

Oceania Masters Athletics
2025 Assembly Annual General Meeting

Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre, Brisbane and Zoom

9 September 2025

MINUTES

1.0 Meeting opened: 4.10pm

Attendees: Christine McCahill, Brenda Davis (New Zealand); Rauru Faau, Wesley Faau (Cook Islands); Judy Farrell, Angela Stephens-Kinch (Australia); Cameron Burrows, Jill Taylor, Stewart Foster (via Zoom), Joe Begley, Suzie Gaynor, Jayne Hardy, Andrew Stark, David Lobb (Council Members); Lynne Schickert (WMA representative and Life Member); Jan Banens (Public Officer); Bob Schickert, Bob Banens, George White, Wilma Perkins, David Lobb (Life Members); Elizabeth Lobb (Cook Islands – Observer).

Apologies: Stan Perkins (Life Member)

2.0 Quorum and business of meeting

Joe advised that the requirements for a quorum for the meeting were met. In line with the Constitution, the business to be dealt with at the meeting would be to confirm the minutes of the previous Assembly Annual General Meeting, deal with any business arising from these minutes, and receive and adopt the annual reports (provided by the president and secretary) and audited financial statement (provided by the Treasurer). The election of office bearers and other positions had taken place at the previous Annual General Meeting, and as such there would be no elections at the meeting. There had not been any changes proposed to the Constitution or By-Laws, nor had there been any remits, notices of motion or matters of general business notified for the meeting.

3.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

3.1 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting (Suva Fiji 5 June 2024) Minutes accepted. Moved David, seconded Lynne. Carried

3.2 Matters arising: Nil

4.0 Reports

4.1 President's Report

Cameron provided a report on his activities for the period since the previous Assembly Annual General Meeting (see Attachment 1). Report accepted.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Joe provided a report on the association's activities for the period since the previous Assembly Annual General Meeting (see Attachment 2). Report accepted.

5.0 Audited Financial Statement

Stewart advised that a statement of OMA's financial position had been circulated (see Attachment 3).

Administration expenses in the preceding 15 months had involved setting up the new OMA identity including new website, logo, letterhead and flag. The Australian bank account had been split into two parts with a new account for the Championships in Brisbane. The audit had not been completed at this point. The auditor had asked for answers to a number of questions. Moved David, seconded Jill that Stewart's report on the financial statements be accepted. Carried.

6.0 General discussion

The meeting discussed the issue of OAA's attitude towards OMA. Bob Banens commented that when possible or necessary changes to OMA's Constitution were being considered the existing provision for OAA to be represented on OMA's Council and Assembly should be included insofar as whether this representation was worthwhile. OMA did not operate through OAA and vice versa and as such the provision for OAA to be represented on the OMA Council and Assembly and participate in General Meetings should be reviewed. Lynne Schickert said it was disappointing to hear of the difficulties OMA was experiencing in its relationship with OAA and it would be in order to bring the matters involved to the attention of WMA. Lynne said OMA had needed to be revived following the decision at the Special General Meeting in Fiji in 2023 for it to become part of OAA as a Masters Commission. It was pleasing to see that this had happened successfully with the current OMA Championships in Brisbane providing strong evidence of this. The number of participants demonstrated convincingly that masters athletes wanted and supported the Championships. Cameron Burrows said that in terms of the next OMA Championships it would be a case of throwing a rock in a pond based on the Championships in Brisbane and letting the ripples grow so as to achieve a greater level of participation across OMA member countries in 2027. David Lobb raised the issue of elections at the 2026 AGM and whether a split in the Council positions due for election could be introduced. Cameron said this would be among changes to the Constitution to be considered and voted on at the AGM or a SGM.

7.0 Meeting closed: 4.36pm

Note: In advising the business of the meeting Joe adhered to what was specified in the Constitution. This overlooked past practice where the WMA representative to the meeting provided a report as did representatives of OMA member countries. Unfortunately, this meant WMA executive vice president Lynne Schickert was not afforded an opportunity to provide her report to the AGM. See Lynne's report on behalf of WMA at Attachment 4.

President's report

I would firstly like to sincerely thank my fellow Council members for their hard work and dedication over the past year – Jill, Joe, Stewart, Suzie, Jayne, David and Andrew. I also thank others who have provided their time and expertise including Jan Banens, Clyde Riddoch, Maria Cimino and Bianca Keehn. Pulling together all the necessary arrangements for an Oceania Masters Athletics Championships in 2025 has certainly challenged us but the outcome we are seeing this week in Brisbane has made it all worthwhile.

