



Tasmanian Masters Athletics Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

The last 12 months or so have been an interesting time for all of us. One minute we are celebrating our Associations 40th Anniversary, enjoying the delights of regular competition, then to experiencing the total shutdown of all athletic and social activities due to the Coronavirus pandemic sweeping the globe. But throughout this period, your elected committee did another outstanding job in providing a comprehensive range of activities to support our membership, with the last few months of day to day matters being managed by the Executive. The big highlight of the year being the 40th Anniversary celebrations at the Woolstore Hotel in Hobart. The hard working subcommittee of Fiona Lennon, Cathy McKeown and Phil Hniat making sure that it was a night to remember, with MC Daniel Smee ensuring everyone was fully engaged in the proceedings.

The commitment and dedication of all your elected Committee ensures that the Association functions in the efficient manner that it does. Our Secretary, Phil Hand, has done a superb job in managing the overall activities of the Association in his first year in the role. His comprehensive report provides detailed information on our activities for the period, along with notable performances and awards, and events going forward. Phil was well supported by our former Secretary, Mike Walker, who took on the role as Treasurer in his normal professional manner and prepared our, now audited, Annual Financial Report. Mike is your consummate administrator, decades of experience and a passion for the sport, and a more than worthy recipient of Life Membership at our AGM last year.

As usual, behind all our successes are those members who willingly volunteer their services and expertise for the benefit of the Association and the sport as a whole, a few more of which I will highlight below, whilst at the same time acknowledging the continued support and assistance of our wider membership and that of the overall athletic fraternity within the State, and in particular, Athletics South, Northern Tasmania Athletics and Athletics Tasmania.

Fiona Lennon in her role as Vice President, continued to expand her knowledge and representation of the Association at local and national level. Fiona had planning well underway for the Jim Burr Memorial Run and award presentation this year, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions. Fiona was also Chair of the sub-committee for the 40th Anniversary celebrations, and has played an active role in the Executive management of the Association during lockdown.

Reg Magierowski took over the role of Registrar, from Phil Hand, and continued the vital cog in maintaining our membership database and dealing with the myriad of registration combinations with Athletics Tasmania. We were very fortunate to have Reg's considerable IT skills, especially when we had to resort to Zoom meetings due to the social distancing rules.

Once again Sharyn Thorpe took on the role of Competition Director, with the support of the Committee and a band of regular volunteers, overseeing another tremendous season of competition until our final shutdown in mid-March. After four years in the position, Sharyn will be stepping down from the Committee and we thank her sincerely. All is not lost though, as we will continue to see Sharyn trackside as one of our dedicated Track & Field officials, not only at our TMA meets but virtually all Athletics South and Athletics Tasmania meets, in addition to her volunteering at major non-stadia and fun run events throughout the year.

At this point it is appropriate to acknowledge the tremendous support and assistance of Jarrod Gibson, who is not only one of our members but is also the Athletics South Track & Field Director. The continued inclusion of an Athletics South point scoring Interclub distance event on a Wednesday evening, significantly adding to our southern numbers, along with open invitational events. Jarrod is also heavily involved in the Athletics South Winter competition, for which our southern members participate on a regular basis. The cooperation and involvement of our Association, especially competition, with Athletics South, Northern Tasmanian Athletics, North West Athletic Club and Athletics Tasmania, is to the benefit of all our members and is to be encouraged in the best interest of the sport going forward.

Wayne French, Equipment Director, once again ensured that we had all the necessary implements and other equipment to enable our competitions to take place in a safe and appropriate manner. We successfully rolled out the new Lap Scoring Equipment and Software, along with Hurdles, from AMA Trust Fund grants during the last Track and Field season. Another big thank you to Wayne Fletcher for his on-going support and certification of our field equipment for competition. Cathy McKeown excelled in her role of Statistician, maintaining our records, providing expert advice on their assessment, with objective input and co-ordination of the various awards throughout the year, which is a massive task. A big thank you also goes to Elizabeth Leitch for her calligraphy work on the record certificates, for which there was a steady stream before competition shutdown. Phil Hniat has put in a huge effort over the last year in managing and storing our uniform and associated accessory options. The acquisition of storage cupboards, via an AMA Trust Fund grant, has enabled Phil to move our Uniform supplies to the Domain in a secure manner and provide ready access to members. Phil has been very proactive on the wearing of our uniform by members to promote the Association.

During the year John O’Keeffe, continued in his role as Communication Director (ex-officio), ensuring that our members were kept up-to-date with the latest news and events throughout the State, via our Weekly News. This becoming an extremely important media during the ever changing rules/guidelines relating to the pandemic. John was well supported by regular news from the Northern Branch and other contributors, especially during the shutdown, of material for publication. Our Facebook page, continues to be used to promote and highlight events and member successes, along with keeping members up-to-date on developments in a timely manner. A big thank you goes out to all our Facebook administrators and, in particular, our Secretary Phil Hand. Ben Hughes has been our Webmaster for the last eleven years now, his continued expert advice and support on the maintenance of our website, along with our new membership platform, is truly appreciated.

Vicky Gunn took on the role of Northern Delegate, along with the role of Northern Branch Secretary, and her input into the overall running of the Association has been appreciated. Vicky also co-ordinated the Track & Field Pentathlon which was held at the St Leonards Athletic Centre in November. Richard Pickup retained the role of Northern Branch Chairperson in another challenging year for the Branch Committee, details of which are in his report. As I have previously stated, it is up to all members to ensure that the Northern Branch remains viable and cohesive to support the athletic activities being provided in the north of the State. The cooperation between the Branch and Northern Tasmanian Athletics is to be commended and fostered for the benefit of all athletes, whether they be Masters or Open. All athletic bodies within the State have to continue working cooperatively with one another, it is the only path to take for the success of the sport as a whole.

This will be my last report as President, having filled the role for the last eight years in my somewhat extended time on the Associations Committee. It is now time to take a step back and let the incoming President take us forward, albeit in challenging times as we adapt to the “new normal”, whilst providing support in the background as required. As I have closed off all my reports, stay healthy, happy and enjoy the company of your fellow athletes, family and friends, remembering we are a club/association of participators, not administrators.

Peter Lyden
President
20 June 2020