



YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 / 2017



BERNIE CURTIN
1915-1995
1995-1996
1997-1998
1999-2000
2001-2002
2003-2004
2005-2006
2007-2008
2009-2010
2011-2012
2013-2014
2015-2016
2017-2018
2019-2020
2021-2022
2023-2024

BERNIE CURTIN
1915-1995
1995-1996
1997-1998
1999-2000
2001-2002
2003-2004
2005-2006
2007-2008
2009-2010
2011-2012
2013-2014
2015-2016
2017-2018
2019-2020
2021-2022
2023-2024

BERNIE CURTIN
1915-1995
1995-1996
1997-1998
1999-2000
2001-2002
2003-2004
2005-2006
2007-2008
2009-2010
2011-2012
2013-2014
2015-2016
2017-2018
2019-2020
2021-2022
2023-2024

BERNIE CURTIN
1915-1995
1995-1996
1997-1998
1999-2000
2001-2002
2003-2004
2005-2006
2007-2008
2009-2010
2011-2012
2013-2014
2015-2016
2017-2018
2019-2020
2021-2022
2023-2024

CONTENT

- 9** President's Report
- 11** CEO's Report
- 13** Operations Report
- 16** Education Report
- 21** Competition Report

Our Mission

“Through the enjoyment of athletics, develop positive attitudes and a health lifestyle for our children, families and community.”

LITTLE ATHLETICS VICTORIA

Membership Statistics Season 2016/2017

| Eastern Metro Region | | Gippsland Country Region | | Northern Metro Region | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Box Hill | 440 | Bairnsdale | 98 | Coburg | 323 |
| Camberwell / Malvern | 477 | Casey | 383 | Craigieburn | 132 |
| Cockatoo | 0 | Corner Inlet | 31 | Diamond Valley | 605 |
| Collingwood | 284 | Cranbourne | 311 | Essendon | 416 |
| Croydon | 245 | Leongatha | 192 | Hume | 81 |
| Doncaster | 432 | Moe | 126 | Keilor | 442 |
| Kew | 365 | Orbost | 40 | Kilmore & Districts | 90 |
| Knox | 503 | Pakenham | 185 | Lancefield / Romsey | 113 |
| Nunawading | 307 | Sale | 125 | Present / Reservoir | 187 |
| Ringwood | 237 | Taralgon & District | 163 | Sunbury | 209 |
| Sherbrooke | 146 | Warragul | 112 | Whittlesea City | 331 |
| Yarra Ranges | 182 | Wonthaggi | 135 | | |
| TOTAL | 3,618 | TOTAL | 1,901 | TOTAL | 2,929 |



| Northern Country Region | | Southern Metro Region | | Western Country Region | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Albury | 182 | Brighton | 306 | Apollo Bay | 0 |
| Alpine | 41 | Caulfield | 341 | Ararat | 65 |
| Barooga | 59 | Chelsea | 234 | Ballarat | 253 |
| Benalla | 114 | Dandenong | 89 | Bar-rook | 20 |
| Bendigo | 407 | Frankston | 427 | Beaufort & District | 67 |
| Corowa | 0 | Mentone | 339 | Camperdown | 111 |
| Echuca / Moama | 165 | Moorabbin | 241 | Casterton | 64 |
| Howlong | 29 | Mornington | 311 | Charlton | 0 |
| Kyabram | 74 | Oakleigh | 92 | Cohuna | 78 |
| Kyneton & District | 110 | Sandringham | 441 | Colac | 81 |
| Lavington / Jindera | 76 | Seaford | 158 | Dimboola | 22 |
| Mansfield | 121 | Southern Peninsula | 160 | Edenhope | 31 |
| Mt Beauty | 47 | Springvale | 199 | Hamilton | 42 |
| Murrindindi | 59 | Waverley | 245 | Horsham | 116 |
| Nathalia | 119 | Westernport | 99 | Kerang | 43 |
| Rochester | 77 | TOTAL | 3,682 | Maryborough | 107 |
| Rutherglen | 51 | | | Portland | 70 |
| Seymour | 195 | Western Metro Region | | Stawell | 42 |
| Shepparton | 127 | Altona | 168 | Swan Hill | 89 |
| Wangaratta | 293 | Bacchus Marsh | 257 | Warrnambool | 230 |
| Wodonga | 267 | Brimbank | 201 | TOTAL | 1,531 |
| Yarrawonga / Mulwala | 81 | Corio | 265 | | |
| TOTAL | 2,694 | Geelong | 819 | | |
| | | Gisborne | 162 | | |
| | | Melton City | 160 | | |
| | | South Melbourne & District | 258 | | |
| | | Werribee | 356 | | |
| | | Williamstown | 370 | | |
| | | Woodend | 51 | | |
| | | TOTAL | 3,067 | | |

