

## **2014 State Championships report**

Once again our State Track and Field Championships was a most successful event. The 33<sup>rd</sup> championships were again held predominately at the WA Athletics Stadium with only the 10,000m being held at ECAC. The sorry state of the track at ECAC means that venue is not really suitable for state competition in sprints and middle distance.

Unusually the event was after the National Masters championships due to that meeting not being held at Easter. You can have your say on the timing of the Nationals by completing the survey on our website. However, despite there being a few injuries carried over from Hobart, we had an excellent number of entries. It seems that 160 is now the benchmark! It was great to see so many of our newer younger members taking part and there were some fine performances from them. This year the 5000m walk was held as part of the main weekend, a decision justified by the much higher number of athletes taking part in that event.

The championships were highly competitive, sometimes fiercely so, but as always, the rivalry was friendly and sportsmanlike. In the pentathlon Paul Jeffery broke the Australian M40 record (subject to ratification) and we almost had another Australian record from high jumper Chris Anderson, but maybe the cooler conditions were just not right on the day. There were 6 State records broken during the two weeks, less than recent years, but maybe that just reflects the high standard of our records, many of which have been broken during the past year. The update of State Records will be posted on the website in April.

Unfortunately there was not enough time at the end of Sunday to present the Anne Shaw award, many having already left the stadium. It is probably not a surprise that David Carr retains this wonderful trophy for his 400m run of 95.14%. David has had a most successful year and was voted the “outstanding male athlete of 2013” at the Nationals in Hobart. The actual trophy will be presented to David at the AGM in August.

And lastly, but by no means least, I'd like to thank the many officials and club members who contributed to the smooth running of these championships. Without them there would be no event and I know the athletes themselves really appreciated all their hard work.

Barbara