The first year of the current council's term initially saw us working to establish where we sat administratively and financially, what initial priorities and what needed to be actioned straight away (annual returns, website, bank account access). Once these matters were sorted, we turned our focus to the 2025 Championships, the first standalone Championships since 2019 in Mackay. COVID made its unwelcome impact on international sport resulting in the cancellation of the planned 2021 Championships on Norfolk Island. Following this, the Championships in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, in 2023 and in Suva, Fiji, in 2024 were part of a wider Oceania Athletics Association-organised athletics competition.

Brisbane was determined to be the most suitable location for the return of the standalone Championships, and I thank Queensland Masters Athletics President Nick Macmillan, the QMA committee and LOC members Wilma Perkins, Stan Perkins, and John Milne, for being on board from the start. Your support and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Moving into the second year of the term, Council priorities will include:

- reviewing and updating as necessary the OMA Constitution to ensure we are compliant with the current Associations Incorporation Act and also are in step with accepted practices for governing an organisation such as OMA
- working towards the 2027 Oceania Masters Athletics Championships with New Zealand Masters Athletics
- engaging with the 22 Member and Associate countries that comprise Oceania Masters Athletics.

Secretary's report

In accordance with Section 21.6 of the Constitution I am required to provide a report to this Assembly annual general meeting a report on the Association's activities for the previous year or period, that is, since the last Assembly General meeting.

The OMA Council has met on a regular basis over the last 15 months following last year's Annual General Meeting in Suva on 5 June.

Meetings have been held on 13 June, 15 July, 4 October, 10 November, 22 December in 2024, and in 2025 on 16 February, 16 March, 28 April, 1 June, 6 July, 10 August and 31 August.

So 11 meetings in total, all of which were held via Zoom with the exception of the meeting on 4 October which was an in-person meeting in Brisbane to coincide with the Australian winter throws championships.

Additionally, there was a regional meeting on 21 August 2024 as part of WMA Outdoor Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.

From its first meeting on 13 June last year, the primary focus of the Council over the last 15 months has been on planning, organising and delivering the 2025 Championships now taking place here in Brisbane.

The Minutes of that 13 June meeting state: *"Discussion took place on the holding of the next OMA Championships and the need for this to resume in the alternate year to the WMA outdoor championships. The general view was that if at all possible, the Championships should be held next year [2025]...and that Queensland Masters Athletics should be sounded out to see if they would be agreeable to being involved in a Championships staged in Brisbane..."*.

The in-person meeting of the Council in Brisbane on 4 October saw the Championships take more definite shape. Initial discussions with Queensland Masters Athletics (QMA) occurred during the Australian Masters Athletics winter throws championships which QMA was hosting here at QSAC at the time. In subsequent Council meetings planning and preparations for the Championships picked up pace.

One area where we have not made as much progress as we would have liked is in relation to engagement with the smaller member countries of OMA.

As secretary I have endeavoured to establish communications with these OMA members but it has largely been one way traffic.

Typically, I receive only one or two responses to emails sent to the athletics associations representing masters athletes in these countries, for example, in relation to updating contact information, an offer of assistance in relation to attendance at these Championships, and more recently, a request for Member countries to nominate delegates for today's annual general meeting.

The activities of the Association over the year ahead are informed to some extent by what has transpired over the preceding 12-15 months. These are the 2027 Championships, renewing efforts to

improve engagement with engagement with OMA members, and consideration of changes to our Constitution.

There is also the matter of addressing the advice provided to Australian Athletics by Oceania Athletics Association that it (OAA) did not recognise OMA and nor did it recognise our Championships. As a consequence, Australian Athletics adopted the position that it too did not recognise OMA or our Championships...and as a consequence of that we had to make alternative arrangements for personal accident and public liability insurance for our Championships.

