

## President's report 2019/2020

It has been a pivotal year for athletics in WA with the amalgamation of Open and Little A's into Athletics West. MAWA has been in discussion with the new body about how we can work together for joint benefit. All our athletes are now registered with Athletics West, leading to a National 'all of sport' register. We have also aligned our membership year to that of Athletics West so that we have a common renewal date of 1<sup>st</sup> October to correspond with the start of the Track & Field season. In recent discussions we will look to combining with Athletics West in a State Cross Country Championships that will have categories from Juniors through to Masters, although this will not replace our Jorgensen Club Championships.

It was of course hugely disappointing to have to shut down all our events towards the end of March. Our Track & Field athletes had been training so hard and well for upcoming State, National and World Championships. Spare a special thought for Barbara who as ever had meticulously prepared for what would have been an excellent State Championships, only to see it cancelled just a few days before the 2 Championship weekends. We took delivery of 200 programmes from Paul Martin only to carry them directly from the car into our recycle waste bin.

Before the lockdown we saw some of our athletes in great form, headed by Paul Jeffrey with his decathlon world record. Barbara Blurton, Marg Saunders, Andrew Brooker, Warren Button and Sue Coate were all strong record breakers.

On the road we welcomed some new strong male runners to challenge the long dominant Kim Thomas. Yuri Hotminsky, Roberto Busi and Paul Watson excelled with Paul being a convincing winner of the age-graded handicap. More recently Vlad Ixel joined and will clearly make his mark. On the female side, Gillian Young's dominance at the age-graded level continued.

During the lockdown I would like to thank Silke for rejuvenating our closed facebook and Vic for his Vetrin Extra initiative. We are lucky to be back so early – please see the excellent editorial from Vic in this edition on our return.

We recognize that members did not get full value from their subscriptions this year, so we will hold our fees at the same level. Gary believes we can still break even, but the club can withstand a small loss if that occurs. As a gesture to our older members, we are going to offer free membership to everyone over 90.

Three members of the committee are leaving this year. Delia has done a fantastic job as Secretary and will be sorely missed. Janne has taken control of the trophies and medals portfolio and has pulled that into great shape. Andrew would have liked to continue, but has decided to leave for health reasons.

Richard Blurton  
President