

President's Report 2009-2010

The past year, 2009-2010, has been exciting and fulfilling for Tasmanian Masters Athletics. Some of the aims expressed by our previous president in last year's report have been realised. There has been an increase in membership stimulated by our new website, distribution of flyers, enthusiastic personal contact, support of members, and smooth running of a wide variety of track and field and out of stadia events. We have also had some good publicity in *The Examiner* and the *Mercury*. Increased participation was evident in areas such as the 10k and the Pentathlons Championships and community involvement is noted in the participation of athletes and officials in the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games and various community fun runs where athletes compete and also act as officials.

The committee has met monthly and worked steadily and persistently between meetings to keep the club ticking over. Thanks to these keen committee members, also to their partners and families for their support. Special thanks to Mike Walker, who vacated the position of President to assume the comprehensive role of Secretary to undertake many hours of correspondence and liaison with committee members and others both within the club and outside the club. Mike worked extremely hard to instigate the Australian and Tasmanian Masters Half Marathon and his experience in club administration is invaluable. We have had regular reports from our Athletics South and Athletics Tasmania representatives (Peter Lyden and Steve Lance) and AMA delegates (Peter Lyden and Mike Walker) as well as from Steve Lance, AMA President. The extensive experience and knowledge of these committee members is most valuable.

The new position of Equipment Director was established earlier and filled by Wayne French. His willingness and methodical supervision of our equipment is already making a huge difference. New equipment has been bought for the Northern Branch.

Amy Hanek is retiring from her position of statistician, a task she has fulfilled with meticulous attention to detail. She has maintained detailed information of results, records broken and clear information on the record requirements. Many thanks to Amy for this valuable contribution.

We are also reviving the position of Treasurer as separate from Registrar which will relieve Mick Stevenson from this job, freeing him to continue the job of registrar/membership and the many valuable tasks he also performs such as work on programs, databases, assistance with newsletter and, in the past, equipment.

Footnotes: Jenny Stevenson (aided by daughter Sarah) has continued her dedicated work to present our valuable and informative newsletter each month. Her lively photos of athletes, officials, social and travel scenes are much appreciated. The angle of human interest is also being encouraged and it is pleasing to note several recent articles from northern members as well as their monthly reports. Two northern members – Gary Armstrong and Neil Hammersley – have been nominated for Life Membership. Their contribution to the club as outlined in *Footnotes* is extremely impressive.

Track and Field and Awards: Sue Hanek has worked extremely hard to ensure the regular Wednesday night sessions run smoothly and has given great encouragement to new members. Thanks also to regular officials Lynne Lyden, Jenny Stevenson, Sharon Willing and Debbie Lance. The season was disrupted by relocation to Abbotsfield Park, Claremont, during Domain track repairs and, unfortunately, the trial of TMA competition on Saturdays did not draw the desired numbers but at least this reassured us that Wednesday evenings *are* the best option. The National Postal Relays which Sue organised were a huge success with excellent participation across the board. Nine teams entered the Postal Relays – 8 of these gained top 3 placings and 2 teams in the W30-39 age group won, achieving Best Performances. The twilight meets combined with Athletics South were also very successful.

The Track and Field athletes now have a social life! Thanks to Alan Coleman's interesting social events we now gather at pubs and cafes after competition on some Wednesday evenings. Alan has also arranged put put golf, bowls and ten pin bowling sessions. The fun runners continue their very social runs and walks with eats afterwards.

Steve Lance, Senior Vice-President, is to be commended and thanked for his liaison with Brian Roe, President of Athletics Tasmania, which resulted in an alliance with AT that allows dual registration and joint Athletic Track and Field Championships. Special thanks to Brian Roe, Richard Welsh, AS and AT officials. The Championships were most successful with our members strongly represented in green and gold uniforms organised so efficiently all season by Debbie Lance. We had our own presentation ceremony and Richard gave us equal publicity in the *Mercury*. Congratulations to Suzy Cole for gaining TMA Athlete of the Year Award with an outstanding year's performance at state, national and world meets. Congratulations to Kate Johnstone who wins the Graeme Cruise Award for the best age-graded percentage of 93.31% for an outstanding time of 9.64 in the W60, 60m sprint. Kate was closely followed by Alan Coleman, John Jago and Philip Clarke who all achieved over 90%. Excellent results! And the Jim Burr Award for service to the club was presented on the mountain to Stan Harrex. Congratulations and thanks to Stan for his years of assistance – at 81 he is an inspiration to us all.

Earlier in March we held the Pentathlons and 10 000 Championships which attracted excellent numbers. Previously there were few throwers but suddenly they all appeared at the Pentathlon Championships. Tracy Canham, a dedicated thrower, has kindly offered to coordinate the throws so we anticipate a great upcoming season.

Australian Masters Athletic Championships: A keen contingent of 24 competitors (plus some partners and other members) flew to Perth at Easter. Last time the event was held in Perth there was only 1 competitor from Tasmania! We had plenty of drama, some injuries and some excellent performances with many medals. Some of the most outstanding performances were by Suzy Cole, John Jago, Kate Johnstone and Mick Stevenson.

We are very proud of the achievements of our top athletes nominated for the 2009 AMA Awards:

Sprints/Hurdles: Alan Coleman, Kate (Kerry) Johnstone, Debbie Lance; **Middle Distance/Steeple:** Suzy Cole
Distance: Peter Lyden; **Walks:** Jean Albury; **Multi Events/Relays:** Sharon Coad, Carolyn Davis, Debbie Crawford, Francesca Smith.

The highlight of the AMA presentations for us was the outstanding Hall of Fame Award for the inspirational Shirley Brasher. Many thanks to Joy Walker and Bruce Campbell for their extremely thorough preparation of the submission.

World Championships: At the World Masters Athletic Championships in Lahti, Finland, TMA had 7 competitors. The medal tally was 1 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze medals and 4 Tasmanian records. Suzy Cole, Kate Johnstone and Alan Coleman were outstanding. At the World Masters Games in Sydney there were 8 TMA competitors who won 4 silver and 5 bronze medals. Suzy Cole was again outstanding. At the World Masters Indoors Championships at Kamloops, Canada, Amanda Coombe, the first TMA athlete to compete in these games, came home with a relay silver medal.

Keen thrower, Craig Hicks our representative, has a small band of athletes in the North West. Jim Claxton, dedicated Northern leader will report on his team's activities in the North and Mike Walker will comment further in his Secretary's report on out of stadia events and other matters.

Looking forward we hope to continue our development as a club led by the committee whose diverse skills combine to form a great team. One aspect I would like to focus on is the provision of general information to athletes in the form of coaching and a basic guide to encourage more confidence as officials. Finally, I extend good wishes to all members for a happy and healthy year ahead on track, road and countryside.

Lynne Andrews