



Little
Athletics
Victoria

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

2.15pm, Saturday 30th July 2022

The Dingley Hotel / videoconference

334-348 Boundary Rd, Dingley Village VIC 3172

Introduction

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Little Athletics Association of Victoria Inc.

New members attending their first AGM are especially welcome and it is hoped that they come away with a greater understanding of how the Association operates, and that they have made some new contacts with other like-minded individuals from across the Association that share a deep interest in the health, vigour, and prosperity of our sport.

Thanks to those members – the majority - in attendance well experienced at attending LAVic AGMs. Your individual and collective support of the Association in seasons past provides the basis upon which we can move confidently into the new 22/23 season.

This Agenda pack contains reports, motions, and other information to be reviewed in advance. We trust these will assist you in the finalising plans and processes essential for success in the year ahead.

All debate will be governed by the Little Athletics Association of Victoria Inc. - [Regulation 1 - Standing Orders of the Association](#) - of which a copy can be obtained from the LAVic website.

The Board in 2021 / 2022

		End of Term
Elected Director	Steve Waugh - President	2022
Elected Director	Malcolm Duncan	2022
Elected Director	Brett Schofield (resigned 03.04.22)	2022
Elected Director	Jenni Tierney	2022
Elected Director	Ross McIlveen	2023
Elected Director	Erina Cunningham	2023
Elected Director	Shoshana Simonovski	2023
Appointed Director	Russell Dmytrenko - Vice President	2022
Appointed Director	Danielle Wruck	2022

The Team in 2021 / 2022

Chief Executive Officer:	Anthony McIntosh
GM: Competition & Education:	Shane Bertrand
Finance, Governance & Risk:	Julie Green
e-Commerce & Technology:	Kim John
Communications & Marketing:	Nathan Gjorgievski
Membership, Programs & Merchandise:	Taylah Perry (resigned 10.12.21)
Membership, Programs & Merchandise:	Stephanie Kavenagh (commenced 11.01.22; resigned 13.04.22).
Competition Development (casual):	Debbie Baskin
Development Officer (casual):	Rob Belli
Development Officer (casual):	Doug Cobbledick
Technical support (casual):	Graham Lucas
Membership, Events & Merchandise:	Andrew Pryn (commenced 06.06.22)
GM – Competition & Education:	Shane Bertrand (resigned 21.07.22)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Victorian Little Athletics Association

Meeting agenda

2.15pm, Saturday 30th July 2022

The Dingley Hotel / videoconference; 334-348 Boundary Rd, Dingley Village VIC 3172

1. Opening of Meeting

- 1.1 Opening address and welcome
- 1.2 Introduction: Board & Team members

2. Attendance & apologies

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (provided)

- 3.1 Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
- 3.2 Business arising

4. Presentation of Reports (p.4)

5. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements (p.32)

6. Appointment of Auditors for 22/23 (p.33)

7. Director elections

8. Service Award recipients for 2022

9. Other Business

10. Meeting Close

4. Reports

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My first full year as President has been fascinating and has seen Little Athletics at every level face down continuing challenges on a number of fronts. It will be a year that will not be easily forgotten. But, to emerge from the previous pandemic-impacted years in the rude state of health that we now find ourselves in is remarkable and an absolute credit to our athletes, families, Centre & Region Committees, our armies of volunteers and the LAVic team.

COVID-19

While we were given a sense of the significance of the pandemic with the immediate introduction of serious restrictions by the Victorian Government back in 2020, few would have envisioned its impact and duration. With the benefit of two years of perspective, hence, it was hugely gratifying to see our Centres do their best to kick-start Little Athletics activities at the outset of the 21/22 season. Against the odds, Little Athletics was one of the first community sports to recommence, and it did so brilliantly. Notwithstanding the delayed start of the season, that our membership signed up in droves – 1359 more athletes than 20/21, up 9.6% - is an absolute credit those that put in many, many hours of planning and more hours of volunteering for the express benefit of our kids. Somewhat disappointingly, while the smaller, more agile competitions occurring at Centre level could commence, our Region Relay Carnivals and State Relay Championship events fell victim to the restrictions limiting large gatherings and events in place at the time. Post-Christmas, with the lifting of restrictions, our Region and State event calendar was at long last allowed to resume almost normal operations. While it is not certain if we have seen the back of the pandemic, should it strike again, we can be assured that our sport is well prepared to endure at every level.

I thank our LAVic team for the way in which they have responded to this challenge over the past two seasons. They have spent a great deal of that time working remotely and have provided our sport with guidance and advice that has seen Little Athletics emerge from this pandemic in better shape than most other sports.

OneAthletics

In December 2021, the OneAthletics project and proposal failed to gain the support of senior athletics and Little Athletics Member Associations. Many hours of online meetings and deliberations took place across the levels of athletics in Australia during the preceding three-years. The debates were passionate, entered into with a spirit co-operation and the perspective of desiring to take the sport to a better place for the express benefit of our kids and the sport of athletics. Those of us involved learned a great deal about our senior athletics colleagues and our interstate Little Athletics colleagues, contemporary thinking and directions in Australian sport, and future opportunities for Little Athletics.

ALAC

As much a symbolic and victorious emergence from the pandemic as a brilliantly executed event, was the Australian Little Athletics Championships, held at Lakeside Stadium on 23rd and 24th April 2022. It would be difficult to think of a more fitting way to end the 21/22 season than

to host the national Championships and welcome hundreds of local and interstate athletes to Melbourne for the first time in far too long. Amongst the highlights of an almost flawless program was the introduction of Multi-Class competition (the details of which can be read about in the report following), the Hall of Fame function on the Saturday night, and the benign weather (never a given in Melbourne)! The challenge will be up to Little Athletics Australia to top that experience when ALAC returns to Lakeside Stadium again in 2023.

Board of Directors

The Director elections at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) saw the board maintain its mandated gender quota minimum with four female members on our board of nine Directors. With two retiring female directors in the upcoming elections, the challenge is to maintain this quota.