ASSOCIATION STAFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Interim CEO | Shane Bertrand (to Dec 16) |
| Chief Executive Officer | Anthony McIntosh (from Dec 16) |
| Finance, Governance & Risk | Julie Green |
| Education & Development | Shane Bertrand |
| Business Assurance & Special Projects | Graham Lucas |
| E Commerce & Technology | Kim John |
| Competition & Events | Michael Masseni |
| Communications & Marketing | Lachlan Rayner |
| Centre Development | Debbie Baskin |
| Membership Development & Liaison | Alana Durham (to Sep 16) Linda Leverton (Nov 16 to Mar 17) |
| Joint Officials Training / Accreditation | Andrea Hallet |
| Joint Receptionists | Sian Mezzatesta Josy Caon (to Feb 17) |

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| President | Steve Ryan |
| Director - Finance | James van Beek |
| Director - Education and Vice President | Paul Bray |
| Director - Competition | Colin Segota |
| Director | Sherrie Boulter |
| Director | Michael Wallace |
| Director | Steven Coulson |

LIFE GOVERNORS

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1974 | Trevor Billingham (dec) | 1983 | Bill Field | 1992 | Ian Fisher | 2003 | Dave DaFonte (dec) |
| 1975 | Alan Triscot | 1983 | Peter Taylor (dec) | 1992 | Wes Heywood | 2003 | Beth Girdwood |
| 1977 | Max McLennan (dec) | 1984 | Maureen O'Callaghan | 1992 | Margaret Robertson | 2004 | Jeff Hawkins |
| 1977 | George Nevitt (dec) | 1984 | Randall Robinson | 1993 | Irene Harris | 2005 | Gwen Timmins |
| 1979 | Alan Brumley (dec) | 1984 | John Treanor (dec) | 1994 | Ray Canning | 2005 | Peter Frenken |
| 1979 | Jim Jamieson (dec) | 1985 | Peter Bailey | 1994 | Gordon Major | 2007 | Christine Doubleday |
| 1979 | Jim Mason (dec) | 1985 | Don Blyth | 1995 | John Doherty (dec) | 2007 | Robert Zuber |
| 1979 | Bruce Seeley | 1985 | Norm Esh | 1995 | Meggsie Harvey | 2009 | Neville Harris |
| 1979 | Norm Walsh | 1985 | Alan Johnson | 1995 | Peter Jones (dec) | 2009 | Fred Wilmshurst |
| 1980 | Pat Harris | 1985 | Andrew Osborne | 1995 | Ian Sparkes | 2009 | Judy Wilmshurst |
| 1980 | Mal Hastie | 1985 | Bruce Reynolds | 1996 | Judy Jones | 2010 | Ian Brown |
| 1980 | Keith Maughan | 1985 | Bill Toohey | 1997 | Campbell Cain | 2010 | Graham Lucas |
| 1980 | Mary McLennan (dec) | 1985 | Ken Wyles (dec) | 1997 | Golda Cain | 2011 | Marion Sparkes |
| 1980 | John Spicer | 1986 | Charles Gorman | 1997 | Malcolm Francis | 2012 | Steve Cowburn |
| 1980 | Bill Vincent (dec) | 1986 | Eric Wenckowski | 1998 | Ian Thompson | 2013 | Carol Timmins |
| 1981 | Ron Brown (dec) | 1988 | Bernadette Barnett (dec) | 1999 | Allen Carey | 2014 | Margaret Carty |
| 1981 | Noel Deller | 1988 | Peter Hendy | 1999 | Tammy Fry | 2014 | Andrew Stirling |
| 1981 | Gordon Murphy (dec) | 1991 | Lawrie Barnett | 1999 | Pam Mulholland | 2014 | Rosalie Wilson |
| 1982 | Bert Edwards (dec) | 1991 | Tim Berriman (dec) | 1999 | Shirley Scherger (dec) | 2015 | Debbie Baskin |
| 1982 | Wes Osborne (dec) | 1991 | John Guerra | 2000 | Don Baker | 2015 | Shaz Cairns |
| 1982 | Lockie Purton | 1991 | David Tracy | 2000 | Robyn Van Lieshout | 2016 | Steven Lopes |
| 1982 | Jim Stewart | 1992 | Lois Daffy (dec) | 2002 | Noel Rasti | 2016 | Gordon Loughnan |
| 1983 | Les Armstrong | 1992 | Keith O'Donohue (dec) | 2002 | Merle McBean | | |
| 1983 | Margaret Caldecoat (dec) | 1992 | John Ellem | 2002 | Sylvia Cook | | |



