

President's report 2017/18

I reported last year that AMA made a surplus of over \$220,000 from the World Championships in Perth, and that we had set up a Trust Fund, under my Chairmanship, to allocate this surplus to worthwhile capital projects submitted by the State Masters Clubs. I also reported that MAWA had several ideas on worthwhile projects.

A year on and MAWA has taken huge benefits from this trust fund, receiving approval for four important projects totaling some \$48,000. This will be by far MAWA's largest capital outlay. A key focus for us has been to fulfill our strategy of achieving self-sufficiency in being able to hold our Championships at ECAC.

Our four projects have been:

1. Electronic Lap Scoring. This has already proved its worth, and it is so good to have the burden of providing numerous lap-scorers and the inevitable mistakes, behind us.
2. Purchase of hurdles. We now have 30 top quality hurdles at ECAC which we regularly use, and which are sufficient for our Championships.
3. Photofinish System. A key enabler for holding Championships at ECAC, and we will regularly use it for weekly meets. MAWA athletes will now be able to achieve records at ECAC where electronic times are required.
4. Electronic recording system for Sunday runs, which is now giving major benefits through reduced workload on the Finish Team, and improved accuracy.

In addition, MAWA has purchased a set of starting blocks, and so the only equipment we do not own for running Championships at ECAC is high jump. We cannot solve this without having additional storage space, which is an issue we will continue to raise with Canning Council, although I do not expect an early resolution.

Our club has grown in strength over the past year, with a large influx of new members in the first 2 months of the 2018 membership year. We now sit comfortably above 600 members.

On a sad note was the premature passing of Su Lyoyd and Ray Gimi. It was a privilege to have had two such talented and thoroughly nice people in our club. They will be missed for a very long time.

Your committee have worked hard to develop the club during 2017/18. Giovanni has introduced new runs and brought in a number of new race directors. Jenn is looking to introduce some new Track and Field pentathlon initiatives, while Janne has taken firm control of medals and trophies, and is introducing some new ideas.

We say farewell to 2 committee members this year. Margaret Bennett worked with Joan Pellier to improve our communications and managed our road programme, while Keith Hill continued the solid work of Geoff Brayshaw in keeping our finances in order.

We had 2 changes to our club officers. Barbara took over Registrar from Peggy in addition to her role as Statistician – needless to say she has done a great job on both counts. Steve

Weller took over maintaining the superb performance databases set up by John Oldfield. Tristan Bell continues to bring improvements to our handicap system, as does Vic Waters to our magazine. Elaine Dance, Hamish McLeod and Graeme Dahl continued to look after social, website and TFNL respectively.

2018 was our turn to hold the AMA Nationals. We had a small but highly competent committee, with Barbara, Delia, Keith, Mike Anderson and Marion Buchanan reporting to myself. Once again we delivered a superb event, which ran smoothly and to time. Also key to success was the great work by Sally Sims on the website. And on discovering that the committee was made up entirely of Social Media illiterates, (no one even knowing what a hashtag was), we also got Sally to manage all Social Media initiatives. My thanks to Paul Martin for his inspirational artwork, and to Graeme Dahl for his design of the printed programme and management of the photography team. Last but not least, Margaret Langford recruited and managed our wonderful team of helpers. Our sponsorship from VenueWest and an unexpectedly high entry put the finances in a strong position. We spent extra on things we know athletes like, but still passed an \$11000 surplus to MAWA funds.

During the past year our athletes competed in the Oceania Championships in Dunedin and of course the AMA Nationals in Perth. As always their achievements were well ahead of what might be expected from a State our size. For those interested in numbers, our medal achievements and records are documented in past editions of TFNL which can be accessed from the website, or from the T & F Results page. But a performance worthy of note is Gillian Young, who set a new steeplechase world record in Dunedin.

Without a World Championships this year, our road runners were a bit short of National and International competition. The most noteworthy performance was probably that of Rochelle Rodgers who won no less than four awards at the Perth Marathon – female overall winner, State champion, age-group winner and Jim Barnes trophy winner.

With your continued help and support I am confident that 2018/19 will be another successful year for our club.

Richard Blurton