



**Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia,  
Held at the Lexus Centre, Cnr Olympic Blvd & Batman Ave, Olympic Park, Melbourne VIC 3004  
on Tuesday, 20 November 2007 at 3.30pm**

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**1. Welcome**

The meeting watched a highlights DVD from the Osaka World Championships.

**2. Roll call**

**Directors**

President & Chairman	Rob Fildes, OAM
Director	David Grace
Director	Jane Hansen
Director	Matt Mahon
Director	Nick Moore
Director	Michael Smellie
Director	Bronwyn Thompson

Chief Executive Officer                      Danny Corcoran

**Delegates**

Australian Capital Territory	Michael Thomson
New South Wales	Peter Bromley
Northern Territory	Ian Fullarton
Queensland	David Bell
South Australia	Tony Keynes
Tasmania	Brian Roe
Victoria	Lisa Hasker
Western Australia	Stephen Stingemore

**Observers**

Australian Capital Territory	Michelle D'Ambrosio
New South Wales	Greg Doyle
Northern Territory	Michael Outhred
Victoria	Nick Honey
Western Australia	Wayne Loxley

**Athletics Australia Staff**

Chief Financial Officer	Stephen Crook
Nat. Performance Manager	Max Binnington
Competitions Manager	David Gynther
Competition Coordinator	Carol Grant
PA to Chief Executive Officer	Janet Chitts

**Also present**

Tony Pititto (Ernst & Young)  
 Graeme Rose (Masters Athletics)  
 Harry Summers (ATFCA)  
 Paul Jenes (Life Member)  
 Justice Allan McDonald Q.C. (Life Member)  
 Bob Lay (Athletics International)  
 Maxine Corcoran (Athletics International)  
 Neil Robbins (Athletics International)  
 Trevor Vincent (Athletics International)  
 Ray Smith (Athletics International)  
 David Culbert (Jump Media)  
 Michelle Cook (Jump Media)

**3. Apologies**

Bill Bailey (Director), Eddie McGuire, AM (Director), Clive Lee AM (Life Member), Noel Ruddock (Life Member), Denis Wilson AM (Life Member), Brenda Pearl OAM (Life Member), Margaret Mahony OAM (Life Member), Ronda Jenkins (Life Member), Doug Carlson (President, QLD Athletics), Peter Bacich (President, Athletics WA), Anne Lord (President, Athletics Victoria), John Landy, John Vernon and Judy Pollock (Athletics International).

**4. Obituaries**

The meeting observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect for:

Jack Biggins  
 Wally Foreman  
 Alastair 'Scotchy' Gordon  
 Robert 'Bob' Grant  
 Rudi Hochreiter  
 Jennifer Jaye  
 Ken Lorroway  
 Mizan Mehari  
 Peter Norman  
 Michael O'Loughlin  
 Jack Pross  
 Joy Soanes  
 Dave Stevens

**5. Confirmation of the Minutes**

Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Athletics Australia Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2006 as tabled were taken as true and correct. Moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by Michael Smellie (Athletics Australia).

**6. President and Chairman of the Board's address**

The 2006/07 annual report covers a great deal in the President's and CEO's reports. Also in the other excellent reports and information.

For the purpose of this address – I will take the 2006/07 annual report as read.

The report covers my thanks to our CEO, Danny Corcoran and his dedicated staff. Also my thanks to our board of directors and key supporters, namely Telstra and the Australian Sports Commission.

Some other points from the 2006/07 year and activity within our sport up to early November are as follows:

The 2007 World Athletics Tour meeting held in Melbourne in March was very successful.

The National titles were also very good and served as part of the selection process for Osaka. There were terrific performances in the men's sprints, pole vault and women's distance events.

We then travelled to Mombasa, Kenya for the World Cross Country Championships and to present Australia's bid for the 2011 and 2013 World Championships. We were well supported by the Queensland Government but were beaten by two outstanding bids from Daegu, Korea and Moscow, Russia. We will benefit from the experience.

The Cross Country Championships alerted us to a serious issue with no extreme heat policy to safeguard the sport from criticism and serious injury. Athletics Australia has written to the IAAF to express our concern given the likelihood of similar conditions in Beijing and other major Championships.