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I wrote in my report last year that our focus on the future will continue to see our sport evolve. In order to do so, we need to ensure the contribution at all levels from the Board, Staff, Committees, Regions, Centres and their Committees, Coaches, Officials and the countless volunteers each week is focussed on achieving the same goals. Our updated strategic plan addresses a number of key areas in terms of Strengthening the Foundation (Governance & Risk Management), Member Engagement and Growth (Retention, Marketing, Inclusion) and Building the Capacity of our Centres, Officials & Coaches (Education, Reward & Recognition, Communication, Succession Planning). Unfortunately there is no single solution to the challenges we face in this competitive environment. And without the support of all those mentioned above we will struggle to implement initiatives and meet the expectations of modern families.

There are a number of proposed changes to our constitution which allow the Board to structure and equip itself to assist the office and Centres to achieve the best outcomes going forward. These changes better align us with the VicSport Good Governance Framework. It is important to understand, none of the changes afford the board additional powers or rights nor do they diminish the rights of our Members.

In early December we announced the appointment of Anthony McIntosh to the position of Chief Executive Officer. Anthony has been a welcome addition to the Staff and his contribution in the past seven months have seen significant positive change within the office and throughout the Association.

Our achievements over the past twelve months are well documented throughout the reports in this Year in Review. I trust you will take the time to reflect on your contribution and the contribution of those closest to you and feel proud of what you achieved in that time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to advise after many years of being part of the leadership team for our wonderful Association, I'll be stepping down as State President. Whilst I am still passionate to see us embrace the challenges we face as we continue to evolve and work hard to meet the expectations of today's savvy and time poor society, It's an opportunity now for others to lead our Association into the future.

With a heartfelt thank you to everyone I've been closely associated with over the past, I can honestly say I've admired the efforts of the committee and board members I've served alongside, I've appreciated the support of those who have encouraged me to challenge myself over the years to stay involved and I can honestly say I'm gobsmacked by the commitment and dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who turn out to our events year in year out making the experience of athletics the best it can be for our most valuable assets – the athletes and their families.

As the outgoing President, I am truly proud of our achievements and how well we all work together for the betterment of the sport, making Little Athletics so much fun irrespective of what level we participate in.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, I wish you all success for the upcoming season.

Steve Ryan
President



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Back in April at the Australian Little Athletic Championships in Sydney, I had the pleasure of spending an hour or so in the company of Alan Triscott, one of the Little Athletics movement's founding fathers. As a newcomer to the sport, this was a fortuitous moment. "It was a phenomenon", he would repeat over and over, when describing the ridiculously rapid rate of growth Little Aths experienced in the mid-1960s. While those heady days have past, and the rate of growth receded somewhat, the legacy of over five decades of careful oversight and passionate continual improvement have produced a sport that understands itself well, with a strong culture and sound foundations.

Little Athletics is a hippy child, born in the same year – 1964 - the mop topped Beatles came to Australia, and a time of great societal change. Cut to 2017, and while the Melbourne Town Hall Portico from where the Beatles stood and waved to over 100,000 fans hasn't changed a jot, the view from the Portico, and the rest of Victoria, has changed enormously. Our community is vastly larger, more diverse and more complex. With this comes the odd challenge and many, many opportunities. I believe Little Athletics has a bright future in positioning itself to pursue these opportunities. And this has strongly guided the thinking behind the key directions of the newly signed off 2017/18 – 2019/20 Strategic Plan.

