

VENUESWEST AMA CHAMPIONSHIPS PERTH 2018

eNewsletter #1

Message from Convenor Richard Blurton

Preparations for the Championships are now ramping up into top gear, and this first eNewsletter coincides with the opening of entries. Many of you will have competed in the 2016 World Championships and will surely see this as a great opportunity to return and relive part of that experience. Late April is an ideal time to visit, well past the months where scorching temperatures are detrimental to the distance events. And we keep hearing that Perth now has a surfeit of hotel beds, so a bit of research should get interstate visitors a good deal.



Please visit our website, <http://www.mastersathleticswa.org/perth2018/> which contains a wealth of information on all aspects of the Championship.

The Championships are going Social! All athletes, officials, volunteers, and spectators will become “around the grounds” reporters, through your favourite social media. Stay tuned for more information! #amac2018 #venueswest #perthsportinglife #athletics #mastersathletics #mawa.

Later in this newsletter we introduce our Organising Committee. Use the website contact to write to them with questions, or just to offer your views.

I am delighted to confirm that VenuesWest will be our major sponsor, and that the event will be the VenuesWest AMA Championships. VenuesWest owns and manages Western Australia’s best sport and entertainment venues on behalf of the State Government. The portfolio consists of 13 venues including Perth Arena and Optus Stadium. They were also a major sponsor of the recent Masters Worlds Championships and were widely praised for their showcasing of the venue and for the catering at the Athletes Village. They look forward to working with us to deliver a first class championships, and can be found at www.venueswest.com.au.

Meet the team

Here is your hard-working Nationals 2018 team, photographed during a short break in a committee meeting.



From the left:

Delia Baldock is well known to many of you through her roles as Administration Manager on the World Championships 2016 LOC, and as Secretary of Masters Athletics in WA. Delia is a keen masters athlete, whose favourite event is the hurdles. She will be competing in the OMA Champs in Dunedin. In her spare time she can be found looking after her daughters’ horses. Her role is to manage social, catering and merchandise.

Richard Blurton took on convenor of the 2010 Perth Champs after his retirement as a Project Manager in the Oil Industry. This led to his involvement with the 2011 Perth bid for Worlds and then on to Head of the LOC. He is purely a fun runner, and finds multiple circuiting of tracks very boring. His passion is for challenging treks and long distance footpaths. Richard is the 2018 Convenor.

Barbara Blurton will look after entries and timetables. She had that role in 2010 and has been Competition Director of our State Championships for the past 15 years. Most of you know her as an elite 400m/800m runner who was unbeatable in the nineties and early noughties, setting many State and Australian records, plus a World mark in the W45 800m. After a prolonged absence through injury we are all delighted to see her back running. She enjoys reading, travel and attending the WA ballet performances.

Keith Hill, along with wife Karen, is taking the opportunity to spend a few years in WA near their grandchildren. Keith is a strong middle distance and cross country runner; just back from a *real* cross country in the UK through ankle-deep mud, ice and snow. He is relishing the opportunity to run on the track for the first time since university days. Keith has been treasurer of MAWA for just over a year. Outside club and athletics Keith loves to ride his bike, cook, bake, write and listen to music. Both Keith and Karen are frequent attendees at WASO concerts. Keith is managing our finances and sponsorship.

Marion Buchanan is Education officer for the WA Officials Club, and one of WMA's most senior walks judges. She has officiated walks and field at National and International major meets. Marion has been appointed as an official for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. She has extensive contacts, and will use these to recruit and manage our officials. When not at athletics Marion is Vice Queen of a Red Hat group and works to start chapters including the new Ellenbrook group. She is also kept busy with three young grandchildren.

Mike Anderson has recently served a term on the MAWA committee looking after our T & F. A no mean half marathoner in his time, today Mike just enjoys his Sunday Run at the now more leisurely pace and is working on improving his throws techniques in the shot and the discus. Mike is secretary of a local genealogical society and enjoys the challenges of family history researching for family and friends. Formerly a university teacher of ethics, he chairs a hospital committee which vets human research applications. Mike is managing our venues and also acting as committee secretary.

Competition update

ENTRIES NOW OPEN AND WILL CLOSE 16th MARCH

The superb facilities at WAAS will allow us to optimize timetables, notably in the throwing events where we have 3 caged circles. The move of the 200m to the 4th day spreads out the sprints and separates the relays from the individual events.

We have recently trialed new road walk and cross country courses at Perry Lakes, with a strong thumbs up from our members, and note that we will apply the new ruling that 70+ just do a 6km run.

