

MINUTES

137th Annual General Meeting of Athletics New Zealand Incorporated
Saturday 28 September 2024
Taupo International Motorsport Park, 463 Broadlands Road, Taupo

Meeting opened at 5.30pm

In Attendance:

Member Club Representatives (eligible to vote): **Brett Addison** (Hamilton City Hawks Athletics Inc), **Tania Boyer** (Pakuranga Athletic Club Inc), **Paul Craddock** (Auckland City Athletics), **Jacqueline Cope** (Olympic Harrier & Athletic Club), **Jason Cressingham** (Hawera Harriers and Athletics Hawera), **Andy Ford** (Wellington Scottish Athletics Club), **Phillip Harrison** (Lynndale Athletic & Harrier Club), **Vanessa Hodge** (Palmerston North Athletic & Harrier Club Inc.), **Rachel Hulls** (Hastings Athletics Club), **Victoria Humphries** (Wellington Harrier Athletic Club), **Michael Iddon** (North Harbour Bays Athletic Club), **Sally Kerr** (Fairfield Amateur Athletics Club), **Ziyu Lu** (The Y Marathon Club), **Ian McDonald** (Caversham Harrier & Athletic Club), **Alec McNab** (Whanganui Harriers), **Alex Merrilees** (Athletics Taieri), **Joan Merrilees** (Aspiring Athletics Club), **Nick Moore** (Owairaka Amateur Athletic & Harrier Club), **Richard Potts** (Hastings Harrier Club United), **Kevin Prendergast** (Christchurch Methodist Harrier Club), **Annette Purvis** (North Canterbury Athletic Club), **Graeme Raill** (Frankton Athletic and Harrier Club Inc.), **Tia Rakei** (Taupo Athletic Club), **Richard Rutherford** (Napier Athletic Club), **Derek Shaw** (Athletics Nelson), **Malcolm Smith** (Athletics Tauranga), **Nigel Stewart** (Athletics Whangarei), **Robert Strong** (Napier Harrier Club), **Michael Taylor** (Bellevue Athletics Club), **John Tylden** (Whakatane Athletic & Harrier Club), **Richard Willis** (Trentham United)

President: Sharee Jones

Vice President: Andrew Stark

Life Members (not acting as Club Representatives): Alec McNab, Annette Purvis, Dianne Rodger, John Tylden

Member Club and Associate Member Observers: Evelyn Armstrong (Caversham Harrier & Athletic Club), Angela Clark (Olympic Harrier & Athletics Club), Murray Clarkson (Waikato Bay of Plenty), Paul Hamblyn (North Harbour Bays Club), Andrew Langman, Dale McMillan (Palmerston North Athletic & Harrier Club), Fay Riley (Waikato Bay of Plenty), David Sim (Athletics Auckland), Judith Stewart (Athletics Whangarei), Craig Wilson (Frankton Athletic & Harrier Club)

Athletics NZ Board: Cameron Taylor (Chair), Courtney Ireland, Gen Macky, Ian Olan, Catherine Rossiter-Stead, Dr. Chris Tooley.

Athletics NZ Staff: Cam Mitchell (Chief Executive), Raylene Bates, John Bowden, Lisa Brown, Jason Cameron, Susan de Alwis, Kim Mickle, Mark Pickering

1. Roll call and welcome

Cameron Taylor (Board Chair) opened the meeting welcoming all to the 137th AGM and then acknowledged the following Life Members:

Life Members: Alec McNab, Annette Purvis, Dianne Rodger, John Tylden.

Voting Eligibility

120 Member Clubs are eligible to vote at the AGM, having paid their Club Member fees more than 60 days before this meeting as required in the Constitution and notified to clubs. The requirement for a quorum is 30 clubs (25% of eligible clubs).

With 37 clubs registered and 30 eligible to vote present at the meeting the quorum requirement was met and the meeting was declared open.

2. Proxies

There were no Proxy votes received.

3. Returning Officer and Appointment of Scrutineers

Life Member Dianne Rodger was appointed as Returning Officer.
Two scrutineers were elected: Sharee Jones & Andrew Stark.