Little Athletics competes strongly in a red-hot field for the leisure time of our existing and potential athletes. The recreation options available to for young Victorians – city or country - are vast. Families becoming conditioned to look for shorter, continually engaging forms of leisure, sport and entertainment. While Little Aths remains somewhat at odds with these new formats, we must compete in this market as well in future to attract and retain new members into our sport. There are swathes of society hidden to many of us – the disabled community, non-English speaking communities and others – for whom joining a Little Athletics Centre is a big ask. In part, therein lies the future of our sport. The challenge for us in the coming three years is to open those gateways.

Thanks to the terrific efforts of the staff and Board of LAVic throughout 16/17 who have endured some challenging times and much change.

The staff and Board acknowledge the contribution to Victorian Little Athletics made by former Chief Executive Officer, Dean Paulin. Dean provided leadership to LAVic for almost 10 years - a giant effort. We wish him well for the future.

I acknowledge the individual and collective contributions of our major partners – sponsors, services and products. Your support to our sport is invaluable, we appreciate it and we thank you. I'd also like to acknowledge the strong relationships LAVic enjoys with our fellow athletics agencies – Little Athletics Australia, Athletics Victoria, Athletics Australia and the Victorian Athletic League. We work together in the same building, and we work together well to realise more and improved athletic opportunities for the people of Victoria and Australia.

Thanks to the thousands of parent volunteers that help run weekly Centre competitions; thanks to the dedicated Centre committee folk that take on the big responsibilities year after year; thanks to the Region personnel who provide invaluable support and advice to the Centres and the LAVic office; thanks to the officials and coaches dedicating hours of their time, and fountains of knowledge.

As we formally bring 16/17 to a close, 17/18 awaits and I wish all every success for the new season.

Anthony McIntosh
Chief Executive Officer



OPERATIONS REPORT

Marketing

Facebook Advertising and Engagement

Following a review undertaken in 2016, it was identified that LAVic needed to adopt to new social trends of online social media and increase our online reach. In August 2016, LAVic commenced a concerted Facebook campaign off a base of 4,458 'Likes'. In the ensuing 11 months, this has grown to 9,445 and increased our total reach on Facebook 112%.

Live Streaming

For the first time in LAVic's history, two of our State Championship events were recorded and made available through our YouTube channel (LAVic TV). At the SUBWAY State Relay Championships, 62 finals were recorded. After a strong response to this initiative, the decision was taken to Livestream the State Track and Field Championships. This two day event was simultaneously streamed to Facebook and YouTube, amassing 47,354 views to date on the videos. On top of the Livestream, all 111 finals were uploaded individually to YouTube.

New Centres

Two new Centres were established during 17 / 18 at Beaufort & District (Western Country Region) and Alpine (Northern Country Region). Congratulations to those communities! We warmly welcome you to the fold, and we wish you every success. The significance of the establishment of new Centres for LAVic and the Little Athletics movement in general shouldn't be underestimated: new committees, new families, new athletes and new thinking. All helps maintain a vigorous and growing sport.

Royal Children's Hospital

The Royal Children's Hospital remains our major beneficiary of fundraising activities, as has been the case for over 40 years.

The LAVic office, Regions and Centres drove two main fundraising activities: Relaython, held on the 4th February

2017, and the RCH Good Friday Appeal 'Kids Day Out', held on Good Friday, 14th April.

43 Centres participated in Relaython 2017, where the object is to raise money while athletes run continuous laps over a 3 hour period. Congratulations go to the athletes of Wangaratta LAC for completing 322 laps in the allotted time. Amazing! Honourable mentions go to Craigieburn LAC (271) and Keilor LAC (263). Thanks to all the participating Centres for their efforts.

As a significant fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital cause, LAVic was invited to run kid's athletics activities at the Good Friday Appeal 'Kids Day Out' event at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. A team of LAVic staff, volunteers and their families facilitated 568 X 50m running races and other activities from 10am to 5pm engaging over 3000 children. As part of formal proceedings, LAVic handed a cheque to the value of \$42,825.84 (proceeds of Relaython and other fundraising initiatives) to the RCH, live on television, with the support of over 40 Little Athletes from 6 Centres.

