



Tasmanian Masters Athletics Inc.

GPO Box 890 HOBART TASMANIA 7001 ABN 87 852 346 730

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

The 42nd year for Tasmanian Masters Athletics has been another successful one. Despite the season remaining impacted by the pandemic, and in particular border closures and openings, we almost managed to maintain our membership numbers: 234 financial members, only 3 fewer than before. This was despite us reverting to “normal” subscription fees after discounting fees in 2020-21 due to restricted athletics activities that season. Obtaining new members and having previous members re-join, remains as a challenge for 2022-23.

The membership split by region is South 184 (no change); North 34 (+6%); North West 12 (-33%) and interstate 4 (+33%). The gender split: Female: 96 (no change) and Male 138 (-2%).

Hobart is now scheduled to host the 2024 Australian Masters Athletics Track and Field Championship which Sydney will host in 2023. We traditionally experience a spike in membership numbers during our AMA Championship hosting years. Planning for the 2024 Hobart event has commenced, albeit in its very early stages. This season we received a much-appreciated payment of \$7,000.00 being our share of a final distribution to the states and territories from AMA Trust Funds held after the 2016 AMA World Track and Field Championship in Perth W.A. These funds are being held in reserve with financial and equipment requirements for the 2024 Australian Track and Field Championships in mind.

Track and field competition continued to provide a wide range of opportunities for members. Participation in the South was again strong where we enjoyed excellent numbers. Participation fell away somewhat after New Year which we believe was caused by the impact of our state border opening and the resulting isolation requirements. Our Track and Field Championships, held in conjunction with the Tasmanian Open and Age Championships were held in mid-February this season. This was earlier than previous years and our opinion is that this impacted on weekly participation numbers. It was very pleasing to again see excellent numbers in field events in Hobart. This is a feature of our Southern program that we use as a drawcard to attract new members. Participation in the North continues to be low but there are signs of improvement with a small but pleasing increase in numbers from that region.

TMA continued to combine with Athletics South for Interclub 3000m or 5000m events on Wednesday evenings in Hobart during the summer season. These distance events attract more participants and provides improved competition and atmosphere. Many TMA members also represent Athletics Tasmania affiliated clubs in track and field competition. TMA's Northern Branch once again combined with the Northern Tasmanian Athletics to conduct joint meetings. Integrated meets are likely to continue in all three regions of the State into the future.

TMA Awards

Competition for the annual TMA Awards was again very strong with solid contenders in all categories. There was exceptional competition for the Male Athlete of the Year Award. Winners were:

- Female Athlete of the Year – Sharee Maksimovic (W56)
- Male Athlete of the Year – Geoff Gibbons (M45)
- Sprints/Hurdles Athlete of the Year – Sharee Maksimovic
- Middle Distance – Daniel Smee (M51)
- Distance / Walks Athlete of the Year – Craig Downie (M60)
- Jumps/Multi Events Athlete of the Year – Geoff Gibbons
- Throws Athlete of the Year – Cathy McKeown (W52).

Sharee Maksimovic had yet another exceptional year winning the Female Athlete of the Year Award for the second season running and third time overall. Sharee broke 4 open (and residential) running records for her age group and residential records in the Track and Field Pentathlon and Long Jump. Sharee was also part of the 4x100m Australian relay team that set a new world record at the 2022 AMA Track and Field Championships in Brisbane.

Geoff Gibbons again performed at his usual very high standard. Geoff also won Male Athlete of the Year in 2020-21 and has done so on a further 4 occasions. Geoff broke Mick Stevenson's 110m Hurdles open (and residential) record which had stood since 1986 and the 200m state record which had stood since 2013.

Anna Smee, who was a nominee for Female Athlete of the Year and the Middle Distance Award, was a member of an Australian relay team that broke the 800m W45 world record in a time of 10:08.92. Anna was very unlucky not to be the recipient of an award this year.

Congratulations go to each of the above athletes who all had exceptional seasons.

Track and Field Championships

Approximately 60 Masters athletes participated in the 2022 State Track and Field Championships which this year were held at the Domain Athletic Centre in Hobart after being held in Launceston in 2021. This year, the Championships were held in conjunction with the Athletics Tasmania Open Championships and Age Championships. This initiative was generally considered by all concerned to be successful and a more efficient use of officials and volunteers. Last year we had 70 athletes compete at the Championships. The earlier mid-February competition date and the impact of isolation requirements due to open borders, reduced 2022 participation numbers.