The 2022 AGM will also see two board members - Jenni Tierney and Danielle Wruck - step down having each completed a two-year term; a third Director, Brett Schofield, resigned from the Board in April 2022. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Danielle, Jenni, and Brett for their outstanding contributions to our sport throughout their time on the board.

The Year Ahead

As we face into an uncertain season ahead, I would like to extend my gratitude to Anthony McIntosh and his team for the dedication and leadership that they provide our sport. Each team member in our small state office plays a valuable role to the administration of our sport and despite what challenges lay ahead I am confident in their ability to rise to them and provide the guidance and support necessary to our Centres and Regions.

I also look forward to welcoming a new team of Board Members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help tackle the never-ending strategic issues that face us and our sport. There is much still to be achieved!



Steve Waugh

President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 21/22 season will go down in history as the year the Victorian community emerged from COVID-19 pandemic induced restrictions, the extent and severity of which were as tough as any community were forced to endure anywhere in the world. The impact on our sport was severe from local club & Centre level up to the State Association level where day to day operations were completely curtailed by State Government imposed restrictions (early in the season) to mildly impacted (most of the season).

Notwithstanding, as the following pages will attest, Little Athletics Victoria has emerged from 21/22 in good shape: it's soundly governed by a stable Board; it has a very capable team of employees that care deeply for the sport; it has a robust membership of passionate athletes, families, volunteers, Centres and Regions that deliver quality children's athletics activities to their communities; it's posted a financial surplus. These are solid assets on which to sustain and build a future on.

Membership

Notwithstanding COVID-19 restrictions, membership across the Association has bounced back well in 21/22 with 15,503 competitive members (athletes), up from 13,919 in the previous pandemic-impacted season, but still down on the 15,875 of the 19/20 season. Pleasingly, however, 67 of the 96 affiliated Centres registered equal membership or better over the previous season.

Sadly, a handful of Centres ceased operations during the pandemic. Despite efforts, the prospect of resurrecting some of these is, frankly, remote without operational continuity and a committed core volunteers with the desire and energy to make it happen. We hope we will again see the likes of Woodend, Corner Inlet, Edenhope, Beaufort, and Bar-Rook Centres conducting Little Aths activities for their local kids again.

On a positive note, Surf Coast Little Athletics Centre (SCLAC) commenced operations on Saturday 27th November. With a queue of over one hundred metres long of parents and kids patiently waiting to enter the venue, the first day of operations was a riot of activity and a triumph of planning and persistence by the fledgling committee. In a growing community with many parents willing the Centre to success, SCLAC has a bright & long future ahead of it.

Volunteers

It is important to recognise the strain the pandemic has placed Little Athletics volunteers under at every level. Our volunteers have done a mighty job keeping Centres operating amidst onerous compliance requirements, significant additional responsibilities, and tasks – often bestowed with little or no notice – and the ever-present threat of families contracting COVID-19 while at Little Athletics. It is our sincere hope that QR Codes, vaccination status, 'COVID Safe Officials, sanitised equipment, and the like are soon consigned to history as far as Little Aths is concerned.

OneAthletics

The OneAthletics proposal to merge Little Athletics Australia (LAA) with Athletics Australia (AA) was put to the vote on 9th December 2021 and was rejected by the voting Member Associations. OneAthletics was the culmination of over three years of project work, discussions, debates, meetings and deliberations across Little Athletics and senior athletics. Some positives to emerge

are a reinvigorated LAA, improved relationships between the national body and its State affiliates, and significantly higher levels of co-operation between the State associations. Should these continue, Little Athletics will benefit greatly.

Thanks:

- Thanks to the hardworking Committees of our member Centres. The responsibility they individually and collectively shoulder for the sport is enormous and no more so than over the past 12 months. That so many individuals volunteer to keep our sport running at the most important and fundamental level is amazing.
- Thanks to the seven Region Committees and their members who give up many hours of their year for the love of our sport. They too are volunteers; many have already contributed years to Little Athletics; many sit on both their Centre and Region Committees; others do all the above and parent as well. The Regions remain a vitally important part of Little Athletics structure.
- Thanks to our parents/guardians, athletes, and their siblings. Participating in community sport is a team effort, and while often rewarding, it has its challenging times. I hope all families can look back at their direct or incidental involvement with fondness in years to come.
- Thanks to the hardworking LAVic team – Shane Bertrand, Julie Green, Kim John, Taylah Perry, Nathan Gjorgjevski, Debbie Baskin, Andrew Pryn, Graham Lucas, Rob Belli & Doug Cobbledick. The team pulled some enormous hours, encountered no end of daunting challenges and deep frustrations, faced into too many issues beyond their control, and went the extra mile time & time again to keep Little Athletics rolling. Yet, they stuck to the task, and we are lucky to have them.
- Thanks to the LAVic Board, led by President Steve Waugh, who continue to meet every month by videoconference and deliberate and discuss the challenges and successes with enthusiasm. At the conclusion of the 2022 AGM, Finance Director Danielle Wruck and Jenni Tierney will be stepping away from the Board. We thank both for their wisdom and contributions over the past two years and wish them well in their post LAVic endeavours.

As 21/22 formally comes to a close, I wish all every success for the 22/23 season.

Regards,



Anthony McIntosh
Chief Executive Officer

OPERATIONAL REPORT: Phase 1 – Grow the Sport

- **Help Regions and Centres thrive and excite our athletes and families about Little Athletics.**
- **Improve the Little Athletics experience for athletes, families, and volunteers.**

1.1 Grow Centre Committee capabilities

Central to LAVic's strategy of growing Centre capabilities was the appointment of a second Development Officer (DO), following a successful trial of the role in 20/21. Doug Cobbledick, a Life Member of Nathalia LAC, and long-time servant of the sport, joined Rob Belli in the DO role giving LAVic greater capacity to engage with Centres directly. The DO role provides LAVic the opportunity to directly engage with Centres and provide advice and support on the many facets of Centre operations.