Financial Statement

Oceania Masters Athletics Association (Incorporated)

	2025 AUD	2024 AUD
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 August 2025		
Current Assets		
ANZ Business Account (NZ)	8983	10954
ANZ Premium Call Account (NZ)	5130	8935
ANZ Term Deposits(NZ)	52780	57524
ANZ Business Essential (AUD)	944	648
ANZ Championships Account(AUD)	87567	
Net Assets	155404	78061
Income and Expenditure Account		
<u>Championships</u>		
Income		
Entry Fees	108214	
Interest	3	
Total Income	108217	
Expenditure to date		
Medals	10718	
Race packs,bibs,pins etc,	7551	
Officials uniforms,travel	2381	
	20650	
Balance	87567	
<u>Administration</u>		
Operating Expenses		
Brisbane meeting/Suva 2024	7321	5033
Badges and shirts	659	
Bank Fee	93	55
Logo	750	
Flag	163	
Web Site and Zoom fees	1101	509
Trade Mark Registration	330	
Exchange Variation	2102	5686
Administration		89
	12519	16405
Income		
Bank Interest	2295	1870
Exchange Variation		696
Total Income	2295	2566
Operating Loss	-10224	-13839
Accumulated Funds		
Balance 1/9/24	78061	82240
Less loss for period	10224	4179
	67837	78061
Championship funds	87567	
Total Funds as at 31 August 2025	\$155,404	\$78,061

**OCEANIA MASTERS ATHLETICS****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Brisbane Australia, 9 September 2025****WMA REPORT****Greetings**

Thank you for your invitation to WMA to attend the Oceania Masters Athletics Council Annual General Meeting. As President Margit Jungmann is unable to travel at this time, I have been asked to attend to represent her on behalf of WMA.

Margit sends thanks to the OMA team that represents your region on WMA committees:

Rochelle Airey, Legal Panel
Joe Begley, Organisational Committee
Bob Schickert, Competition Committee
Judy Farell and Jill Taylor, Marketing and Communication Committee
Wilma Perkins, Women's Committee
John Clark, Finance Committee
Clyde Riddock, WMA Records Task Force

It is my pleasure to report to this meeting on the major activities in which the WMA Board and its Council has been involved during 2024-2025.

Overview 2024***OMA Elections - Fiji***

Following the elections in Fiji in 2024, the revitalization of OMA into an independent stand-alone organization, and represented by OMA President Cameron Burrows on the WMA Council, has been welcomed by the Masters Athletics family. The WMA Board extends its congratulations to the Oceania Masters Athletics Council on achieving this outcome.

Gothenburg Sweden

Preparation for the WMA Stadia championships in Gothenburg was the major challenge for 2024. This also involved finalization of the revised WMA Constitution which was then successfully adopted at the General Assembly during these championships. Approval was given to update the WMA By-laws and the By-Laws have now been put to Council and adopted. The Contract for WMAC Daegu 2026 was signed in Gothenburg and several meetings were held there with the Daegu delegates, and held again in Gainesville in 2025, to provide guidance with preparations for 2026. Appointment of committee members to assist the Board in its work for the next two years was also done during 2024.

The Gothenburg championships were a great success and with more than 8000 participants from 110 countries competing, provided strong promotion for masters' athletics throughout the world. Despite the distance involved for travel, it was pleasing to see that **192** Oceania athletes travelled to Sweden to participate – 174 Australia, 19 New Zealand, 1 Papua New Guinea.

Overview 2025

Gainesville, USA

The Gainesville Indoor championships were well promoted to all Member Federations and were very successfully organised with more than 3,400 participants from 98 countries competing. Again, despite the distance involved for travel from the region, it was pleasing to see that **62** Oceania athletes participated in Gainesville – 58 Australia, 4 New Zealand.

Oceania Masters Officials

In addition to the Oceania athletes who participated at the past two WMA championships, the deep relationship WMA has with OMA is fostered by regional officials who contributed to the success of the events:

Peter Collerton, NZ
Christine Graham, Aus
Michael Holmes, Aus
Toni Petts, Aus
Bob Schickert, Aus
Matthew Vine, Aus

Applications are now open on the WMA website for appointment as an IVO for the 2026 WMA Daegu championships. Appointment of Oceania representatives on WMA Committees also contributes to the overall professional conduct of our organisation.

Out-of-Stadia events

Championship events are being held in partnership with:

WMRA (mountain running in Meduno, Italy) and
IAU (24h in Albi, France and 50k in Delhi, India)

Bids Expressions of Interest were sought for

- The stand-alone WMA Marathon in 2026, and an inspection visit will take place in October 2025.
- Bids for the 2029 Indoor and 2030 Stadia championships will open 22 September 2025 and close 27 February 2026, with inspection visits planned during May/June 2026.

