

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO QUEENSLAND MASTERS ATHLETICS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6 AUGUST 2022

It is my pleasure to present a summary of the 2021/ 22 activities of Queensland Masters Athletics. At the outset I wish to thank the members of the QMA Management Committee for their service and commitment in attending to the business of Masters Athletics in Queensland and ensuring that all Members were given their best opportunity to participate in a considerable range of athletic activities. The fact that the hosting of the Australian Masters Athletics National Track and Field Championships was included in April 2022 added considerably to the workload and time dedication of Committee members and the success of that competition is testimony to their efforts and the great assistance and support many of our athletes gave at that time.

Australian Masters Athletics Track and Field Championships

Throughout 2021 the Covid Pandemic impacted our activities and required everyone to be health aware during our activities. In fact it was the continued impacts of Covid that led to QMA hosting the National Championships, after we had to withdraw from hosting the 2020 Championship and ACT (Canberra) had also withdrawn from hosting in 2021 and no other State was prepared to step up in 2022. All of the work done during the planning of the 2020 Championships was considered to be transferable to 2022 and so QMA took up the challenge again. Our target of 500 athletes entering was established and we actually received more than 620 entries - an outstanding effort. It was obvious Masters athletes across the country were keen to attend and participate and the easing of State border closures assisted in this regard.

Whilst many people worked on the success of this competition, I want to thank Greg Ison from QA for his excellent support, particularly with attracting a considerable number of Queensland Athletics Officials to work on the events. This ensured quality officiating and was something that all visiting athletes appreciated. Wilma Perkins and Greg were also responsible for the competition programme and schedule - something that is a vital but difficult challenge in a four day multi event and age group competition so again special thanks. Many others of course contributed and rather than leave someone out on behalf of QMA I thank each and everyone for their excellent efforts and support.

QMA State Championships

The hosting of the National Championships meant the QMA State Championships were held at a later date and we were fortunate to be invited to incorporate our championship into an Oceania Regional competition held in Mackay, Central Queensland. This proved a very successful arrangement and my thanks to all the athletes and their families and friends who made the journey and enjoyed a really excellent integrated competition. Special thanks to Yvonne and Tom from the Oceania office for their guidance, management and support and also thanks to Hazel McDonnell who provided a lot of assistance during the weekend.

State Regional Competitions

Across the State our activities were conducted virtually in two distinct seasons - North Queensland during the winter months and South Queensland in the summer months. It is an unusual arrangement and I continue to have concerns that the athletes do not get together very often, but this year this was possible at both the Nationals and the State Championships. In the South the Brisbane and Gold Coast Regions both conducted regular competitions, although Gold Coast were again handicapped by the lack of event facilities and no electronic timing. To assist Gold Coast hold a meaningful Championship the Brisbane Region hosted the competition in Brisbane and it turned out to be a successful arrangement with athletes also using the championship as a final workout before the Nationals. Thankfully it appears as though the situation at Runaway Athletics facility will be improved substantially this coming season and this should help the Gold Coast region rebuild their numbers and host additional competitions.

Administration

During the year ZOOM online technology became the normal method of holding meetings and this worked very efficiently. This meeting style was also utilised by AMA for its meetings and it seems the convenience of participating from home suits the busy lives of Committee persons and representatives of our sport.

As usual there were highs and lows through the season. No coaching courses were held and this needs to be corrected in the coming season. Weather also caused disruptions with storms and heavy rain periods cancelling or impacting competitions. One definite high point was the support given to Brisbane regional meets and QMA track meets by several volunteers who came forward and attended on a regular basis. In photo-finish Jim quickly learned the processes whilst in the control room Jessie and Eling worked very successfully on Meet Manager to assist our competition management. Unfortunately some gremlins crept into the system at times and the issue of new registration numbers caused some concerns before being eventually resolved.

QMA were represented by Vice President Bruce Bodsworth and Finn Connors at the AMA AGM that was also held by ZOOM. Bruce took on a role in marketing and extended his interest to QMA with the production of leaflets car window transfers advertising QMA and Masters activities.

During the year athletes from Queensland continued to achieve outstanding results with many new State and National records achieved. Heather Doherty continues to provide an excellent standard of record and result management in her role as State Statistician and my personal thanks to her for this work. Heather will be working in the coming year to educate two of our members to take on this role in the future - a role that is always in demand due to the efforts of QMA members in their competitions.

Stepping Down

This will be my final report as President of QMA as I will not be re-standing for election and look forward to working with the Brisbane region to assist in their competitions and to spend more time on personal pursuits such as gardening and reviving my love of golf. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to represent our sport at all levels in administration. I am confident QMA will continue to be a force in our sport into the future and wish the incoming Committee every success in the year ahead.

Stan Perkins

QMA President