



Executive Officer Report 2018 AGM

DATE: 29th August, 2018

2018 has been a year of change for Northern Territory Athletics. On the positive has been our re-affiliation with Little Athletics Australia which will prove to be fruitful and prosperous for both parties. We have continued our strong relationship with Athletics Australia and have worked very closely with both parties as the only state or territory that has a united sport approach. Both organisations continue to push towards unity.

Strategically, Athletics NT sought to create opportunities for our developing athletes and coaches. 3 coaching courses have been coordinated this year with the costs being subsidised very heavily for participants. This saw a total of 32 new coaches gain their accreditation. Our developing athletes have been exposed to a range of new competitions with BIMP-EAGA being staged again this coming December and a recent trip to Singapore for 16 athletes resulting in many personal bests. It is very important for the sport that athletes are continually exposed to differing types of competitions and cultures.

On that note Athletics is a banner sport for the upcoming Arafura Games. It was an election promise to bring these Games back to Darwin and whilst the build up has been slow, athletics has been an integral component in the planning. From April 27 to 30 of 2019 Athletics will hold centre stage at these Games which will again host a Para component. Hopefully we see the best para athletes in Australia use this as a qualifications trial for their upcoming European and World Championship adventures.

Athletics NT has also been very active in our remote and indigenous communities having conducted clinics in over 30. The tyranny of distance is real in the NT but we firmly believe there are champions out there waiting to be found.

Not all has been sunshine however. Our sport has seen a drop in registrations of almost 20%. This is something the sport will have to look at collaboratively to come up with new and engaging ways to encourage participation. The role of Athletics NT will need to evolve in order to cater to this and I firmly believe that cross registrations and dual activations across sports will eventuate.

On that note I believe athletics as a sport will need to look at similar options for mass participation events. The Lottoland Mitchell St Million Dollar Mile is an excellent example of an event that encompasses more than one sport with the cycling criteriums splitting the road races. Our other events, The Mother's Day Classic and City 2 Surf have seen even numbers for several years now whilst still being very successful, but both could do with an injection of innovation.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the board. I took on the role with a firm direction to remove the board from operations and to have them focus their knowledge and guidance on the big picture. I truly believe this has been a success for Athletics NT with the office handling operations and the board handling strategy and guidance.

Shane Wylie
Executive Officer
Athletics NT