Upon emerging from COVID-19-induced disruption into the 21/22 season, many Centres struggled to cope with increased COVID-19-related compliance requirements and a loss of volunteer capacity over the previous 18 months. The DO work undertaken by Rob & Doug was instrumental in helping many Centres resume normal operations in uncertain times.

For the second year running, the annual LAVic Conference was delivered online. While a different Conference experience from the traditional model, the format provides for the delivery of key information to Centres for, as it turns out, weeks and months beyond the event itself.

1.2 Increase the number of active coaches in Victorian Little Athletics Centres

Central to growing the number of active coaches in Little Athletics is the delivery of coach education interventions. The pandemic-delayed commencement of the 21/22 season greatly reduced the opportunity to schedule and conduct coach education courses in the early weeks of the season. Notwithstanding, it is hoped this can be rectified in 22/23 should the season commence without disruption and delay. Coaches remain critical to the delivery of high-quality Little Athletics experiences for athletes and families, and our collective ability to inspire parents to take up introductory coaching roles at their Centres is more important than ever.

Sport & Recreation Victoria, through its 'Together More Active' grant program, has funded LAVic to grow its female coaching population. While, again, the planned activities were greatly disrupted by the pandemic early in the season, funded opportunities were given to aspiring female coaches to undertake the 'Introduction to Teach Little Athletics Skills' program, involvement with skills clinics, and coaching roles with the Junior Development Squad program.

1.3 Rebuilding the Regions

The Regions remain fundamentally important to the successful administration of the Association's operations. Region committees continue to organise competitions allowing athletes to progress to the State Championships, provide valuable support to their Centres, champion, recruit prospective Region-standard officials and intervene to assist resolve disputes at local level. Since the complete overhaul of the Region regulations in 2020, both LAVic and Regions are continuing to adjust to the new procedures.

The establishment of the Development Officer positions was a direct consequence of the 2017 Region review. Upon the program's successful trial in 20/21, a second DO was appointed for 21/22. The roles are designed to provide an extension of the traditional support Regions have provided to Centres. During the 21/22 season, Centres received over thirty visits from LAVic's Development Officers.

Two significant failures to LAVic's office-located email servers late in 2021 prompted a sooner than planned migration to the Association's email function to cloud-based storage. Consequently, Regions & Centres now also enjoy added email security, document security and functionality with the Office365 suite of products.

LAVic (Directors and team members) and Region representatives continue to meet periodically four times a year under the Region Advisory Committee (RAC) format.

1.4 Recruit competitive members

Across LAVic's 96 active Centres, 15503 competitive members (athletes) were registered in 21/22. This is an increase of 11% over the previous, albeit greatly disrupted 20/21 season. This is a pleasing result. Two significant contributing factors included: a pent-up demand for our sport over the previous two seasons of reduced activity; and a 'health first' approach in successfully and nimbly implementing our COVID-safe settings at Centres, and the confidence this gave to our families upon emerging from extended periods of lockdowns.

Retention across the Association was sharply up on the previous season: 61.64% versus 54.22%. Across the Association, this equates to an increase of 1887 retained members.

New member recruitment was assisted by the revised Trial Athlete Offer, which provided Centres with improved engagement with trialling athletes and families. Conversion of trialling athletes to fully financial Competitive Members was reported to be as high as 70% for some Centres. The total number of trialling athletes that registered online for the summer season was 8582, up significantly from 6552 in the previous season; for the winter season, 492 in 2022 compared with 432 in 2021.

LAVic's major marketing activities (see 2.12) continue to focus on social media engagement of existing and potential members and be delivered via multiple digital means. Most of the activity occurs in the lead up, and opening weeks of the new season, with the intended impact for that season. By contrast, the Development Officer function is designed to have a longer-term impact in building the capacity of Centres – specifically coaches, officials, and Committee members - to deliver a consistent and quality product to their members. Delighted members and families are much more likely to stay with the sport, invest their time in the sport, and recommend the sport to others.

1.5 Establish new Centres

Surf Coast LAC, number #161, conducted its first competition day on Saturday 27th November, amid great local fanfare and a blaze of publicity. The tremendous levels of planning and efforts to secure impressive levels of community support have laid a strong foundation for SCLAC to sustainably service the needs of one of Australia's fastest growing communities. With 107 athletes signed up in the first year, and ambitions of so much more for their Centre, SCLAC will soon be making their presence felt across all the Association's activities.

Looking ahead to 22/23, work done predominantly by the Development Officers during 21/22 fostering interest in the establishment of Centres will probably result in two new Centres affiliated, and the re-establishment of a former Centre.

1.6 Encourage and support existing and new pathways into helping with Centre activities

LAVic's Development Officers conducted over thirty visits during season 21/22 and have been busy observing key elements of how committees and their Centres have been functioning. One of the critical elements has been the levels of parental volunteering, which can vary from very high to negligible. Centres in the latter category rely almost totally on overworked committee members to deliver the sport. The Development Officers spent many hours during the season working with Centres to devise means for Centres to increase their parental volunteerism, for the purpose of learning about the fundamentals of coaching and officiating Little Athletics.

1.7 Assist Centres improve the quality and consistency of competition programs across the Association

The delivery of value for money, delivering what we promise, and delivering a Little Aths experience of consistent quality across the Association is of utmost concern. LAVic invests much in the annual revision, development, and distribution of resources for the use and benefit of Centres and their operations, such as the Officiating Guide, Competition rules and regulations, the LAVic Conference, policies, and the Association Regulations. The reality is that Little Athletics is a highly rule-driven and highly regulated activity: precision in delivery equates to equity and credibility. Notwithstanding, ensuring these resources are understood and used to their full effect remains an ongoing challenge. This highlights the need to continue to find new ways to provide these resources to Centres in ways in which they will find useful.