MOVED by Cameron Taylor, SECONDED by Jason Cressingham (Hawera Harriers.)
MOTION CARRIED

4. Apologies were received from:

- Dame Valerie Adams, DNZM, ONZM, Life Member Geoff Annear, Life Member
- Ian Boyd, ONZM, Life Member
- Ellerslie Amateur Athletic & Harrier Club, Auckland Hatea Run Club
- Peter Jack, QSM
- Kiwi Athletic Club, Wellington
- Leith Harriers & Athletic Club, Otago
- Mark Harris, Wairarapa Track & Field Club
- Murray McKinnon, QSM, Life Member
- Don Mackenzie, Life Member
- Dave Norris, ONZM, Life Member
- Onslow Amateur Athletics Club, Wellington
- Craig Purdy, Member Advocate
- Tony Rogers, Athletics Wellington
- Graham Seatter, Life Member
- Trevor Spittle, Life Member
- Alan Stevens, MNZM, Life Member
- Rod Syme, ONZM, Life Member
- Ashley Taylor, Life Member
- Jill Waru, Central Hawkes Bay Amateur Athletic Club

Cameron Taylor MOVED and Paul Hamblyn (North Harbour Bays Athletic Club) SECONDED that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Valedictions**

The following people in our sport passed away during the 2023/24 Membership Year **April 2023 to March 2024** as listed in the Annual Report:

- Lloyd Walker, 2 May 2023
- Michael Browne, 9 June 2023
- Mhyre Oman, 3 July 2023
- George Gibson, 13 July 2023
- Bruce Perry, 30 July 2023
- Daryll Gilliland, 5 August 2023
- Ron Palenski, 22 August 2023
- Kathryn Fraser, 30 August 2023
- Daniel Reese, 11 September 2023
- Donal Smith, 27 September 2023
- Raema Collins, 29 October 2023
- Jim Power, 8 November 2023
- Sir Murray Halberg, 30 November 2022
- Jim Power, 8 November 2023
- Noel Taylor, 23 November 2023
- Mike Hartshorne, 16 December 2023
- Ross Young, 20 January 2024
- Paul Lothian, 8 March 2024
- Vern Walker, 22 March 2024

The meeting then acknowledged the following people who had passed away more recently:

April 2024 - Present

- Brian Tyler, CBE, 10 May 2024
- Jan Lothian, 22 May 2024
- Mike Murray, 14 June 2024
- Joe Hall, 8 July 2024
- Alan Adamson, 13 July 2024
- Steven Hollings, 7 August 2024
- Doug McClymont, 8 August 2024
- Bryan Bates, 22 August 2024
- Kevin Hickman, ONZM, 23 August 2024
- Bev Findlay, 27 August 2024
- Dr. Dougal Thorburn, 3 September 2024

The meeting honoured those individuals who had passed away by observing a moment's silence.

6. **Matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes**

There were no matters arising.

7. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2023 AGM

Cameron Taylor MOVED and Nigel Stewart (Athletics Whangarei) SECONDED that the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 9 September 2023 at the Sport and Rugby Institute, Massey University, Palmerston North were confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Annual Report

The Chair spoke to the Annual Report noting the recent transition in leadership and the changing environment post-COVID, which has led to a significant embarkment of stakeholder engagement and a revision of our strategic direction as Athletics New Zealand looks to advance ourselves and take the sport to the next level. The Chair noted that we will continuously evaluate our funding structure to increase self-generated revenue, allowing us to invest further in the growth of our sport.

Cameron Taylor expressed sincere thanks to the Athletics NZ Board, including President Share Jones, for sharing their expertise and volunteering their time to ensure sound governance and positioning our sport for the future.

Chief Executive Cam Mitchell expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Athletics community and noted the value of the strength of the sport. The reorganisation into regional teams will have a positive impact on the sport. Cam noted that in resetting the vision and purpose the goal is to ensure that every touch point with Athletics New Zealand is excellent, with quality experiences delivered to participants.

Cam outlined the position of Athletics in the sports market and emphasized the importance of staying relevant. A key factor in achieving this is ensuring that revenue continues to be a driving force. Cam emphasized the connective values of the sport, particularly Collaboration – working as one team across clubs, centres and Athletics New Zealand; and Excellence – this remains a key focus, with staff continuing to drive towards the highest standards whilst striving to support the broader Athletics community.

Catherine Rossitter-Stead, Board member, provided a brief update on the work being undertaken with regards to the recent changes in the Incorporated Societies Act.

9. Financial Report

Athletics New Zealand recorded a surplus of \$4,231 for the financial year and has total equity of \$470,379.

Athletics New Zealand continue to enjoy strong relationships with Sport New Zealand and High Performance Sport New Zealand, support of sponsors and grant agencies.

Athletics New Zealand is committed to financial stability and supporting Clubs, Centres and individual members.

The Chief Executive responded to questions from members regarding insights on the current trends related to Class 4 funding for clubs; trends in declining membership and unaffiliated clubs and the long term view on Rotorua hosting the Road Mile and 5K Championships.