Inspection visits

2028 WMA Stadia

Lima Peru was the only candidate with the necessary requirements in place to host the 2028 WMA Stadia Championship. Four WMA Delegates undertook an inspection visit in May to check facilities, and

to meet and establish relationships with the LOC, Government officials and the major stakeholders. Following a successful visit, approval has been given by Council for hosting the event. A presentation by Lima delegates will be included in the agenda for 2026 Daegu General Assembly.

WMAC 2026 Daegu “One Year to Go” Site Visit

From July 13-17, four WMA delegates visited Daegu, Korea for the “one-year-to-go” inspection.

This visit enabled the WMA team to evaluate the rate of progress with current preparations and give guidance to the LOC on the next stages of planning and delivery. This included review and feedback on

- the competition venues
- the appropriate staffing and technical infrastructure required for the event
- accommodation and organisation required for a successful championship in 2026, and again,
- the opportunity to meet and establish relationships with the major stakeholders for WMAC 2026.

A further Technical Visit by three WMA Competition staff will be undertaken in April 2026 to ensure all competition requirements are in place or being finalised. To ensure continued progress, key people from both organisations will resume monthly meetings. Dates for work to be done over the next 12 months and for meetings and events scheduled during the championships have been agreed.

The WMA report on the Site visit was very positive about the high level of preparation for WMAC 2026 which has already been undertaken. A Press Conference was held during the visit, and extensive promotion via social media and newsletters is being undertaken. Draft designs for medals, diplomas and other certificates have been submitted to WMA for approval and are being reviewed.

WMA Council – Ongoing Activities

World Athletics

The next twelve months will see WMA continuing its partnership with World Athletics which provides opportunities for masters’ athletes to compete in WA events.

Council Meetings and National Member Contact

Council meetings will continue to be held on-line to cover ongoing general matters. I am pleased to report that at the recent WMA Council meeting, it was agreed that WMA to again provide a grant to the 6 regions to support hosting and delivery of their regional championships.

Continued contact with Member Federations will be done by WMA once registrations open for the 2026 Stadia championships in Daegu. WMA’s prime focus for the year ahead will of course be on achieving high levels of entry for the Daegu championships. To attract entries similar to that for Gothenburg (8,000+), the Daegu LOC is providing information brochures to all forthcoming Regional championships and a supply has been sent to OMA for distribution here. The Oceania region is well situated for ease of travel and relevant time-zones and OMA members are asked to extensively promote this event and to encourage strong representation by our regional athletes.

WMA Gallery of Champions

The WMA Gallery of Champions is a meaningful project and the concept was introduced in Gothenburg in 2024 as an integral part of WMA. The next induction of champions will be held in Daegu 2026. The call for nominations will go out to Member Federations in September. To ensure exposure for our champions is maximized, one of several goals for the Gallery is to develop collaboration between the WMA Regions and their WMA champions so they are well recognized for their induction into the

Gallery. Oceania has two inaugural inductees: Julie Brims and Heather Carr. Their achievements could be recognized during a championship with announcements during their events and by them being given a role as medal presenters.

WMA Council Message – Scam Emails

It has been brought to WMA's attention that scam emails from someone on the WMA Board asking for 'help' are being received within the wider Masters community. These type of scams are becoming more sophisticated each time so please be aware. The email address is nearly identical to the real one, and they are now using the WMA logo. WMA advises that:

A WMA Board, Council, Manager, and/or Committee member will never ask you for help with a payment, make a call, send an email containing personal information, instruct you to make a deposit, follow a suspicious link, or engage in similar actions.

If you receive such an email, do not reply and report it instead to the WMA Secretary General. It is our responsibility to stay safe from these fraudulent schemes.

Conclusion

OMA Championships, Brisbane

The high level of participation at these championships being held this week in Brisbane is a testimony of the support throughout the region. My personal congratulations and those of the WMA Board are extended to the OMA Council, the local organizing committee, all officials, volunteers and other support personnel who committed to achieving this outstanding result with entries from 723 Oceania and international athletes.

On behalf of WMA, my thanks are also extended to the OMA Council for taking on the work needed to ensure the WMA family in the region is well-informed and well-supported with competition opportunities at all levels.

Lynne Schickert

Executive Vice-President
World Masters Athletics

9 September 2025