

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025/2026

I am pleased to be able to report on the activities of QMA for 2025/2026.

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:

- Successfully hosting the AMA Combined Events Championships for a second year
- A well attended State Championships in February, with other State title events for combined events, pentathlon championships, 3000m championships and throws pentathlon also well attended and successful in a busy summer period
- substantial QMA participation and success at AMA Nationals in Canberra
- a strong QMA presence at the QA State Relay Championships
- launching Athlete Experience and Publicity and Promotion Working Groups
- carrying out a detailed Member Survey to inform decision making
- an Australian Athletics Level 2 Development Coaching Course aimed specifically at coaching of Masters athletes, held at QSAC in July

Awards

Congratulations to the following members who were nominated for the 2026 AMA Annual Awards:
Sprints/Hurdles *Marge Allison*

Middle Distance/Steeplechase *Robert Godino*

Distance *Tia Jones*

Walks *Iggy Jiminez*

Jumps *Gary Finegan*

Throws *Nicole Luyten*

Multi Events/Relays *Lee-Anne Nelson*

Outstanding Athlete Male – *Gary Finegan*

Outstanding Female Athlete – *Marge Allison*

Outstanding Individual Performance - *Wilma Perkins*

Administration - *Jim Quabba*

Official Award - *Harry Giles*

Coach - *Dan O'Sullivan*

Special congratulations to Robert Godino, Tia Jones, Gary Finegan, Harry Giles, Marge Allision and Dan O'Sullivan, who were well deserved winners of the AMA Awards in their categories.

Uniform: Keeping a small stock of uniforms on hand has been relatively successful, as has providing more advance notice of the opening and closing dates for order windows. The long lead times do still cause issues, particularly for newer athletes, and we should continue to look at ways of streamlining this process.

Finances:

The Association remains in good financial health, with net equity increasing from \$195k in 2025 to \$222k in 2026.

This was driven by an increased surplus year to 31 March 2026 - \$27,758, increased from \$20,109. This was largely driven by the sum of \$10,000 received as QMA's share of the surplus from hosting the Oceania Masters Athletics championships in September 2025.

Otherwise income from competitions was steady at \$43k with a small but pleasing increase in income from memberships to \$21.5k from around \$17k the previous year. Outgoings remained about the same.

This year's audit report comments positively on:

- the placing of surplus funds on term deposit – I commend Rob Lasker and Jim Quabba for addressing this, in particular Rob for driving this process
- the increased use of online entries and the payment terminal to reduce cash takings and simplify record keeping – I commend the Brisbane Region for its efforts in using the payment terminal for training fee payments, and experimenting with online-only event entries (which also reduces the burden on event day volunteers)

I recommend we adopt the auditor's recommendation to review term deposit arrangements 6 monthly on a formal basis, though note that Rob did carry out a review during the year and thank him for his diligence in keeping an eye on this.

Working Groups

The Management Committee agreed to implement 3 Working Groups to look at the implementation of key elements of the Strategic Plan established last year. This has been a successful initiative. In particular a number of people with valuable skills and ideas, who may not have considered joining the Management Committee or a Regional Committee, have come forward and contributed to these groups. This has led to the Member Survey, a redevelopment of the website which is well under way, and other initiatives being worked on which are likely to attract new members and improve the experience for existing members.

I would like to thank the following members for their contributions to the Working Groups:

Promotions and Publicity – Rob Lasker (Chair), Shannon Lone, Laurence Quinlivan, David Reed, Melanie Venter, Maria Griffin

Athlete Experience – Heather Lamb (Chair), David Reed, Rachel Kwan, Tamara Paterson, Wayne Chesher

An Administration working group is also planned, and will be implemented once the other working groups have completed their proposals.