Competition for the Male and Female Athlete of the Championships awards was again extremely strong with a number of contenders to choose from. Award winners were as follows:

- **Graeme Cruise Award** (best age-graded performance²) - Sharee Maksimovic won this award for the third time with her excellent 400m run in 1:05.94 and an AGP of 93.31%. Sharee previously won this award in 2016-17 and 2018-19.
- **Masters Track Athlete of the State Championships** - Sharee Maksimovic for her wins (and Open records) in the 60m (8.8s; 96.59%²), 100m (13.97s; 93.27%), 200m (29.32s: 92.60%) and win in the 400m
- **Masters Field Athlete of the State Championships** - Geoff Gibbons won this award with his great performances on the first two days of the Championships breaking his own records in the javelin (48.69m) and pole vault (3.65m). A foot injury prevented Geoff from competing on the last day of competition.

The following athletes also put in excellent performances in Masters events at these Championships: Daniel Smee, Anna Smee, Nick Earl, Josh Harris, Cathy McKeown, Vicky Gunn, Janet Upcher, Craig Downie, Kerry (Kate) Johnstone and Suzanne Westbrook. There were also some excellent performances by TMA members in Athletics Tasmania Open events at the Championships.

²60m performances are not eligible for the Graeme Cruise Award

10,000m Track Running Championship

There were 14 entrants in our 10,000m championship held on 5 February 2022 in Hobart. Janet Upcher (W75) easily achieved the highest age grade percentage of 94.73% with her time of 53:44.95 which is an Open (and residential) W75 record. Nick Earl (M37) set the fastest time of 30:36.33 (89.04%) also taking out the Tasmanian Open Championship.

State Teams

TMA athletes Yvette Edward and Matthew Zegveld were named in the 2021 Tasmanian Marathon team. The Australian Marathon Championships were not run in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Nick Earl, Michael Davis, David O'Brien and Craig Downie were named in the 2021 Tasmanian Half Marathon team to compete at the Australian Half Marathon Championship run as part of the Sunshine Coast Half Marathon. Craig Downie (M60) finished in 23rd place in a time of 1:18:51 and David O'Brien (M56) in 120th place in 1:30:37.

Australian Masters Athletics 2021 Awards

Coach Of the Year - TMA running coach, Peter Lyden won this inaugural award. Peter has been coaching Hobart runners for in excess of 16 years. He presently coaches a number of top performing athletes, some of whom are mentioned in this report. Peter's award is just recognition for his highly respected work and dedication over many years. Being the inaugural winner of this award is testimony to the high regard in which Peter is held in the Australian Masters athletics community.

The following athletes were nominated for AMA Awards covering the 2021 calendar year:

- Geoff Gibbons (Jumps, Multi Events and Most Outstanding Male Athlete)
- Sharee Maksimovic (Most Outstanding Individual Performance and Sprints/Hurdles)
- Anna Smee (Most Outstanding Female Athlete and Middle Distance)
- Nick Earl (Distance)
- Cathy McKeown (Throws)

Other Championship Events

- **Combined Events Championships.**

There were just 3 Masters athletes who competed in these championships which were held over the weekend of 15 and 16 January 2022.

Geoff Gibbons M45, was the only competitor in the Men's Decathlon scoring 7330 points breaking the State Open record.

Cathy McKeown (W52) with 4385 points won the Women's Heptathlon, setting a new State Open record. Sue Westbrook (W79) was the only other competitor in that event scoring 1780 points.

- **Track & Field Pentathlon Championships**

A good field of 11 athletes took part (7 female and 4 male) this season which was held for the second consecutive year in Hobart. Geoff Gibbons, Sharee Maksimovic, Jess Lyndon (W33), Sue Westbrook and Kate Johnstone all broke open records. Geoff, Sharee and Kate each broke records for individual events during the event.

- **Cross-Country Championships**

51 members participated in the 2021 Cross-Country Championships held at the Queens Domain in Hobart in July 2021. The championships were conducted in conjunction with the Athletics Tasmania Open Cross-Country Championships. Athlete numbers were again pleasing, considering that in 2019, 47 participants was, at the time, a record.

Anna Smee, Daniel Smee, Michael Davis, Vicky Gunn and Craig Downie all performed very well in this event.

- **3000m Track Running Championship**

We held this event on 26 January 2022 at Penguin Athletic Track in conjunction with the Athletics Tasmania Open 3000m Championship. There was a pleasing number of 13 participants again this season with entrants from all three regions of the state. Best performers were Craig Downie finishing in a time of 10:08.49 (89.91%), Vicky Gunn 12:57.28 (86.71%), Adele Lucas 14:57.74 (84.99%) and Matthew Zegveld with his 9:34.43 run (83.54%).

- **Walking Championship Events**

A small but dedicated group of members continue to participate in regular race-walking club events as well as in Athletics Tasmania and TMA Road Walk Championships over various distances.

In the 2021 TMA 5km Road Walk Championship held in Hobart in May, Elizabeth Leitch (W65) and Ron Foster (M70) both performed well. In the 2021 Tasmanian Open Over 40 5km and 10km Championships, Ron Foster was again a strong performer.