LAVic History book

LAVic is in the final stages of completing the creation and publication of a book detailing the history of Little Athletics in Victoria. Produced with the assistance of Thornbury-based Bounce Books, the project has been enthusiastically championed by LAVic President, Steve Ryan, and managed by widely respected and popular long-time volunteer and current staff member, Debbie Baskin.

The book is chock full of text, matched with incredible images, telling the story of the journey of our sport over its five decade existence.

The publication, entitled, 'A Sporting Phenomenon – The Story of Little Athletics in Victoria', is due for publication and sale in November 2017. 1000 copies will be made available and offered to the Little Athletics community preferentially.



10
COLLINGWOOD

STAWELL
Tasman Score
400 METERS

STAWELL



STAWELL 400 METERS RACE
2014

Centre Awards 2016

Congratulations to the individuals and Centres recognised for their achievements for the 15/16 season, as awarded at Minifest 2016.

- Best Membership Growth: Corner Inlet
- Best Membership Retention: Howlong
- STG Official of the Year: Andrew Duncan
- Volunteer of the Year: Doug Cobbledick
- RACV Top Centre Awards:
 - 1st : Werribee
 - 2nd: Casey
 - 3rd: Chelsea
 - 4th: Caulfield
 - 5th: Geelong
 - 6th: Altona
 - 7th: Diamond Valley
 - 8th: Springvale
 - 9th: Essendon
 - 10th Williamstown

Centre Awards 2017

Congratulations to the individuals and Centres recognised for their achievements for the 16/17 season, as awarded at CentreFest 2016.

- RCH - Good Friday Appeal Overall Top Centre: Diamond Valley
- RCH – Good Friday Appeal Per Capita: Ararat
- State Championship Awards: 1st Knox; 2nd Geelong; 3rd Mentone
- Host Centre Award: Bendigo
- STG Official of the Year: Paul Ryan

- Top Centre Award – Regions:
 - SMR – Brighton
 - NMR – Craigieburn
 - EMR – Camberwell Malvern
 - WMR – Altona
 - NCR – Kyabram
 - GCR – Warragul
 - WCR – Colac
- Top Centre Award – Overall: Colac
- Best retention - Edenhope

Membership

19,726 members registered in the 16 / 17 season, up 1054 (5.6%) on the previous year. This was just short of the forecast 20,000 athletes. History shows that athlete registrations surge during Olympic years, mirroring community interest in athletics. Accordingly, with the staging of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games came the elevated registration numbers, although falling short of initial estimate of 20,000. Again, 19,000 registrations are forecast and budgeted for in 17/ 18.

With the Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast in March 2018, an excellent opportunity presents to showcase elite athletics competition to the community and it's hoped this inspires a solid cohort of first time competitive Little Athletes all across Australia.

EDUCATION REPORT

Athlete Education

The primary aim of our athlete education programs is to assist our athletes in developing motor skills within the track and field environment. Our events and programs range from those targeting the most basic skills for our youngest athletes up to those targeting more complex skills for our older athletes as they transition to senior athletics.

On Track Program

The On Track program is a resource for Centres & Schools in providing a fundamental motor skills development program, coaching resource and flexible competition model for our younger athletes.

The new Interactive PDF format proved very successful during the 2016-2017 season with both Centres and Schools taking up the program. The advantage of the Interactive PDF is the portability and functionality that allows users to present the program without excessive resources. The Interactive PDF is provided to every participant in the On Track Workshops who are being trained to become co-ordinators at their Centre, as well as all Centres as an ongoing resource. The program is split into 5 Levels, with Level 1-2 being the main focus for the U6-U8 age groups. Levels 3-5 are building upon the skills learnt at L1-2 and focus more on the athletics skills. Levels 3-5 have been extensively re-developed during the last year with a major release to occur in August 2017.

Little Athletics Australia (LAA) commissioned Gemba to review the Little Athletics product for all age groups. Particular emphasis was placed on the U6-U8 age groups as the starting point for the athletes to experience Little Athletics. The report was presented and debated in April at the LAA conference, where it was approved to implement a skills-based program as a national product following a series of trials. On Track has been selected as the approved program for these trials. A working party consisting of representatives from each State including our State On Track Co-ordinator – John McCall is tasked with the responsibility of assisting and guiding the implementation process for all 500 Centres throughout Australia. The results of these trials will be reviewed over the next 12 months prior to further implementation.