Regions, Facilities and Equipment

Brisbane:

Brisbane had a very busy second half of the summer last year, with events every weekend between late January and early March, driven by the early date for 2026 Nationals and limited venue availability early in the summer. QSAC were again very helpful in accommodating our events, and I thank their team for their ongoing assistance. The Main Stadium will be closed from November 2026 to the end of March 2027 for upgrade works – with many QA, LAQ and other events on the SAF, the traditional Saturday morning time slot will be heavily restricted and the Brisbane Committee is working on other options for timing and (potentially) venue in order to maintain frequent Brisbane competitions. AMA Nationals 2027 will be in late April, which does reduce pressure to fit as many events into the busy December to February period. As mentioned in the Brisbane Region report, there have been changes in personnel and it is good to see some new people stepping up to take the lead in running the Brisbane Region – thank you to Jodie Schubert, Peter Jenkins and Tamara Paterson in particular.

Gold Coast: As noted in the Gold Coast Report, the focus of the Region is on athlete development and preparation of Gold Coast athletes for key competitions including the World Championships and Pan Pacific Masters Games.

Toowoomba: The Toowoomba Region had a very successful first summer, with some very well attended and enjoyable events. It has been great to see the momentum and presence in the community that Wayne Chesher and the Toowoomba Committee has achieved in a short time, and we wish them success as they plan for an expanded program in 2026/2027.

FNQ:

It was good to meet Rebecca Austin and Kym Galea in person during the summer. The Region has maintained a busy program of events (despite challenges with the weather), coaching courses and Masters participation in the popular Festival of Athletics in Townsville.

Events Hosted

Once again, inclusive AMA Combined Event Championships and State Combined Event Championships were hosted with both men's and women's decathlon and heptathlon, with increased numbers, particularly female athletes, in the Decathlon – special congratulations to Lee-Anne Nelson (W50) and Wilma Perkins (W75) who set world records at this event.

The Christmas Throws in July, in its second year, grew from around 45 competitors to 62, including several from interstate.

The State Championships in February attracted over 200 competitors, and State title events were held separately for combined events, outdoor pentathlon, 3000m, throws pentathlon and heavy weight throws pentathlon.

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 – often in very hot and challenging conditions.

Challenges for the Coming Year:

I wrote last year that it had been a year of transition. This transition is continuing – there were many new faces on the management Committee last year, several of whom have not nominated for re-election this year and two of whom (Bruce Bodsworth and John Milne) stepped down during the year for personal reasons. I extend my thanks to them for their service and to everyone who has stepped up and contributed to the Management Committee, Regional Councils and the working groups.

While we have made some progress in updating the operating model so we are less reliant on a small group of highly dedicated and often over-burdened volunteers, but there is still much to do before we fully achieve a more sustainable model which positions QMA for the growth that I am confident is possible. 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. Athletics is enjoying a period of popularity with the 2032 Olympics approaching and string performances by many young athletes, and there is a demand for healthy sporting competition for all ages which QMA can tap into. However, to achieve this growth we need to attract more and younger athletes and volunteers, and recognise that people have many demands on their time. I hope that members will support the initiatives from the working groups as they are rolled out, and further initiatives that will come as we work through the member survey results.

Acknowledgements:

In conclusion, I want to offer the following acknowledgments:

- I would like to thank the 2025/2026 Management Committee, in particular Rob Lasker – all committees need a good Secretary, and Rob has put much time and energy into getting things done quickly and efficiently, and has driven the progress of the Working Groups and the member survey – thank you.
- I would like to thank the Brisbane Region, Gold Coast Region, Toowoomba Region and FNQ Region committees for their contribution to the Association this past year.
- I would like to acknowledge and thank Bruce Bodsworth and John Milne, who stood down from the Management Committee for personal reasons earlier in the year, for their service to the Association.
- I would like to acknowledge and thank Marj Burley (photo finish operator at QSAC), who is standing down (again – after returning last summer), for her dedication in carrying out this role and in training her replacement.

- I would like to acknowledge and thank Wilma Perkins, who is looking to reduce her involvement in programming the QMA state championship events and Brisbane meets and concentrate more on competing. For many years Wilma has carried out these roles so efficiently that people often don't realise the sheer amount of planning involved. Wilma leaves big shoes to fill.
- Last, and most importantly, I would like to thank everyone who has helped out at an event, or organising behind the scenes, in any capacity – QMA runs on the efforts of volunteers and many of you have given up your time, or put your hand up for things you might not have experience in, and we have all benefited as a result.