OPERATIONAL REPORT: Phase 2 – Governance & Management

- **Continually improve sound governance & management structures**

2.1 Implement Privacy Policy

The LAVic Privacy Policy was approved in December 2019. To date, no reportable data breaches involving LAVic or its key member data management partners have occurred.

2.2 Clarify Membership types

Regulation 11 'Associate Members and Honorary Members' was approved and published in December 2020. This document sets out the definition of Associate Members (parents/guardians of registered Competitive Members, coaches, officials, committee members, regular volunteers etc), their accountabilities towards LAVic and LAVic's accountabilities to its Associate Members.

2.3 Trial a franchisee Centre management model

This is no longer a strategic ambition. No activity occurred against this item during the reporting period.

2.4 Continually improve child safety settings

LAVic has been working to child safe operations plan to ensure its compliance with the new Victorian child safety standards (eleven in total) taking effect on 1st July 2022. As a child-based sport, the standards touch many aspects of our operations at all levels of the sport. It is a significant piece of ongoing work aimed at reducing the risks to our children. Key themes of the new standards include an enhanced focus on the safety and inclusion of indigenous children, that children and young people are empowered to participate in decisions affecting them, and processes for addressing complaints are child focussed. This work will be assisted by the establishment of a working party overseeing progress in this area.

LAVic has led the debate amongst Little Athletics State Member Associations to join National Redress Scheme ('NRS'). The NRS was established on 1 July 2018 in response to recommendations made by the Royal Commission in their report into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The NRS provides an alternative pathway for sex abuse victims to seek redress. LAA have commenced work on its NRS application which will auspice all State Member Associations, including LAVic.

2.5 Implement member protection framework

LAVic has drafted the Member Protection Policy during the reporting period.

2.6 Implement grievance & dispute resolution policies & procedures

LAVic has drafted the Complaints Handling the Dispute Resolution Policy during the reporting period.

2.7 Manage risk effectively

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee has taken the lead on drafting and implementing LAVic's comprehensive risk management framework during 21/22. LAVic's risk settings are revised twice yearly.

2.8 Finances

See the 21/22 LAVic Audited Financial Statements.

2.9 Human Resources

The LAVic team has benefitted from significant personnel stability in recent seasons. The onset of considerable operational disruption resulting from the pandemic was cause for concern with respect to business continuity. Thankfully, that LAVic's operations were able to successfully pivot to working remotely was a key factor in providing some operational predictability and ultimately retaining its human capital.

Staff movements in summary during the reporting period:

- Doug Cobbledick commenced in the role of Development Officer in October 2021.
- Taylah Perry, resigned from the role of Membership, Programs and Merchandise Co-ordinator in December 2021 after four and a half years, to take on the Executive Officer role with the Victorian Athletic League.

- Stephanie Kavenagh commenced in the Membership, Programs and Merchandise Co-ordinator role in January 2022 and resigned in April 2021.
- Andrew Pryn commenced in the Membership, Events and Merchandise Co-ordinator role in June 2022, from Cranbourne.
- Shane Bertrand resigned from the General Manager – Competition & Education role, in July 2022, after 15 years, to commence in the role of National Competition & Education Manager with LAA.

LAVic also played a critical role in the planning and delivery of the 2022 Australian Little Athletics Championships ('ALAC'), held in Melbourne on 23rd & 24th April, at Lakeside Stadium. Team members were co-opted to the project under the auspices of LAA in the February to April period. The expertise and experience of the LAVic team resulted in the delivery of a high-quality event.

2.10 Respecting Honorary Members

The establishment of the Service Awards Committee ('SAC') in recent years has resulted in the rigorous review and application of the rules and procedures around recognising the Association's most outstanding volunteers. The SAC members are Steve Ryan (Chair), and Life Governors Irene Harris, Debbie Baskin, Graham Lucas, Chris Doubleday, and Carol Timmins. Their collective work is precise and thorough, and with them, the Association's Service Awards program is in safe and caring hands. Ultimately, they are most concerned that the Association's greatest voluntary contributors receive due recognition and are honoured accordingly.

21/22 saw the greatest number of Service Awards nominations in recent years, possibly ever: seventeen.

2.11 Upgrade the membership database

LAVic has worked with LAA's Database Committee during the reporting period. LAA has renewed strategic ambitions to streamline the databases of all State Member Associations over the short to medium term. This work will continue into 22/23 season. In the interim, LAVic continues to work with its database provider, Stack Sports (previously SportsTG) in considering enhanced functionality and upgrade options to its existing platform.

2.12 Marketing

LAVic's planned communication and marketing activities for the 21/22 were delayed by the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic lockdown in 2021, the cancellation of the 2021 Region and State Cross-Country competitions and ultimate delay of the commencement of the summer Track and Field season.

With the lockdown in full swing and with little prospect of ending, LAVic followed other Member Associations in promoting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and sharing the success of LAVic former Little Athletes across all social media platforms. With the objective of maintaining the sport of athletics at the forefront of both current and new members minds through the success of our former Little Athletes.

Little Athletics Australia invested in its 'Have a Go' campaign during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics designed to drive participation in Little Athletics. LAVic was able to utilise the material via its Facebook platforms and website for the benefits of Centres commencing their membership drives for season 21/22.

Upon the steady dialling back of Government restrictions and progressive re-commencement of firstly NSW-based Centres, followed by regional Victorian Centres, and finally metropolitan Centres, normal marketing and communications activities could resume with the typical focus on improving stakeholder engagement and raising the awareness of Little Athletics within the broader community.

Post lockdown, in resuming more normalised activities, LAVic's communications and key messaging remain almost completely generated through digital and online means. Our primary marketing campaign 'Come & Join Little Athletics' was tailored to new families to join Little Athletics, increase membership, and boost our engagement on our social media platforms. The campaign really took off with millions of impressions with Facebook and Instagram users across Victoria during the November period through to January 2022, and ultimately, an increase in membership this 21/22 season over 20/21.

Social Media

Social media was - and remains - the key channels for LAVic's marketing activities. Growth across all significant social networks continued holding LAVic amongst the most followed athletics organisation in Australia. See the figures in the table below.