At the 2022 TMA Track and Field Championships, Elizabeth Leitch performed well in both the 1500m and 5000m events.

- **2020 Road Championship**

This event returned in 2021 after it was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. There was an excellent number of 31 starters in the Championship which was again run at Campbell Town in the state's northern midlands. Craig Downie (M60) won the Bill and Barb Westcott Award for the highest age grade percentage of 92.58% with his excellent 8km time of 27:37. Fiona Lennon, Anthony Baines, Susan Moodie, Michael Davis and Vicky Gunn also performed very well, achieving age grade percentages over 80%.

Other Competition

A number of our athletes participated in the "Night of Fives" in Launceston in November 2021. This is a 5000m track running competition which was organised by TMA member, Matt Zegveld, for all athletes aged over 12 years who are graded according to their athletic ability. Overall numbers were very good and I thank Matt for this initiative and his efforts to increase participation in track athletics in the north of the state.

Marathon and Half Marathon Challenges

The Marathon and Half Marathon Challenges continued again for the 4th year albeit with moderate support. These two challenges enable members to provide their times for marathons and half marathons anywhere in the world. The winners are decided by the highest age graded percentage during the competition period.

Matt Zegveld (M43), with a time of 2:43.56 in the Ross Marathon won the Marathon Challenge with an age grade percentage of 78.39%.

Craig Downie (M60) with his excellent time of 1:18.51 in the Australian Half Marathon Championships at the Sunshine Coast in October 2021, won the Half Marathon Challenge with an outstanding age grade percentage of 90.34%. Craig broke the M60 half marathon residential and open records with this run.

TMA Sealed Handicap

This season our sealed handicap competition was held for the second consecutive year. All members who take part in Parkrun events anywhere in the world can participate just by submitting their barcode number. This event was conducted once a month with the winner decided by the athletes' Parkrun result on the chosen Saturday. Handicaps are decided by members' most recent parkrun results. The monthly winner receives a free year's membership. We were most fortunate again to have the support of Hobart Refrigeration and Appliance Repairs for this event. We thank Bruce Lansdell and his team at HRAR for their continued support. I also thank Mike Walker and Regina Magierowski for their valued work in the running of this event.

Volunteering

We continue to be most fortunate to have a small but regular group of volunteers who assist with the running of TMA events, during both the summer and winter seasons. Our regular volunteers are mostly from our distance running cohort. We need to work hard to attract members from other disciplines to help carry the load. This will become particularly relevant as holding of the 2024 AMA Track and Field Championships in Hobart draws closer.

In addition to our regular volunteers, many of our people continued to perform roles for other athletic clubs and various community fun runs, all of which benefit the broader community. Our volunteers at the events like the Cadbury Marathon, school cross-country events and the City to Casino Fun Run earn valuable funds for TMA. These funds assist us in keeping fees low for all of our members. We have maintained our membership fees at the same level for well over 10 years.

I thank all volunteers and also those who assisted in various other roles, especially our dedicated committee members during the season. Vicky Gunn, our Northern Branch delegate has again worked extremely hard to improve the profile of Masters athletics in Launceston. This has resulted in an increase in membership numbers from the north which is greatly appreciated.

The next 12 months

The past year has provided a myriad of opportunities for our athletes compared to the previous season which was more severely impacted by the pandemic.

In addition to local competition, the AMA Postal Half Marathon Championships continue until 31 October 2022, the 2022 WMA Championships in Tampere Finland, the 2022 AMA Marathon Championships on the Gold Coast in July, the AMA 20K Walk Championships in Adelaide in August, the Winter Throws Festival in Brisbane in October 2022, the AMA Track and Field Championships in Sydney in March 2023, the 2023 WMA Indoor Championship (venue tba), the 2022 World Cross-Country Championships (including Masters Championships) in Bathurst in February 2023 all offer athletes avenues for competition.

I wish all members and their families excellent health and happiness and urge members to take the opportunity to participate in one or more of the available Championships which are open to all registered Masters athletes.

The committee of the state association remains aware of the challenges being experienced concerning participation by Masters athletes in the state's North. There are however some encouraging signs for our future in this region.

Conclusion

I again thank all committee members for their hard work, support and commitment over the past season. It has been another great team effort this season. I also thank all those at Athletics Tasmania, all those involved in various capacities with Athletics South and other athletics clubs state-wide for their much-appreciated support.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the sad passing of Danny Byas who died on 18 March 2022. Danny was a member of TMA for 26 years, a past committee member and a regular competitor. Danny will also be missed for his excellent photography of athletics events. We express our condolences to Danny's widow Gloria, sons Alex, Dion and Marcus and their respective families.

Philip Hand

Secretary

Tasmanian Masters Athletics

25 May 2022