The World Youth Championships were held in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia and the Australians made 19 of 30 finals and will receive the same quota of athletes as Russia for the next edition (the quota determines how many athletes the IAAF will pay for).

This team's success was very much due to the work of the Athletics Australia Elite Junior Program headed by Sara Mulkearns.

Vicki Parnov won gold in the pole vault, Hamish Peacock silver in the javelin, Adam Bevis bronze in the multi-event and Josh Hall bronze in the high jump. Congratulations to these fine young Australian athletes.

The 2007 World Championships and Congress was held in Osaka in August and Australia was well represented in both spheres. The Congress reiterated its strong stance on doping and vowed to continue the fight against the drug cheats who damage the integrity of the sport.

Brian Roe (Technical), Anne Lord (Cross-Country), Jane Saville (Walks) and Glynis Nunn-Cearns (Women's Committee) were elected to IAAF Committees and we congratulate them on their fine achievement.

The team in Osaka won two gold medals - the best result since the 1968 Olympics. We congratulate Nathan Deakes and Jana Rawlinson. The conditions were oppressive and we are certain the experience will stand the athletes in good stead for Beijing.

Today we will be announcing 5 athletes who will be nominated to the AOC for early nominations for the Beijing 2008 Olympics. Those Athletes are: Nathan Deakes, Jana Rawlinson, Craig Mottram, Steve Hooker and Luke Adams. Jana and Nathan have earned themselves automatic nomination and the others will be nominated using selectors discretion due to their outstanding performances - we congratulate these exceptional athletes.

We have a pool of five or six athletes who can potentially medal in Beijing.

It continues to be a very big organisational challenge to lead and unify our wonderful sport in Australia.

We have many challenges off the track but fortunately the board and management by working closely together have ensured that the organisation is in a sound financial position.

We thank Stephen Crook, our Chief Financial Officer, who is leaving the organisation next month and wish him all the best as he pursues a career outside the sporting sphere.

Also special mention to Tina Folmer who left the organisation in December last year after 16 years of exceptional service to the organisation.

We are urgently seeking new sponsorship partners, with Elite Sports Properties doing the search for us.

The structure of the sport and not having a junior arm after little athletics is seen as a weakness.

We are now working closely with Australian Little Athletics to form a closer relationship and have sought assistance from the Australian Sports Commission in the matter. As you would be aware Australian Little Athletics is an independent body that operates without Australian Sports Commission funding.

A big challenge continues to be to hold our fair share of Australian children to want athletics to be their number one sport.

We must provide better pathways between Australian Little Athletics, juniors, intermediate and clubs athletics and senior athletics.

Athletics has a most important role to fill as the mother of all sports - running, walking, throwing, jumping - in the question of obesity in our children.

Also, how can our sport take a bigger role in the modern problem of drug taking in our youth?

WADA, the IAAF and Athletics Australia continue to take a strong stance against performance enhancing drugs in sport and also the community awareness of recreational drug use. Of note, the new President of WADA is an Australian, The Hon John Fahey, AC.

The Elite Junior Program along with the Indigenous Program continues to grow and hopefully we will see athletes representing Australia who have developed in these programs.

We have made progress with the ATFCA regarding the availability and accessibility of their courses. The Member Associations can now conduct courses that overcome many of the problems that have been barriers in the past such as cost, timing and accessibility.

Our High Performance Centres are developing well. Unfortunately we don't have enough money to open all the High Performance Centres we would like to - or to support our best coaches much better.

We are carefully studying where Australia has competitive advantages including our tall, strong, talented youngsters who can do so well in the technical, throws, jumps and multi events – with performance enhancing drug taking being monitored more stringently on a global scale in athletics it offers a more level playing field.

Athletics is a very competitive international sport. Many countries have well funded and organised track and field programs. Nations like China, Korea and the new Russia will win a good share of medals in the future due to their new emphasis on athletics. The USA continues to dominate our sport with their track and field programs in 19,000 colleges. The UK, Spain, Sweden, Jamaica, Germany and the African countries, particularly Kenya, to name a few, are determined to excel more in athletics.