Jetstar U6-U8 State Carnival

This initiative, commenced in December 2014, combines skill development and modified competition for our youngest athletes. 292 athletes attended the Carnival at Doncaster in late November 2016. The focus of this event is to provide education to the athletes and parents on the importance of skills development for athletes in this age bracket in a fun and inclusive environ-

ment.

Skills Clinics

The U9-U10 Skills clinics attracted 102 athletes from across the State, which was conducted in late September. These clinics focus on athletic skills development in the basics of Run, Jump and Throw, as the fundamentals of all events conducted in Little Athletics.

The U11 Skills clinics conducted over 2 days in late September is highly regarded as one of our most important clinics. 139 athletes attended both Nunawading and Doncaster. Athletes are shown correct technique in all ten U11 events, and parents have the rare opportunity to listen to the coaching to gain further insights into the events. Participants are also given details on further athlete pathways for JDS and beyond. An important presentation to both the athletes and parents is conducted by Emma Poynton – Podiatrist, who provides information on correct footwear for the athletes, with their runners and spikes. Details on the causes of injuries, including knee and heel pain, which occurs frequently with athletes in this age group who are starting their peak growth phase is also provided.

The U9-U16 Race Walking clinic was conducted late October with 36 athletes attending. The coaches, including an International athlete and coach provided valuable information to the athletes on technique, training methods, strength and flexibility.

Junior Development Squad - (JDS)

JDS is our major education program for our athletes in the U12-U16 age groups. It involves seven half-day training sessions from October to August each season, with optional involvement in the JDS Camp and the Athletics Victoria (AV) Junior Track & Field Championships. During the 2016-2017 season, JDS had 324 members who met the qualifying standards.

Over 160 JDS athletes competed at the AV Junior Championships in February & March 2017. Of those, 39 athletes were registered only with LAVic, with the rest being dual AV/LAVic members. A large proportion of Top 8 finishes and numerous medals were achieved by JDS athletes, with several athletes making the Victorian team for the National Championships and one becoming a national champion in 2 events. Overall the JDS athletes perform extremely well on both the Victorian and National stage.

The JDS Camp was conducted in January 2017 over 4 days, with 89 members attending. In addition to normal track and field training, sessions were also conducted in strength and conditioning, stretching, pool recovery and Pilates, as well as the popular social program.



Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC)

The new 2 day version of the ALAC was conducted in Sydney in April 2017. The Victorian team finished 3rd for the U15 Multi-Event Teams Championship and 3rd in the U13 Teams Championship. The U15 Multi-Event Championships consisted of the same 7 events as conducted in Victoria for the first time at ALAC. The 200m hurdles event was added to the U13 Teams Championships. Numerous medals and PB's were achieved by the Victorian athletes in both age groups. This new 2 day format will be improved next year with changes to the timetable and format at ALAC on the Gold Coast less than 2 weeks after the Commonwealth Games, the venue will be Runaway Bay, which is a training venue for the Commonwealth Games.

LAA National U15 Camp

The National camp is conducted at the AIS in Canberra. The focus of the camp is at the high performance level for U15 athletes who are looking at the next steps in their athlete pathway into Athletics Australia (AA) development squads and national teams. LAA ranks all athletes nationally following their performances at the State Track & Field and State Multi-Event Championships in their U14 year. LAA then selects the top 100 athletes in Australia to attend the camp across all events. Victoria had 20 athletes selected in 2016. The athletes spent 4 days training and participating in workshops conducted by leading Australian coaches and current international athletes in the world class facilities of the AIS.

Coaching Education

The primary aim of our coaching education programs is to enable parents, teachers and other volunteers to assist children to perform basic track and field skills.

Introduction to Coaching Course - (ITCC)

Though not an accredited coach training course, the ITCC was developed by the Australian Track & Field Coaches Association (AT&FCA), in conjunction with LAA, to provide practical guidance in the delivery of the basic models of track and field events for primary school age athletes. The ITCC is vital to the ongoing success of coaching in Centres, introducing volunteers to the basic ideas of coaching. 168 participants attended ITCCs during the 2016-2017 season at both metro and regional venues over 11 courses.

