

President's report 2020/2021

Our membership reached 770, an all time record by some margin. All our events continue to be popular. We have enhanced the opportunities for members to join training runs, to come to coaching sessions and for beginners to learn throwing techniques.

Following last year's changes we continue to develop the relationship with Athletics West. The new registration arrangements worked smoothly leading to a simpler process for our athletes who wanted to participate in AW events. The 3 'all-ages' State Championships, (multi events, cross country and 20km walk), went well with AW offering MAWA members the 'registered athlete' fee.

We returned to track and field competition in June and road running in July following the initial covid shutdown and have been fortunate to only have to cancel a small number of events since then due to the short snap lockdowns. Initially we restricted Sunday runs to members only due to a fear of being overrun by athletes deprived of their weekly parkrun. We offered a \$20 3 month membership in July which proved to be very popular.

It was a huge relief to hold our State Championships this year with a record entry of 203. They were very successful and I rated them the best in my time with the club. Big thanks to Barbara Blurton and her wonderful team of officials and helpers.

Our track and field athletes excelled once again, led by Barbara with a stellar spell resulting in 3 400m World Records and Australian Records in 100m/200m/400m/800m. Ruth Johnson started her assault on W80 Australian Records and Ossi Igel his on M70 throws records. Mark Jeffery achieved an Australian Record in the pentathlon but a 'no mark' in the discus stymied Paul Jeffery's attempt at a pentathlon World Record. Barbara missed being the first female ever to run her age over 400m by just 2 months, a feat since achieved by Karla del Grande of Canada.

Bob Schickert, Barbara Blurton and myself are on the organising committee for the Australian Masters Games Athletics. These will definitely go ahead but clearly there will not be many interstate participants and we will be discussing the implications of this with Athletics West in coming weeks.

Due to track resurfacing work WAAS will be closed from mid October through to at least the end of January. The committee and Campbell Til have investigated 3 alternative north of river venues for Tuesday meets without success. So unless a member can find a suitable venue we will just hold the one weekly meet at ECAC until WAAS re-opens.

On the road I reported last year on some very strong new male runners. This year we welcome an elite female runner in the W45 category – Astrid Roberts Feyer. Good to see Astrid becoming overall Sunday Run winner on several occasions in times well under 4min/km. Following member suggestions we are introducing 3 new runs in 2021/22.

Next year we will hold membership fees unchanged. We are introducing a much improved arrangement for registering for helper duties which will be fully explained in an email to all members. Members over 80 will no longer be required to help but are of course welcome to do so.

Just one committee member is stepping down this year. Pam Thonell has done an outstanding job over the past two years looking after our Sunday Run programme. Every time a run goes smoothly it is thanks to Pam's work with local councils to get the event approved and toilets opened in time. We wish Pam well in her new work commitments.

Richard Blurton
President