Respectfully submitted

Nick Macmillan

3 August 2026

BRISBANE REPORT – 2025/2026 SEASON SUMMARY:

Most competitions were held in Main Stadium due to renovations to SAF. We held 13 Brisbane Region competitions; 7 of those were combined with QMA or AMA Championship events. There were 359 on-the-day entries for the season. QA Relay Championships were held at Main Track in Brisbane (24 men and 28 women competed).

Several records were set throughout the season, including World Records in the Women's Decathlon. Some Brisbane Region QMA members also received awards at the AMA Awards Dinner.

The QMA Christmas Throws in July event is being held in Brisbane again this year and QMA are again providing Sunday Throws and Jumps training opportunities in Brisbane. Athletics Australia are providing a Masters Development Coaching Course at QSAC on 18/19th July, free for Women (\$7.24 admin fee) thanks to a Grant, and a substantially reduced fee for Men of \$100, maybe less depending on numbers.

Peter repaired wires and handles on some of the hammers that broke in February.

Unfortunately, there were a few complaints about conduct and behaviour. A letter was emailed and put on the website to remind athletes about safety, etiquette and behaviour. All QMA Policies including the Code of Conduct, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policies are also on the website.

Jodie has begun documenting information, including a competition checklist in conjunction with Nick, to help with timelines, person/s responsible and succession planning. Jodie has also documented instructions for the Square and EDM's.

Lack of Volunteers is currently our biggest challenge. We do not have the person power to run effectively and those who do continually put their hands up are facing burn out. In short, if members don't start contributing to the running of competitions, helping on the committee or in committee supporting roles, then Brisbane competitions may not be able to continue. We're hoping QMA Working Groups and the recent member survey will also help shed some light on ways to resolve this problem.

The other big challenge we've had is a lack of communication and interaction from some QMA, Brisbane Committee and Supporting Position members. We're all volunteers and busy with other life but we cannot function if people don't respond to emails or undertake the duties they agreed to do.

Geographical reports are difficult with RevSport but in June, Irene advised that we had about 265 members in Brisbane Region (of a total of 431 QMA members). QMA Regional Funding Allocation for members between September 2025 – March 2026 was calculated on 296 members.

Jodie raised some issues with QMA Committee about incorrect reporting of GST (which only require some simple fixes) as we are not GST registered. Jim advised he would discuss this with the Auditor.

Jim has provided a summary of the 2025-2026 financials for the Brisbane Region:

First Aid Fees	\$3,055.06	QMA Event First Aid Fees	\$603.42
QSAC Ground Fees	\$4,228.00	(re-imbursed)	
QA Photo Finish Fees	\$600.00	QMA Event QSAC Ground Fees	\$1,262.46
		(re-imbursed)	
		BR Cash Competition Fees	\$2,281.70
		BR Square Competition Fees	\$1,665.10
		BR Online Competition Fees	\$5,394.96
		BR Membership Fee @ \$25pp	\$2,025.00
		(April 25)	
		BR Membership Fees @ \$25pp	\$7,400.00
		(Sep 25 – Mar 26)	
Total Expenditure	\$7,883.06	Total Income (QMA Regional Funding Allocation)	\$20,632.64

Election of representatives at AGM.

Chair – Peter Jenkins.

Deputy Chair – no nominations, Council to pursue.

Secretary – Jodie Schubert.

Treasurer – Jodie to contact Jim.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING POSITIONS: (Optional to be on committee)

Competition Director – Nick Macmillan.

Program Manager – Tamara Paterson.

Equipment Manager (Track/Field) – Peter Jenkins.

Volunteers/Officials Coordinator – Council to pursue

Clubhouse Manager – Tamara Paterson.

Gold Coast Report from Annual Meeting

Date: 12 July 2026
Time: 9am to 10.30am
Location: Runaway Bay
Chair: Christopher Brack
Secretary: Karen Lakin

1. Welcome

- Open meeting
- Acknowledge attendees Karen Lakin Alf Lakin Christopher Brack Grahem Scully Kate Richardson Victoria De-Ruyter Karen Foster Paula Moorehouse Lee- Anne Nelson
- Apologies Scott Beetson Gary Parkinson Michelle Makey
- Quorum was achieved and noted.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept Karen Lakin and no new business has arisen from those minutes.