During 2016 the future of the AT&FCA was becoming unclear, with a decision being made in December 2016 to disband. LAA decided that to ensure the ITCC remains a product offering for Little Athletics; it should purchase the IP rights of the ITCC. LAA

now owns these rights and the development of the course will be under the control of LAA.

On Track Workshops

An important part of this program is the training of new presenters. John McCall, the LAVic On Track Co-ordinator, continues to provide outstanding training sessions, combining his knowledge of the program with his skills as a primary school PE teacher. The ability to effectively deliver the content of the program is as important as the content itself.

There were 4 State workshops conducted in the 2016-2017 season with 67 participants attending. A growing trend with these workshops is the number of older athletes attending; they are a valuable resource that Centres can use to assist in the delivery of skill development to the athletes in the U6-U8 age groups.

Race Walking Judging Seminar

In conjunction with the Race Walking Coaching clinic, an opportunity was given to parents to be trained as Race Walking judges. There were 15 parents who attended a Judging seminar, who then participated as judges of a modified competition during the Coaching clinic. This combination of theory and practice assists parents in becoming better judges.

Coach of the Year

To help recognise the efforts that coaches play in developing our athletes, LAVic has two annual coaching awards. The Coach of the Year award recognises effort displayed at all levels of the coaching operations of LAVic, while the Bryan Neighbour Centre Coach award recognises the efforts of coaches who mainly concentrate on Centre coaching.

Due to the timing of the AGM and Gala Dinner, we are listing the winners of our awards for the last 2 seasons.

The winner of the Coach of the Year:

Season 2015-2016 was Jason Hodson- Southern Peninsula

Season 2016-2017 was Mike Donato – Knox.

The winner of the Bryan Neighbour Centre Coach Award:

Season 2015-2016 was John Alchin – Brimbank

Season 2016-2017 was Fran Attard – Knox.

The Bryan Neighbour Memorial Coaching Development Fund

This scholarship fund was established to assist in developing young coaches involved in the operations of LAVic with their education costs, coaching membership costs, travel and equipment costs, and to provide mentoring opportunities. The fund recognises the invaluable work that Bryan Neighbour undertook across his life to develop coaches at all levels. In season 2016-2017, Tanya Higgs, Lachlan Freestone and Bianca Hansen were the recipients of the Bryan Neighbour Memorial Coaching Development Fund.

Bernie Curtin Memorial Trophy

It was with much sadness that we farewelled the former Education Director – Bernie Curtin in August 2016. Bernie's involvement with Little Athletics started in the 1980's when he was at the Dandenong Centre with his 3 sons. In 1998 he moved to the Ringwood Centre when his youngest son and daughter started Little Athletics. Over 30 years of involvement at all levels of the Association, saw Bernie become a much loved figure of the sport. Bernie was a character, always vocal but most importantly committed to improving the opportunity of our athletes and parents. The Education committee wanted to honour the legacy of Bernie Curtin by dedicating a perpetual trophy in his name. His joy for the Multi-Events afforded us an opportunity to create such a trophy. The winner of the Boys and Girls U15 State Multi-Event Championships will receive a trophy each and their names will be added to the perpetual trophies. The inaugural recipients of the Bernie Curtin Memorial Trophy are Zoe Cunningham – Mentone and Lachlan Jorgensen – Essendon.

School Sport Victoria (SSV) Athletics Sub-Committee

SSV has formed various sub-committees that include representatives from school regions and State Sporting Associations. The Athletics sub-committee includes representatives from SSV, LAVic, AV, AA and the Australian Sports Commission. In providing opportunities for student athletes, the sub-committee reviews: the athletics calendar to try to avoid event clashes; and the competition rules to ensure consistency where possible. It also provides education opportunities for the training and development of PE teachers in athletics, with particular emphasis on officiating and coaching.

Sport and Recreation Victoria – Supporting Victorian Sport & Recreation grant program

During 2016 LAVic were successful in applying for a 3 year grant through Sport and Recreation Victoria under the program of supporting Victorian Sport. The 3 strategic initiatives of the application focussed on the following:

- U6-U8 Skills development

- Inclusive programs and policies: including development of Multi-Class athletics and an accessibility action plan, with a club health check resource
- Women in Sport: High performance coaching opportunities.