Cameron Taylor MOVED and Victoria Humphries (Wellington Harrier Athletic Club), SECONDED that the Annual Report, including the Financial Performance Report, be adopted and approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 10. Election of Office Holders** – As the elections were not contested, appointments were confirmed by acclamation.

10.a Patron

The Board of Athletics New Zealand is honoured to nominate Sir John Walker to continue as our Patron.

DECLARED BY ACCLAMATION

10.b Board Appointments Panel – Club appointee (1 position to be filled)

Alan McDonald was nominated by Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty to be the Club Appointee to the Board Appointments Panel.

DECLARED BY ACCLAMATION

10.c Board Members – the association has seven Board members in total

There are four incumbent Board Members:

Courtney Ireland
Genevieve Macky
Catherine Rossiter-Stead
Dr. Chris Tooley

Courtney Ireland outlined the process undertaken for appointment and election of Board Members on behalf of the Board Appointments Panel (BAP).

Courtney explained the BAP composition, process and decision (as previously communicated to members). The BAP was made up of Claire Kearney (Independent), Alan McDonald (Members' representative) and Courtney Ireland (Board representative).

A total of 20 applications were received.

Based on the requisite skills the Board identified as being advantageous to complement the current Board members, six candidates were selected and interviewed on 04 August 2024.

Following the interviews, the BAP made their decision for the appointed candidate and the recommended candidates.

The BAP members were encouraged with the interest the sport is attracting and are confident that the Board and Athletics New Zealand will be well served by those chosen for the appointed and recommended positions.

There were three Board member positions available for the year.

The Board Appointments Panel appointed a person to fill the "appointed position", however, subsequent to that decision, the individual withdrew their name for consideration for appointment at the Annual General Meeting. As there was insufficient time under the requirement in the Constitution for the Board Appointments Panel to reconvene and appoint another candidate, the appointed slot remains vacant and will be filled under the "Casual Vacancy" provisions of the Constitution following the Annual General Meeting.

Two further positions were recommended for election by the Board Appointments Panel:

- **Ian Olan** (Auckland)
- **Cameron Taylor** (Auckland)

The other applicants for Board Member positions declined to go forward to the election process.

The meeting agreed by acclamation and announced the successful candidates.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Long Service Awards

The Chair invited Annette Purvis (Convenor of Awards Committee) to introduce the awards. There were no Long Service Award nominations received this year.

External Awards during the past year:

- *Kerry Hill*, Arthur Eustace Award for Coaching.
- *Geoff Lienert*, QSM Queen Service Medal for services to sports administration particularly cycling and athletics.

Annette made the point that the Long Service and Merit award winners are listed on the Athletics NZ website and encouraged members to review this list when making nominations.

13. Merit Awards

Annette explained that these awards follow nominations from the sport and there can be no more than five awarded at each AGM. The Merit Awards are in recognition of continued, valuable and above expectation service to the sport and only awarded to those who are highly regarded in the athletics community.

- Dianne Rodger spoke to the Merit Award presented to Fay Riley.
- Michael Iddon spoke to the Merit Award presented to Paul Hamblyn.
- Dianne Rodger spoke to the Merit Award presented to Murray Clarkson.
- Annette Purvis spoke to the Merit Award presented to David Sim.

The Merit Award Pins were presented to each recipient by President Sharee Jones,

14. Life Membership

Life membership is awarded in recognition of exceptional service to the sport over many years and only awarded to those who are highly regarded in the athletics community.

Annette announced that one nomination for Life Membership had been received.

- John Bowden provided a summary of service supporting confirmation of Life Membership for Arch Jelley.

The meeting confirmed the Life Membership nomination unanimously.

John stated that Arch had been informed of his Life Membership nomination and had expressed his gratitude for the honour. The Life Membership pin will be presented to Arch at his home at a later date.

Cameron Taylor acknowledged all award recipients and recognised their contribution and thanked the Awards Committee for their work. Cameron Taylor moved and John Tylden seconded the motion.

DECLARED BY ACCLAMATION

15. Acknowledgement of retiring Board members

Cameron acknowledged retiring member Jo O'Sullivan and thank her on behalf of the Board for her commitment and valuable contribution and support over the past 6 years.

16. The date and venue for the 2025 AGM will be announced at a later date.

17. Close meeting from President

President Sharee Jones then addressed the audience, thanked everyone for attending the AGM, and declared the meeting closed.

Sharee Jones declared the 137th AGM closed at 6.30pm.