3. Correspondence

- No new Incoming correspondence or outgoing correspondence at this time.

4. Reports

- All reports referred to general business.

5. General Business

Discuss key agenda items, for example:

- Upcoming competitions and events:
- Two competitions are scheduled for 2026. World Championships in Korea and Pan Pacs in Runaway Bay. Lee-Anne Nelson, Belinda Faulks and Nicolette Hargraves-Smith are listed to compete in Korea. The remaining Gold Coast squad is in off season and preparing for Pan Pacs in November.
- Athlete development remains our highest priority and will continue to be at the centre of our club. Any and all decisions are made with the central objective of giving athletes the best possible chance to perform at whatever level they consider best represents their ability in their chosen event, and to make the experience as enjoyable as possible.

- The financial viability and ongoing management of bank accounts needs to be addressed and has been set aside for future discussion.

6. Future competitions with QA. Benefits to include:

- Better programming
- Accurate and consistent timing
- Meets that run on time.
- Accurate seeding and lane selection
- Better competition
- Access to QA resources
- Properly trained officials

This best captures the conversation regarding the term elitism.

- The assertion that QMA is losing more athletes than it gains is not supported by the evidence and appears to be based largely on the concern that Masters athletes will be competing alongside younger athletes. While it is true that some athletes may not feel comfortable with this format, it is equally true that many athletes are discouraged by the lack of meaningful competition within Masters-only events. For those athletes, competing alongside stronger or younger competitors provides a more rewarding experience and greater motivation to improve.
- A practical compromise would be to continue offering selected Masters-only events while also integrating events into Queensland Athletics competitions where appropriate. This approach provides athletes with choice—those who prefer age-specific competition can still participate in Masters events, while those seeking stronger competition have the opportunity to test themselves in a broader field. Such a model is inclusive rather than exclusive and caters to the diverse motivations of the Masters community.
- The issue of "elitism" was also raised, suggesting that high-performing athletes discourage others from participating. This argument misunderstands the very nature of athletics. Track and field has always been built on the principle of personal improvement through competition. Success by one athlete should inspire others, not deter them. Every athlete, regardless of ability, is ultimately competing against the clock, the tape measure, or the bar, as well as their own previous performances.

- The reality of athletics is that most competitors will lose far more events than they win. That is not a weakness of the sport—it is one of its defining strengths. Athletes develop resilience, perseverance, and a continual desire to improve. Those who consistently win every event are often either competing below their true level or not challenging themselves against stronger competition. Genuine athletic development comes from testing yourself against the best competition available, learning from setbacks, and striving to reach the next level.
- If the objective is to strengthen participation and ensure the long-term sustainability of Masters athletics, the focus should be on creating more opportunities for meaningful competition rather than limiting them. An integrated competition model, supported by selected Masters-specific events, offers a balanced approach that benefits athletes across all performance levels while preserving the inclusive spirit of the sport.

7. Gold Coast Committee 2026/27

Chairperson	Christopher Brack
Vice-Chair	Lee- Anne Nelson
Secretary	Karen Lakin
Treasurer	Karen Lakin
Head Coach	Christopher Brack
Committee Member	Graham Scully
Gold Coast Representative	Christopher Brack
Records	Paul Chaplin

8. Other Business

- No other business arising.

9. Next Meeting

- To be advised

10. Meeting Close

- Meeting concluded 10.30am

TOOWOOMBA REGION:

The Toowoomba region of QMA finally got underway this past season with an enthusiastic committee being well-supported by an equally enthusiastic group of athletes both experienced and new to the sport, as well as a dedicated group of volunteers which we as we all know are necessary for competitions to be held. After finally getting the council paperwork sorted, we started with a “come and try” day in November and continued competitions once a month until March. We were able to run 5 competitions throughout the season with plans to hold up to 10 competitions this coming season.

Thanks must go to the QMA executive for the financial and administrative support they have given to help get the region up and running.