Private Facebook group continued to provide a familiar place for the LAVic Centre community to communicate about key operations of their Centre and Regions. 'ourCentre' saw continual engagement where ideas were shared and discussed. These channels were also another way to communicate official correspondence from the office.

All platforms displayed growth, year on year. Facebook, with its appeal to young mothers, remains the most effective platform for engagement and return on investment. Instagram continues to evolve rapidly as a new way of connecting to a younger demographic and showcasing Little Athletics for engagement. LinkedIn and Twitter tend to have limitations for the Little Athletics market.

While YouTube is predicted to continue to rise due to the large focus on online video content, with Livestreaming of our State Championships events playing a key role. Educational 'how to' videos clips notwithstanding their age, continue to generate thousands of views per annum.

Social Network	2020	2021	2022
Facebook	17,961	23,710	24,492
Instagram	4,859	5,080	5,303
LinkedIn	157	207	252
Twitter	979	1,040	1,061
YouTube	3,360	4,390	5,100

Table 1: Social Network follower stats based on the 9th of June 2022.

Livestream

The investment into live streaming continued during the 2021-22 season. With the rapid improvement in the effectual integration with the Results Hub program made for an improved product and viewing experience in 2022.

Season 21/22 saw LAVic Livestream two State -level competition events: 2022 Combined Events Championships and the 2022 State Track and Field Championships. The Livestream footage is broken down into each respective heat and final and posted onto 'LAVicTV' – our dedicated YouTube channel. Consequently, LAVicTV was the big mover amongst LAVic's social media platforms with an increase in demand exceeding 54,000 views during 21/22.

2.13 Sponsorship

Season 21/22 was the second of a three-year partnership with Commonwealth Bank ('CBA'). As in pandemic-affected 20/21, the cancellation of Region and State Relay Championship events, required a revised suite of benefits for CBA. This included granting naming rights for the LAVic Combined Events Championships, in addition to the State Track & Field Championships. We thank CBA for their flexibility and understanding throughout the pandemic, and for their incredible generosity in donating over twenty marquees for use of LAVic and Regions.

This season, we welcomed Powercor into the fold of LAVic sponsors, with their support of LAVic's Stawell Gift activities for 2022. Powercor, one of Australia's foremost power companies, are the naming rights sponsor of the Stawell Gift.

From a national perspective, LAVic remains incredibly grateful for the ongoing partnership the sport enjoys with Coles. Their tireless efforts to engage and work with our Little Athletics community often go beyond the requirements of the partnership. Initiatives such as Coles Community Day, the Coles Ambassador (Olympian) visits to Centres, and the Coles Little Athletics Community Fund grant opportunities inspire our athletes, furnish our Centres with equipment, and excite even the most experienced administrators.

2.14 State Competitions

See the 'Competition Report' below.

2.15 Connecting with Little Aths coaches

With the failure of the OneAthletics project to set out a clear pathway for coach development in Little Athletics, and onset of the pandemic over the past two seasons, activities for fostering a closer and better-informed community of Little Athletics coaches within our Association have not proceeded as hoped. Nonetheless, and despite the obstacles, LAVic has continued to deliver quality face-to-face 'Introduction To Little Athletics Skills' programs, including subsidising courses for female coaches; other key educational activities such as the Junior Development Squad and the Australian Little Athletics Championships (hosted in Melbourne in 2022) provide highly sought-after development experiences for our coaches.

See the Education Report below for further details on coach activities and opportunities.

2.16 Increase the pool of active Officials

Central to growing the number of active officials in Little Athletics is the delivery of official's education interventions. The pandemic-delayed commencement of the 21/22 season greatly reduced the opportunity to schedule and conduct official education courses in the early weeks of the season. Notwithstanding, it is hoped this can be rectified in 22/23 should the season commence without disruption and delay. Officials remain critical to the delivery of quality, fair and credible Little Athletics competition activities.

2.17 Education

See the 'Education Report' below.

2.18 Multi-class competition

See the 'Competition Report' below.

2.19 Ensure business continuity during and post COVID-19 restrictions

A major focus of past two pandemic-affected years has been to ensure the business of LAVic remains in strong shape. A great deal of time and effort was invested over the previous two years in working with State sporting peak bodies Vicsport and Sport & Recreation Victoria to interpret and apply the State Government COVID-19 restrictions to our own context. This was complex, time-consuming work and endured for many months. The priority remained at all times to administer the sport with the health and safety of our members first and foremost. Difficult decisions taken, including the cancellation of the 2021 Region and State Relay Championships, and the introduction (with little notice) of vaccination rules for Centre competition (thankfully short-lived), were understandably not popular, and generated heated online debate and media interest. In due course, the decisions were proved to be the right ones for the time. COVID-19 quickly became a standing agenda item at LAVic Board meetings, and the regular subject of debate and consideration.

LAVic has emerged from the pandemic in sound shape organisationally, with a stable Board & staff and solid financial result to show for its second consecutive COVID-19 affected year. It is well poised to resume business as usual activities in terms of competition, education, marketing, and other functions.

Board continuity

The 2021 Director elections attracted five nominations for three roles. Subsequently, a ballot was conducted amongst affiliated Centres to determine the three successful Directors. This continues a trend of recent years where competition for positions on the Board have been strongly contested.

Emerging from the 2021 AGM, LAVic retained its compliance with the State Government mandated 40% female gender quota on the Board, with the election of Shoshana Simonovski & Erina Cunningham . They join fellow female Directors Danielle Wruck and Jenni Tierney on the Board of nine.

Brett Schofield resigned in April 2022 part-way through his first term. The Board subsequently decided to continue until the 2022 AGM operating with eight Directors.

OPERATIONAL REPORT: Phase 3 – One Athletics

- **Playing our role towards a brighter future for athletics**

3.1 Contribute to, and influence, OneAthletics activities led by LAA.

During 21/22, LAVic played a very active role in working with the OneAthletics project team, Little Athletics State Member Associations, LAA, and senior athletics, striving for proposed outcomes to be aligned with the interests of Little Athletics. The initiative was announced in October 2018 the onset of the pandemic delayed the project by at least a year.

