

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024/2025

I am pleased to be able to report on the activities of QMA for 2024/2025. It has been a busy year since the last AGM in which QMA has carried out its mission to promote fitness, fun and friendship through a range of athletic activities for everyone, from beginner to age group elite standard. Notably, these activities included:

- joining with Oceania Masters Athletics to host the 2025 Oceania Masters Athletics Championships at QSAC.
- completing the AMA Winter Throws triennium with a successful event in October 2024
- being awarded the AMA Combined Events Championships for 2025-2027 and hosting the 2025 Championships successfully
- launching a new throws event, Christmas Throws in July
- substantial QMA participation and success at the World Indoor Championships in Florida, AMA Nationals in Adelaide, and the QA State Relay Championships

### Awards

Congratulations to the following members who were nominated for the 2025 AMA Annual Awards:

Sprints/Hurdles *Julie Brims*

Middle Distance/Steeplechase *Peter Link*

Distance *Ian Cameron*

Walks *Brenda Gannon*

Jumps *Dash Newington*

Throws *Tyson Elisaia*

**Multi Events/Relays** *Dash Newington*

Outstanding Athlete Male – *Ian Cameron*

**Outstanding Female Athlete** – *Julie Brims*

**Outstanding Individual Performance** *Robert Godino*

Administration *Karen Lakin*

Official Award *Marge Burley*

**Coach** *David McKean*

Special congratulations to those who won their categories (names in bold above) and to Bruce Bodsworth who was appointed an Honorary Life Board Member Associate reflecting his many years of service to AMA.

### Uniform:

We have experimented with having a small stock of uniform on hand given the lead time for orders from Game Clothing. While this has been somewhat successful, we should continue to look at ways to streamline this process and ensure notice is given of order dates and lead times.

### Finances:

The Association remains in a sound financial position with substantial cash reserves. Income in the most recent financial year was consistent with the previous year but expenses were somewhat lower, resulting in a surplus of approximately \$20,000.

Once the OMA Championships finances are finalised there should be an additional surplus due to QMA. Given the short lead in to the Championships (11 months from initial discussions) and early indications of opposition to the event in certain quarters, it was considered prudent to negotiate an arrangement where OMA financially underwrote the event in case it was unsuccessful or poorly attended. This arrangement does, however, provide that QMA will receive a share of any surplus.

### Regions, Facilities and Equipment

**Brisbane:** QMA continues to have a strong relationship with QSAC, who have been very helpful in accommodating our requirements given how busy the facility is. Their support with the OMA Championships and other key events has been excellent. A complication has arisen in that QA, who owns the photo finish equipment at the State Athletics Facility, has introduced charges, on top of the QSAC facility charges, for the use of the photo finish equipment. We will look at ways of addressing this.

It is also likely that maintenance and upgrade work will take place at QSAC over the 2025/2026 summer period - this has delayed the finalisation of competition dates for the summer season. We are working through this with QSAC as rapidly as possible. There may be restricted access to the traditional Saturday morning time slot - we will consider other options for timing and venue in order to maintain frequent Brisbane competitions.

As mentioned in the Brisbane Region report, the Brisbane Region has upgraded implements and measuring equipment.

### **Gold Coast:**

After a prolonged shutdown at Runaway Bay, which impacted activity throughout last summer, the Gold Coast Region has organised meets on 26th October, 30th November and 14th December at the re-opened Gold Coast Performance Centre. We encourage members to support these meets.

### **Toowoomba:**

An enthusiastic group from Toowoomba is looking to start Masters competitions there. A Special General Meeting was held in December 2024 which approved the creation of a new Region. Plans are well advanced for competitions to start this summer season. The Toowoomba Region has a plan to work in conjunction with Little Athletics to hold meets on Sundays before Little Athletics meets the same day, sharing the venues and equipment. As well as being efficient, this should encourage Little Athletics parents (a key demographic for the growth of Masters athletics) to try Masters competition.