It must be also recognised the support we have received from the Toowoomba Little Athletics club; they have been very generous for allowing us to use their equipment, especially the timing gates. We hold our competition days on a Sunday morning, this allows us to set up tents, the timing gates and other equipment that can then be utilised by the Little Athletics club which compete on Sunday afternoons. Because we run on a grass track there is quite a bit of maintenance that is required to keep the track in good shape. We are lucky that the Little Athletics club have a mower to mow the track as council only mow the infield. There is considerable time and money spent to keep marking the lines on the track especially as the grass can grow quickly during the summer period. We may need to look at some financial and in-kind support to help them maintain the track so that we can continue to use it for our competitions. The relationship we have benefits both clubs and we hope to continue with the relationship well into the future. Without their support we would not have been able to get competitions up and running.

We also need to thank both the Brisbane and Gold Coast regions for supplying us with some surplus throws equipment that we needed. We will soon have our competition schedule finalised for the coming season and we hope that members from other regions will come and visit us and support our new club.

Finally, I would personally like to thank the members of the committee that have helped contribute to a very successful inaugural season of Toowoomba Masters.

Cheers,

Wayne Chesher

Chairperson Toowoomba Region

QUEENSLAND MASTERS ATHLETICS AGM 2026

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Member numbers

As at 30th June 2026, QMA membership stood at 446.

Gender breakdown Male 275 (62%), female 171 (38%)

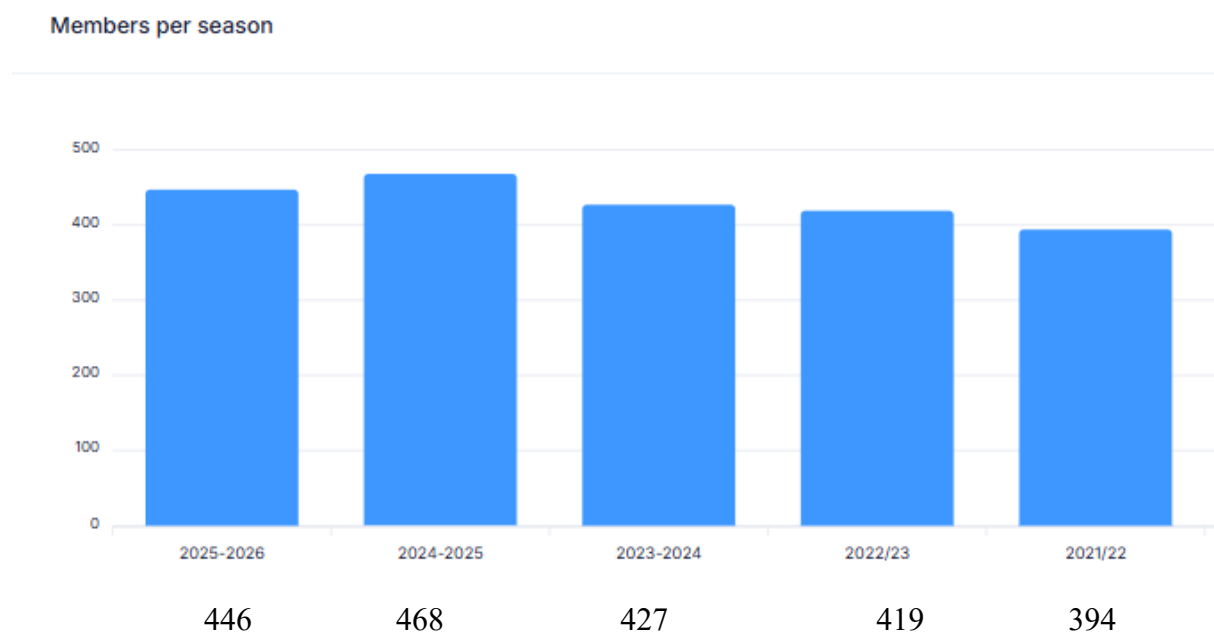
Average age 56

Member numbers in North Queensland

A current membership list is not available, but based on previous years, membership in NQ is estimated at around 100.