Ultimately, the matter was put to a vote on 9th December 2022 and the proposal was voted down. The key resources – the business case, the Australian Athletics strategy, and other documents - can all be found at www.oneathletics.com.au.

3.2 Progress OneAthletics matters with AV regarding State-based matters.

Interaction with Athletics Victoria during the reporting period regarding OneAthletics matters was limited. LAVic's key OneAthletics intermediaries were LAA and the OneAthletics project team.

3.3 Keep key stakeholder groups fully informed about OneAthletics activities.

LAVic provided regular updates to its membership regarding the One Athletics developments, as they arose.

COMPETITION REPORT

Again, the commencement of season 2021-2022 was delayed, due to the COVID restrictions and protocols. With the Centre competitions only commencing in November, and the lack of clarity on the Public Events Framework, for our larger Region and State events, the difficulty in providing a clear timeline for our events was again frustrating for all concerned. The priority was to support the Centres, as much as possible to deliver their programs, for the benefit of all athletes and families.

Throughout the last two seasons, it has been a difficult time for everyone in the sport. While we exist to provide a sporting experience for our athletes, the enjoyment and satisfaction that our

volunteers receive from delivering these programs and opportunities is intrinsically important to the success of Little Athletics. We cannot underestimate the challenges that our volunteers at all levels from Club, Centre, Region, and State have experienced over these difficult and ever-changing times. The need for flexibility and a willingness to assist has been paramount over this period, something that is not lost on the Association and all those involved in Little Athletics.

We are truly fortunate to have some amazing and dedicated volunteers that have worked extremely hard to assist with these changes and continue to offer our members meaningful and worthwhile competition programs.

Our volunteers constantly step up, not only to help, but to also provide guidance and feedback to ensure our events and programs are constantly improving. This has been a highlight over these past two seasons.

We have been amending our competition regulations on a continuous basis to improve the experience for our athletes, parents, and volunteers, along with reviewing the structure of the events to provide a greater opportunity for all athletes to participate in our programs. Not only were we dealing with COVID restrictions, but the continual changes and clashes with other athletics agencies has meant a more athlete centred approach to our processes. Whilst, we cannot always please everyone, the focus and overarching driver has been to increase participation and improve the athletic experience for all, whilst at the same time, providing a clear pathway for athletes to pursue.

We continued to implement a more inclusive program through initiatives for our Multi-Class athletes and we have been delighted with the response and participation rates. We will continue to work to improve the athletic experience for all our athletes.

We constantly receive feedback and recommendations from Centres and Regions to assist with our planning. This is an essential component in our preparations, as ultimately, we are all endeavouring to assist the members in providing a quality experience. This is a collective effort from many people, who are all highly committed to the Little Athletics program.

Cross-Country

Unfortunately, the 2020-2021 State Cross-Country and State Cross-Country Relays Championships were ultimately cancelled after both being postponed. The entire Region and State competition program was affected for the second season in a row.

The current 2021-2022 Cross-Country season is proceeding as planned. The State Cross-Country Relays were conducted at Cruden Farm on Saturday 4th June 2022. A new layout and venue set up was designed, however venue logistics constantly proves to be a restriction of future growth.

The Region Cross-Country Carnivals are due to be conducted on the weekend of 16th / 17th July. At the time of authoring this report, there are 768 registrations for the Region Carnivals. This is slightly down on previous years, however as a percentage of membership, it is consistent.

The State Cross-Country Championships are due to be conducted at Lake Dewar, Myrning on Saturday 6th August. This year a new Timing Solutions RFID-driven timing system will be used, which automatically uploads to Meet Manager and the Results Hub program.

Relays

In 20/21, the State Relay Championships were conducted as a direct entry due to calendar changes and COVID restrictions. This season, regrettably, due to the delay in the season commencing and the Public Events Framework lacking clarity or being available in time, both the Region Relay Carnivals and the State Relays Championships were cancelled. With the lack of calendar space post-Christmas, they could not be rescheduled.

As our major Teams event for the year and the large effort that Centres put into the organisation and preparations of their Relay Teams, along with the excitement that this event offers, this was an exceedingly difficult and disappointing decision for the Association to make.

Combined Events

After the changes the previous season due to patron limits under the Public Events Framework, we were able to increase our numbers of athletes back to a more sustainable number. The entry caps on each age group were increased, to cater for multiple groups of eighteen athletes.

A total number of 852 registrations were received. Most age groups reached capacity, including our older age groups and 14 Multi-Class athletes in a modified Combined Events. To ensure all Multi-Class athletes could score points equally, the final points were calculated from the best three of their four events, this allowed wheelchair athletes who cannot participate in Long Jump to be ranked.

With the revised format and number of registrations, the timetable was adjusted to cater for both the athletes and officials to allow sufficient time between events, without extending the length of the day greatly.

Combined Events is a special and unique event. We have seen many athletes compete together all the way through their Little Athletics journey from U9 to U16 in the Combined Events.

Overall, we were pleased with the outcome and hope to continue with this format.

Multi-Class

Multi-Class continues to expand in both events and participation. We have seen the numbers increase, year on year and again this season all Region and State events included Multi-Class athletes in three age group types. As previously advised, Multi-Class was included in the Combined Events, as well. We continue to be extremely grateful for the outstanding assistance we have from our Multi-Class Ambassador in Richard Colman. Richard is not only heavily invested in Multi-Class, but extremely passionate in ensuring the opportunities are provided for all athletes, that the pathways are consistent for Multi-Class across various organisations, as well as being a great source of information and guidance to assist with our programs.

The National Technical Committee ('NTC'), which is the national body responsible for the rules and regulations of Little Athletics, finalised the Multi-Class rules, and incorporated them into the standard rules and specifications for use at all levels. This was an important milestone to have a standard document to cater for all athletes.

