help of Vicki Oliver we integrated the photofinish equipment with Meet Manager for our 2019 Championships, and it all worked flawlessly. We again utilised our electronic lap scoring, making such a difference to the distance races.

The only equipment we had to borrow was high jump, but this year we are working on getting our own equipment for that in time for the 2019/20 track season.

Attendance at our weekly track and field meetings was similar to previous years, with the number of contestants at our signature Patron's Trophy competition a little higher than the previous year. With no WMA Championships in 2019, we did not continue the WAAS meetings into winter.

It was a busy year for Championships. The World Championships in Malaga attracted 9000 entrants, while the indoor Worlds in Torun were superbly organized. The AMA Nationals in Melbourne broke all records, with an entry level only just short of 1000.

In Malaga we had 33 MAWA athletes, who brought home 12 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. Our World Record quartet of David/Lyn/Byrony/Gillian accounted for 10 of the Golds and great to see Morland Smith at the top of the podium. Our athletes broke 33 State Records. At the General Assembly Lynne Schickert was appointed WMA Executive Vice President.

Eight MAWA athletes made the long trip to Torun, with Melissa Foster taking Gold in the Long Jump, and Sharon Davis winning minor medals.

Finally to the Nationals in Melbourne, a large MAWA contingent won 71 Gold, 50 Silver and 39 Bronze. Lynne Schickert was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and our athletes pulled well above their weight in the AMA Awards, with Gillian Young, Lyn Ventris, David Carr and Barbara Blurton all being recognised for their achievements. Hard to pick out highlights, but was great to see Clare Wardle in such sparkling form to take out the 10,000m, while Barbara's tussles with Carol Davis over 200m and 400m were memorable.

The popularity of our Sunday runs has continued to increase, particularly on the visitor front where we passed 50 on a number of occasions. Giovanni has continued to introduce some challenging new runs, notable returning to Bold Park after many years.

We say farewell to 1 committee member this year. Giovanni will be moving to the UK for an extended stay – he has done an outstanding job of developing relationships with local councils where we hold runs and in strengthening our pool of Race Directors. There is just one change to our club officers – Ernie Leseberg take over from Hamish McLeod as webmaster

Richard Blurton – President