

Presidents report 2015/16

2016 will be a momentous year for our club when the Masters World Championships comes to Perth this October/November. Lynne Schickert, Bob Schickert, Geoff Brayshaw and Delia Baldock are working with me on the Local Organising Committee, and our plans are well on schedule. Holding the event here will leave a great legacy for the club through improved facilities, equipment, development funds and strong membership numbers. Our most immediate benefits are from the track resurface and new hammer cage at ECAC.

Our membership level passed 600 in May and continues to soar to record heights, while visitor numbers at Sunday runs remain very strong. Peggy Macliver continues to do great work as registrar.

I have enjoyed the support of an outstanding committee in my first term as President. Joan Pellier will step down after 2 years during which she has worked relentlessly to improve communications between members and the committee. Geoff Brayshaw will also step down as Treasurer. Geoff has done a great job for us over the past 4 years, overseeing important changes to our financial and membership years, revisions to our constitution, and actively helping AMA through their financial crisis in 2015. The remaining 6 committee members will stand again.

Numbers at Sunday runs have increased and we now regularly see nearer 200 than 100. The new watch and camera are helping our team compile results, which are normally posted the same day. New runs will be introduced in 2017, along with a new Road Running Championship for those who just do the shorter runs. Vic and Jacqi Beaumont stepped down from doing morning teas, replaced by a member roster. We have persuaded a coffee van to attend at appropriate Sundays.

Our track and field athletes continue to be successful on the World and National stage, winning an outstanding 16 gold medals at the WMAC in Lyon, and no less than 56 golds at the Nationals in Adelaide. We returned to ECAC for our State Championships for the first time since 2009 and enjoyed the more intimate atmosphere, and of course Elaine's offerings in the canteen. I would like to thank Barbara once again for a superbly organized event, for processing and posting T & F results every week, and for her hard work as Statistician where she has improved our processes for claiming records and converted our records to the more readable html format on the website. Congratulations to Melissa Foster and Scott Tamblin for winning AMA Awards. Finally on T & F a special thanks to John Oldfield for setting up and maintaining our database. John will relinquish the role next year.

In May this year we launched a coaching initiative, utilising the skills of 7 members with extensive coaching experience, particularly with masters-age athletes. This has been very well received, each coach getting typically 5 – 10 athletes at their weekly sessions.

We introduced our new uniform, with a modern design much liked by members. At the same time we launched the MAWA online shop where uniforms, other clothing, and tickets for social events can be purchased.

Elaine Dance now manages our social programme which is reported through a new tab on the website. The Presentation Breakfast at the Marathon Club was a great success, with much higher numbers attending than the previously held Presentation Lunches. Also the Melbourne Cup lunch was popular and will be repeated this year.

Finally a special thanks to Vic Waters and to Graeme Dahl for producing our two outstanding club publications, to Hamish McLeod for maintaining and developing our excellent website, and to the numerous members who help either at events or behind the scenes to make our club the success it is.

Richard Blurton