### **Events Hosted**

In addition to the annual State Championships, an enormous amount of work was done by QMA's volunteers to host the following events:

- 2025 Oceania Masters Athletics Championships at QSAC - the first OMA championship since Covid was very much appreciated by athletes from Queensland, around the Oceania region and beyond. Held over 5 days there were 733 competitors. The LOC was a joint venture between Oceania Masters Athletics and QMA, with QMA leading the delivery of the competition program. Many QMA members gave their time to volunteer in numerous capacities, some for the full 5 days, and the result was a highly successful event. Special thanks are due to Wilma and Stan Perkins, without whose efforts the event would not have been possible.
- completing the AMA Winter Throws triennium with a successful event in October 2024. The event grew during QMA's period as host, with the October 2024 edition attracting a record field of over 80 competitors, who appreciated. Thanks are due to Lajos Joni, Wilma Perkins, Don Quinn, Guy Quarterman, Lorraine Birtwell, John Milne (and his family Cathy and James), Bruce Bodsworth and Mark Cumming for organising the event, and to the army of QMA volunteers who turned out to officiate and support the event
- the 2025 AMA Combined Events Championships, which were conducted in February 2025 - QMA will also host these in 2026 and 2027. This event was notable because:
  - it was an inclusive event, opening up both the heptathlon and decathlon to both men and women. This saw competitors who had not tried these events before competing in them
  - we were lucky to host a world record performance from Sue Coates, W55, of MAWA, with over 6,000 points
  - it also served as the semi-virtual combined events for the OMA Championships

Special thanks to Wilma Perkins and Don Quinn for making this possible, including the task of setting up the men's heptathlon scoring

- a new throws event, Christmas Throws in July - this initiative of John Milne's, featuring special medals, drew over 50 entrants including some from interstate and will hopefully become a fixture on the calendar

All of these events were strongly supported by QMA volunteers who gave up their time to officiate, organise equipment, and ensure they were carried out to a high standard.

### **CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING YEAR**

As noted above, this has been a busy year, with some significant successes. It has also been a year of transition, and this transition is ongoing. At the last AGM none of the previous Executive sought re-election - this is what prompted me to put my name forward as President. This reflected an operating model where a small group of highly dedicated volunteers had led the organisation for many years while also doing much of the day to day work of running events and competitions. I am grateful for all that they have done, which has made the Association what it is today. However, it is clear that this operating model is not sustainable. It is well documented that volunteer numbers in general are declining, and we are in a cost of living crisis which demands that we continue to provide accessible and affordable competition while many people have less time available for volunteering. This is also a time of great opportunity - with Queensland athletes succeeding at the international level and the 2032 Olympics, athletics will have a high profile in the coming years. Our mission to promote fitness, fun and friendship through a range of athletic activities for everyone, from beginner to age group elite standard, is both worthwhile and aligns strongly with the 2032 Olympics legacy strategy to promote active lifestyles and greater participation in sports for all. We should take this opportunity to promote and grow Masters athletics.

It seems clear, with a growing population especially in SEQ, and little sign of investment in new athletics facilities, that QMA will face increased competition for venues, and for volunteers.

With these challenges and opportunities in mind, I intend to focus on these areas in 2025-2026:

- sustainable volunteering - moving away from the model of one person being solely responsible for a given function to a model where several people share the task - members are more likely to volunteer if they do not feel they are committing to being solely responsible for something indefinitely, and upskilling more people in areas of officiating and administration can only be a good thing
- streamlining administration - volunteers' time is finite (including the Management Committee and Regional Committees) - it is important that this time is focused on providing the best experience for the athletes and that time spent on administration is purposeful
- accessibility - maintaining affordable competition, and considering additional venues and times to maintain regular competition throughout our areas of operations despite the challenges of existing venue availability
- outreach - continue to explore ways to encourage athletes of all ages and abilities to try Masters Athletics.

**Acknowledgement:** In conclusion, I want to offer the following acknowledgments:

- I would like to thank the 2024/2025 Management Committee, the Brisbane Region and Gold Coast Region committees for their contribution to the Association this past year.
- I would like to acknowledge and thank Blake Frost, who is standing down as Secretary, for his service to the Association.
- I would like to acknowledge and thank Jesse Whyte (Meet Manager operator at QSAC) and Marj Burley (photo finish operator at QSAC), who are standing down, for their dedication in carrying out those roles.

Respectfully submitted

Nick Macmillan  
25 September 2025