The funding received from the grant will assist LAVic in delivering these key programs and initiatives. As announced at Centrefest 2017, the following are a direct result from the SRV grant.

- Further development of the On Track Interactive PDF for Levels 3-5.
- Launch of the Region On Track co-ordinators
- Creation of a Multi-Class skills clinic
- Appointment of Richard Colman OAM – Dual Paralympic Gold medallist as the LAVic Ambassador for Multi-Class athletics
- Launch of the Women in Sport- Coaching scholarship.

Throughout the remainder of 2017 and into 2018, these initiatives will be further developed and released for the benefit of our athletes, volunteers and coaches.

Acknowledgements

The programs and events summarised above do not happen without the dedication and commitment of a group of hard working coaches and volunteers. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Jason Hodson filled in as the Education & Development Co-ordinator during the several months that Shane Bertrand was Interim CEO. Jason's ability to jump in and quickly continue with the education programs with limited assistance was much appreciated. Our thanks goes to Jason for his understanding and flexibility with his role and commitment.

Many thanks go to the current and former members of the Coaching & Education Committee during the last 12 months: Shane Bertrand, Jason Hodson, Wayne Dyball, Bernie Curtin (Dec), Andrew Stirling, John McCall, Gordon Loughnan, Duane Girton, Heather Lamb and Mike Donato.

The final thank you goes to our valued colleague and friend, Michelle McIntyre. Michelle is the administrator and a Team Manager for JDS and ALAC; she is always there to provide support, guidance and above all assistance that is greatly appreciated.



COMPETITION REPORT

Season 2016-17 has been a strong participation year from a Region & State competition perspective with an increase in all event entry numbers over the 2015-16 season. Relays entries were up 10% (2437 – 2193), Multi-Event up 4% (693 – 665), Track and Field up 5% (3411 – 3227), Road Relays up 5% (170 – 179) and Cross Country 9% (1048 – 953).

Multi-Class

An exciting addition to the LAVic competition calendar this past season was the Multi-Class Track and Field event. This was an opportunity for athletes of all abilities to compete at the State event for the first time ever. We hosted four events and had 19 competitors from LAVic, School Sport Victoria and the Special Olympics. We're looking forward to this event growing and developing for the years to come.

Stawell Gift

LAVic in partnership with the Stawell Athletic Club, were able to offer 225 Little Athletes and their families, the opportunity to compete in the world famous Stawell Easter Gift carnival.

Our athletes competed on the immaculately manicured lawns of Central Park in front of large crowds in perfect, sunny, conditions. The program, with events over 100m, 400m, 800m and 1600m, was keenly contested. Channel 7 telecast the feature event – the Telstra Stores Little Athletics Victoria 400m – across Australia, giving our sport great profile.

Thanks to our sponsoring partners, Telstra Stores, and to our hosts, the Stawell Athletic Club, for availing this opportunity to our athletes and families.

| Event | Month | Venues |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Region Relays | Nov 2016 | Various venues across Victoria |
| State Relays | Dec 2016 | Lakeside Stadium - Albert Park |
| State Multi-Event | Jan 2017 | La Trobe University Bendigo Athletics Complex |
| Region Track & Field Championships | Feb 2017 | Various venues across Victoria |
| State Track & Field Championships | Mar 2017 | Lakeside Stadium - Albert Park |

The Board of Management acknowledges the significant contributions of the following:

- LAVic Competition Committee members (Michael Masseni, Stan Stoop, Debbie Baskin, Caroline Peachey, Michael Brazel, Shaz Cairns, Phil Atkins, Andrew Duncan, Wally Horsman & Sherrie Boulter) for their ongoing support and for making the job of organising events easier and as a collective, making informed decisions on Competition matters.
- All Region Organising Committees, thank you for hosting and running the various qualifying rounds of State Championships.
- The members of the Victorian Officials Committee, the Technical Committee, the Starter's Panel and the Appeals Panel - thank you for all efforts throughout the year in committing yourselves to these panels and committees to ensure these areas of competition are well organised.