Along with the Centres commitment and assistance from Richard and the Association, we expect to see continued growth in this area.

Rules & regulations

Season 2021-2022 had minimal changes to the rules and regulations, from a NTC perspective, rather it was to cater for the changes made the previous season, which were mostly delayed due to the COVID imposed changes. The focus was to improve the efficiency of the events, grow participation and provide greater flexibility to cater for changes, as has been required over the last several seasons.

The changes that were implemented worked well. They will be reviewed for further changes, to ensure the athletes and the officials have a better experience overall. We are committed to ensure the rules and regulations are designed to assist the athletes and improve the competition experience, and to remove or adjust any that do not achieve this goal.

Region Track & Field

A highlight for many is our Region Track & Field Carnivals. After the numerous changes and challenges last season with Region Track & Field being cancelled, reinstated, then moved to end of February (which clashed with Athletics Victoria's calendar), we were able to deliver a more standard competition event this year.

The number of entries were slightly up on the previous season, which is very encouraging and highlights the importance of the Carnivals in the athlete's competition pathway.

State Track & Field

With the change of the Grand Prix to mid-April, Lakeside Stadium was again available to host the State Track & Field Championships. This allowed for a more seamless event preparation in terms of logistics and practical delivery.

A slight change to the timetable, to minimise clashes to ensure athletes have the greatest opportunity to perform at their best, was made and will be used to review and make further changes. The structure worked well, however with the growth of Multi-Class athletics, the timetable and days of competition will be reviewed to minimise some athlete workload issues and time constraints.

With the requirement to use the outside area for our Shot Put, and the second Discus cage, athlete and volunteer safety was again a crucial factor to consider, which has been continually built upon recently, and will continue to evolve.

The changes implemented last season with the removal of the Field Call Rooms continued, and further enhancements were made to the Field Marshal Points, along with a refined and improved Clash Summary Report and procedure, allowed for a more efficient competition structure, which minimised the stress and anxiety for all. We were very pleased with the process this year, the work done with the timetable and event planning, provided for a more streamlined structure.

The issues encountered last year with determining places following the Timed Finals, were resolved with implementing a new presentation process and structure. This worked extremely well and assisted in the overall efficiency of the event to minimise clashes for the athletes.

Australian Little Athletics Championships – ALAC

After cancellations in 2020 and 2021, ALAC was conducted at Lakeside Stadium on April 22-24. COVID restrictions, interstate travel and quarantine conditions meant the entire event had to be adjusted to cater for the conditions and allow for greater flexibility.

ALAC, for the first time, included Multi-Class athletes, in both the U13 and U15 age groups. Coles provided great media coverage for the athletes, which was picked up by TV and print media. The exposure will hopefully assist with the promotion of Multi-Class athletics and the pathway opportunities that exists.

With the resignation of the LAA Competition Manager in January, Victoria was asked to take over the event preparations, on behalf of LAA. There was a considerable amount of work done by the entire LAVic Team to organise ALAC, whilst at the same time deliver both the Region, State and Stawell events.

The LAVic officials delivered an outstanding event by any measure. The professionalism and attitude that was on display was a great testament to the quality of our officials that volunteer their services throughout the year at all levels of the sport. The feedback received has been extremely positive, with many believing it to be one of the best ALACs delivered.

Victoria will be hosting ALAC again next year, with the event scheduled for April 21-23 at Lakeside Stadium.

Stawell Gift

With the removal of spectator limits for the Stawell Gift, the normal structure returned in 2022, with LAVic offering the events of 100mts, 400mts, 800mts, 1600mts. Overall, there were 365 event entries, covering multiple events. The major ongoing issue remains the handicapping, which, despite best efforts to validate the times submitted, can be questionable. This has a direct bearing on the integrity, athlete equity, and parental confidence in the event.

A new method was used for the 400mts and 800mts events in the heats, where the athletes were handicapped based on time, rather than distance. This enabled all athletes to run the same distance, with a staggered start time. This was to minimise the discrepancy due to the large variation in age groups of U9 to U16, compared to the senior athletes. Overall, this worked well, a few minor changes will occur to again improve the accuracy of the handicaps.

Region & Centre Committee

Again, we are grateful to the Region committees and competition organising bodies, who are owed a tremendous amount of gratitude, for their dedication and commitment to provide these opportunities for the athletes.

Our Centres this year, like last season, had to overcome some large obstacles to ensure they continue to provide a quality program that encourages both participation and performance in a challenging environment. Looking at the numbers in our events, our sport can provide the quality product that our athletes and parents are looking for, in that it caters for skill development and social interaction.

We are very grateful for the work and commitment our Centres and Regions constantly put into the program: to provide opportunities for our athletes, parents, and volunteers.

Event entries

The registration numbers for the events conducted this season, are listed.

- Region Track & Field Carnivals, entries were up, 3117 vs 3097 in 2021.
- State Combined Events Championships, capped at 868, entries were 852 plus 14 Multi-Class athletes.

- Stawell Gift, entries up, 189 vs 151 in 2021.
- State Cross-Country Relays, entries were 251 Teams.

Volunteers

Our events at all levels rely heavily on the capacity of our workforce to deliver the programs to our athletes. Most of these people are volunteers, who without their dedication and commitment, Little Athletics would not exist; we are extremely grateful for their assistance. The number of officials who are required to deliver our sport is considerably larger than most other sports. We are fortunate to have officials, who give up their time on a regular basis to provide the opportunities for our athletes to participate, we thank you, and appreciate your dedication.

Thanks

A big thank you to the Centre Team Managers who provides the often-difficult task of organising the duty rosters, managing the athletes on the day of competition, and providing support to the families. This essential role ensures our events can be conducted efficiently as possible.

The LAVic Competition Team appreciates the support and dedication of all volunteers, the Centre committees, the Region Organising Bodies and both the Starters and Race-Walking Working Parties in providing these outstanding opportunities to our members.