We are one country out of 212 nations competing in athletics. Easily the most participated sport on earth and the number one Olympic sport.

We look forward to a very good domestic season and a successful World Athletics Tour event in Melbourne, the Sydney Athletics Grand Prix and the Australian Championships and Olympic Selection Trials in Brisbane.

Then it's onto the Northern Hemisphere season for our best athletes, culminating in Beijing in August.

We have formed a Special Awards Committee, which I'm chairing to reinvigorate the rewarding and acknowledgement of the many dedicated persons in our athletics community.

Thank you all for your attendance today.

**7. Presentation of the Athletics Australia Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2007, including:**

**7.1 The audited accounts comprising Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to Financial Statements;**

The Finance reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

**7.2 Reports of the Member Associations;**

The Member Association Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

**7.3 Reports of the Institutes and Academies of Sport; and**

The Institutes and Academies of Sport Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

**7.4 Reports of Athletics Australia's Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions.**

The Officers, Standing Committees and Commissions Reports as tabled, were taken as a true and correct record.

The Annual Report and its contents were taken as read and confirmed.

Agenda items 7.1-7.4 were moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and seconded by David Grace (Athletics Australia).

## **8. Board of Directors**

### **8.1 Ratification**

In March 2007 Ms Bronwyn Thompson filled a vacancy on the Board made available due to the change in Constitution at the 2007 Extraordinary General Meeting.

Under the terms of The Company's Constitution, the appointment required the confirmation of the Members. Moved by Tony Keynes (SA) and seconded by Brian Roe (TAS). The appointment was confirmed.

### **8.2 Re-Election of Board Directors**

David Grace on behalf of the non-retiring Directors of The Company nominated Messrs Fildes, McGuire, Smellie and Ms Hansen for re-election.

The appointments were moved by Brian Roe (TAS) and Tony Keynes (SA), a vote was cast with all members in favour, and the re-election of Messrs Fildes, McGuire, Smellie and Ms Hansen are therefore accepted.

## **9. Life Membership & Merit Awards**

The Special Awards Committee (SAC) is comprised of the President, Rob Fildes, (or his nominee, David Grace) the board's two nominees, Paul Jenes and Bill Bailey, the Presidents of two Member Associations, Michael Thomson (ACT) and Brian Roe (TAS) and two Life Members, Reg Brandis and Margaret Mahony.

Of behalf of the SAC, Brian Roe outlined the progress of the committee and the sub committee charged with finding the appropriate people in the sport to award not only these awards but for Order of Australia, Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame and any other awards presented by the sport such as Edwin Flack (Outstanding athlete) and Henry Schubert (Coaches Award).

In order to recognise more outstanding contributions to the sport, SAC had made a recommendation to the board, which was expected to be endorsed that evening, that the current living Merit Award holders be elevated to Life Membership and the current living Life Members be elevated to Life Governorship. This would require a change to the Athletics Australia Constitution, and the meeting agreed that this would be done via mail, for the purpose of expediting the process.

Current Life Member, Allan McDonald applauded that change and the commitment to recognise more contributions from fantastic people in the sport is commendable.

Rob Fildes announced the nominations for the current Merit Award and would become Life Members are: Peter Bowman, Pat Clohessy, Ron Crawford, Lyn Foreman, Patricia Kinnane, Alan Launder, Tony Rice, Pam Ryan, Neville Sillitoe and Trevor Vincent.

Rob also announced the nominations for Life Membership, which would become Life Governors are: David Prince and Brian Roe.

The nominations for the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame will be announced in due course.

#### **10. General Business**

Athletics International member, Neil Robbins thanked Athletics Australia for the invitation to attend the AGM and requested recognition to one of the great athletes and pioneers of distance running in Les Perry. Perhaps like we do for some, name a distance event in his honour.

Michael Thomson presented the President of Athletics Australia, Rob Fildes with a framed picture of the 6<sup>th</sup> INAS-FID World Athletics Championship Team photo. This is in recognition for the support for this team.

In closing, the President thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.17pm.

Taken as a true and correct record

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Fildes, OAM - President

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Date