

President's report 2021/2022

Our membership reached 695 in July. While this is 75 below the all-time peak we reached a year ago there is a clear reason for this. The 2020/2021 number had a huge boost in July through to around November 2020 when we were holding running events where commercial organisations and parkrun were not. As we were not allowing visitors the only option for Perth runners to get an organised run was to join MAWA.

All our events, training and coaching sessions continued to be popular and I would say there was no discernible difference in attendance from the previous year.

Co-operation with Athletics West continued to be very good. The new registration arrangements worked smoothly again while 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 now actively work with AW to manage the busy Championship programme in February and March. The AW registration fee for MAWA members competing at Strive will increase to \$65 but the event fee will reduce by \$3.

The planned resurface of WAAS starting in October 2021 was postponed for a year. Prior to this decision we had tried hard to find an alternative northern suburbs Tuesday venue but without success. In the end we re-established the WAAS programme with thanks to Mark Dawson, David Adams and Mike Anderson for managing the venue. It is unlikely anything has changed on alternative venues, so members should expect that there will be no Tuesday competition until around January 2023.

We kept our fees unchanged from the previous year. We changed the arrangements for helper registration so that helpers registered online during the year rather than having to specify dates when renewing. Drop-out rates fell dramatically making life a lot easier for Race Directors but later in the year the committee need to give a number of reminders. We have listened to comments on this system and will consider improvements for next year.

Thanks to ideas from Mark Dawson, Stephen Helm and Bob Schickert we introduced 3 new Sunday runs. The Star Swamp course was much liked and next year we will use the Community Centre there for a morning breakfast.

Our Road Championship events were tightly contested. Kim Thomas and Clare Wardle again took out the 50km RRC, while Clare and Roberto Busi won the inaugural 10k Road Championships. Paul Watson and Gillian Young retained their age-graded handicap trophies. John McDonagh took out both the RWC and Age-Graded walk trophies while Melissa Lewis triumphed in the female Age-Graded walk.

It was a busy year on the track with the return of AMA Nationals and World Masters. Just seven of our athletes travelled to Tampere in Finland for the first World Masters since Malaga in 2018. And didn't they do well. Gold medals went to Maureen Keshwar, David Carr, Sharon Davis and Lynne Schickert. World Records were achieved by David Carr and Mandy Mason, (relay), and Australian Records from David and Melissa Foster. Lynne

Schickert was our star performer at the Brisbane Nationals with 2 Australian records while Melissa Foster and Ossi Igel bagged State Records.

On the local front the Australian Masters Games took place in April and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the competitors, the stand-out performance coming from Kyle Ennis with an Australian W30 60m record of 6.9s. And last but definitely not least, our State Championships attracted an all-time record entry of 208 athletes. Superbly organised as always by Barbara it ran smoothly and to time in glorious weather. Lynne Schickert took 2 Australian records while a stunning 100m from Maureen Keshwar, (just missing Barbara's Australian Record), plus a pentathlon Australian Record earned her the athlete of the Meet Trophy.

My thanks to a first class committee last year with special thanks to new committee member Karyn Tolardo who is making sure the interests of our walkers are being looked after.

Richard Blurton
President