The following information relates to southern Queensland members.

Comparison with past 5 years:



Breakdown by Membership type

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER
QMA/QA Base member	311
QMA Concession/QA Base member	85
QMA Competing Life member	4
QMA/QA Platinum Member	1
QMA Half Year/QA Base member	28
QMA Volunteer	17
TOTAL	446

Membership of other QA Clubs:

Over 100 members reported belonging to one (or sometimes multiple) QA clubs.

Most reported were:

Sunshine Coast University Club	12
Brisbane Road Runners Club	9
Toowong Harriers	8
Ipswich District Club	7
Ashgrove Rangers	7

In all, over 30 QA clubs were named.

Notes on membership types

It appears from reports that many members who registered as full members belonged to other QA clubs and could have claimed Concession membership.

It further appears that a number of members who claimed Concession Membership did not provide evidence of their eligibility eg membership of another club, or indication of government concession card.

Irene Davey

QMA Registrar 6 July 2026

2026 Queensland Masters Athletics

Website Report at 2nd August 2026

Key Statistics for last 12 months

Total Site Sessions (Visits) to date: 35,125 (cf. 2024-25 – 32,886)

Total Unique Visitors: 10,600 (cf. 2024-25 – 10,727)

Sessions By Device:

- Mobile – 21,533 sessions
- Desktop – 13,188 sessions
- Tablet – 412 Sessions

Top Traffic Sources:

- Google – 15,326 sessions
- Direct – 16,459 sessions
- Bing – 1,644 sessions
- Facebook – 808 sessions
- DuckDuckGo – 245 sessions
- Yahoo – 169 sessions

Top Pages Visited:

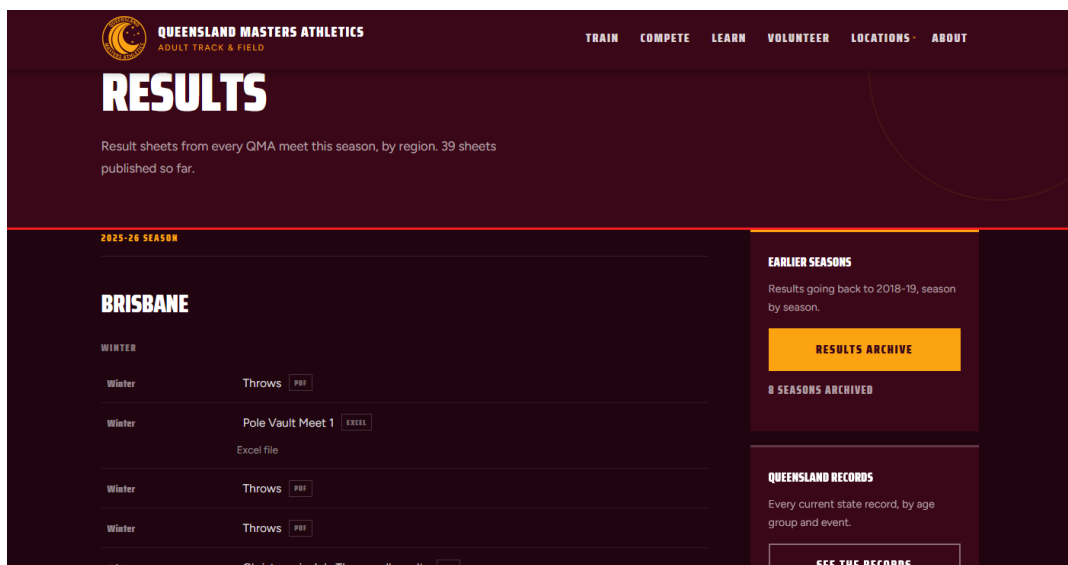
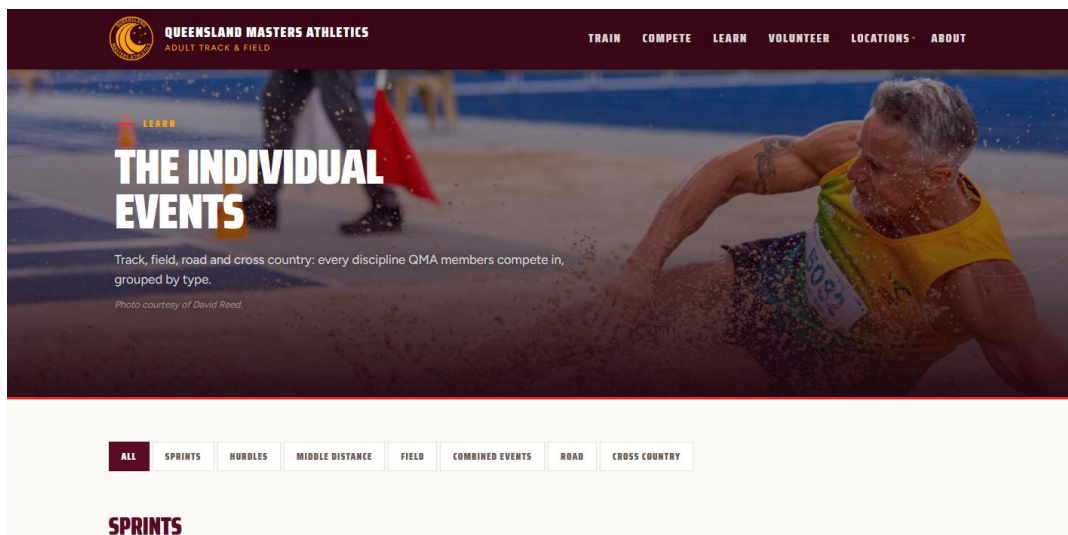
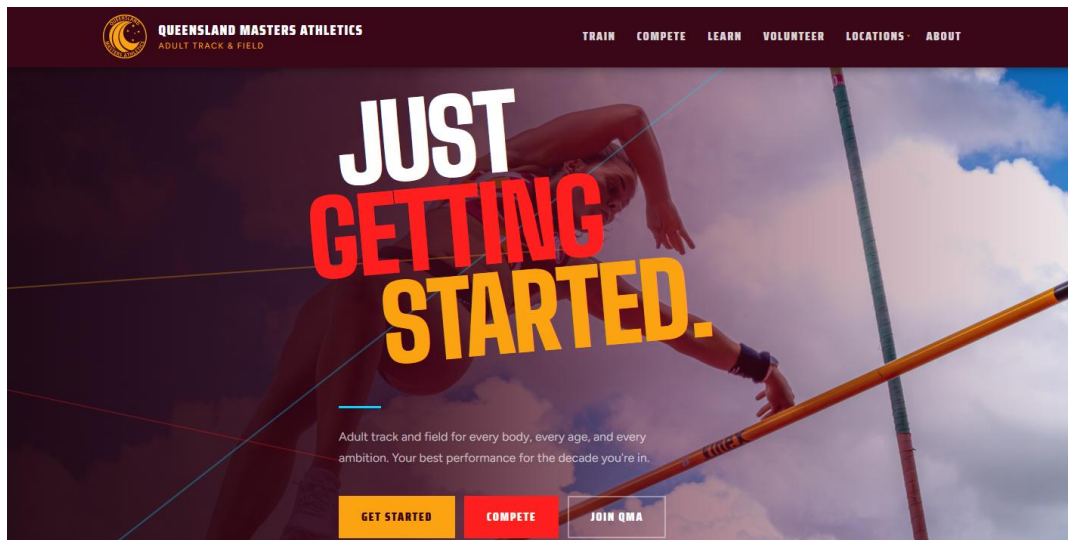
- Home Page
- Brisbane Calendar
- Results Page

General Comments

While total visits to the QMA web site increased in the last 12 months, the number of unique visitors remained static.

Traffic from mobile devices and desktop devices both increased proportionally, while tablet users numbers remained static. As highlighted last year we need to improve the mobile device user experience, and this is being achieved through a complete redesign of the website discussed below.

Shannon Ione has agreed to take over the Webmaster role, and she is well advanced in designing a modern and easily navigable website for QMA. Some example screen shots are included below:



Rob Lasker
Webmaster