With the Competition Team being limited in numbers, a heavy reliance on the other LAVic Team members, in addition to their roles and responsibilities, to assist with the preparation and delivery of the competition programs occurs regularly, for this we are grateful, and it is very much appreciated.

We are always dealing with the complexity of the calendar in that there are numerous other organisations and stakeholders competing for the same dates, or venue availability, implications of the Grand Prix and logistics, along with scheduling of National events, all having significant impacts on the ability to plan our season.

We appreciate the understanding from our members regarding both the calendar and venue availability. These are always challenging to manage.

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 athlete skills for our older athletes. This is the foundation upon which Little Athletics can continue to provide skill development for our competitive members.

This season with the delayed start to the Centre competitions, commencing in November, the main education courses were all postponed, with most of them eventually cancelled, as there were insufficient available dates to reschedule after Christmas.

On Track Program

The On Track program is a resource for Centres & Schools in providing a fundamental motor skills development program, coaching resource, and modified competition model for our younger athletes. This is the preferred program for our U6-U8 athletes as they develop their motor skills. It is essential our athletes learn these skills in a sequential manner to ensure they can progress to the more complex skills required in the traditional track & field events.

The program is offered through an Interactive PDF format which has proved very successful 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 Centre as an ongoing resource.

The program is split into 5 Levels, with Level 1-2 being the 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. The Welcome Guide is the introduction to the program and provides the overview of the program, skills tables, what the model program look like along with tips on how to deliver On Track in an effective and sustainable manner.

We encourage all Centres to use the available resources as required.

Junior Development Squad - JDS

JDS is our major education program for our athletes in the U12-U16 age groups. It usually commences in October with three activities prior to Christmas, and another activity in February, before two activities during the winter season. Athletes can qualify against a set of standards that are updated every year to reflect the performances of the athletes.

This year with the delayed start to the season, the same structure as last season was adopted to split the registration into two components. The athletes could qualify and register, they would receive their JDS t-shirt in the mail, then when the training days could be scheduled, a second registration portal would be created where the members could register to train.

The first JDS activity was scheduled for late November, with the closing for the registration portal late October. We finished with 251 athletes that qualified and registered for the JDS Joining Fee, then a week before the JDS activity, we had 233 JDS members register for the JDS Squad Fee, which entitled them to attend the training days.

We were able to conduct a JDS training day in November, January, February, and May. At each activity, the attendance as a percentage of available members, was extremely high. Knox hosted the first JDS activity, but the JDS activity scheduled for Keilor had to be relocated in the days beforehand, as the carpark was taken over by the COVID testing site, along with some other activities, meant that there wasn't enough space to accommodate our activity. Williamstown, which was scheduled to host Day 3 in February, was able to host Day 2 at the last moment, which we are extremely grateful for their assistance with this.

The new program, standards and structure is being developed to be released in mid-July.

Little Athletics Australia – LAA National U15 Camp

Unfortunately, the National Camp was cancelled for the second year running.

The 2022 National Camp is being conducted on October 2-5, at the High-Performance Centre, Runaway Bay, Gold Coast. The invites have just been finalised, Victoria has twenty-four able body athletes and five Multi-Class athletes that have accepted their invites. This is a larger number than usual, which reflects the quality of athletes in the U14 age group this season, as the invites are determined by the results achieved at the State Combined Events and State Track & Field Championships. The U14 athletes are selected, as they will be in the U15 age group when the camp is conducted. Along with the athletes, Victoria will have two Team Managers attending.

Australian Little Athletics Championships - ALAC

From the Victorian Team perspective, the challenges of selecting the athletes to compete, was a constant issue. Several athletes were unavailable due to illness for the ALAC training activities during April, with some only coming together for the final session.

The ALAC coaches and Team Management did an amazing job in preparing the athletes, working with those challenges, and providing a Team environment in which the athletes could excel. This certainly proved to be the case, with Victoria performing extremely well, in all three events, the U13 Teams Championships, the U15 Combined Events Championships, and the U13-U15 Multi-Class Championships. There are four trophies at ALAC, with Victoria being eligible for three, as there is a separate trophy for the smaller states.

Victoria won two of the three on offer, which is an amazing effort.

- U13 Teams Trophy – Trevor Billingham Trophy
- U13 Teams Point Adjusted Trophy – Alan Triscott Trophy

The U15 Teams Trophy – Life Members Trophy, Victoria finished equal second.

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.

With the delayed start to the season, the Introduction to Teaching Little Athletics Skills – ITLAS courses were rescheduled from August – October, to four weekends from late November – December. The participants had registered for the original courses, which meant they had to transfer to the new dates and venues as they were scheduled.

We finished with 112 registrations, which is lower than normal, but there were forty-nine cancellations due to the change of dates and venues.

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 concentrate on Centre coaching.

The winner of the Coach of the Year:

Season 2020-2021 was Allan Poynton

The winner of the Bryan Neighbour Centre Coach Award:
Season 2020-2021 was Damien Wapshott – Melton City

The winners of the awards for season 2021-2022 will be announced at the 2022 Gala Dinner.

Officials Education

The primary aim of our official's education programs is to enable parents, teachers, and other volunteers to assist with the delivery of our competition programs.

Unfortunately, these courses and seminars could not be scheduled this year.

Thanks

The programs and events listed do not happen without the dedication and commitment of a group of hard-working officials, coaches, presenters, and volunteers. This year with the constant changes, it was not the usual large number of sessions delivered. We appreciate the assistance from all our dedicated volunteers.

ROYAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL – 50 YEARS

LAVic and the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Good Friday Appeal (GFA) celebrated 50 years of partnership in 2022. This was formally recognised by the presentation to LAVic of a plaque on 15th April. Very few organisations have provided as much support to the GFA on an enduring basis as has our Association.

Throughout the 21/22 season, our Centres, Regions, and Association office raised a combined total of \$29,631.18 for the GFA – again, a substantial effort amidst a COVID-affected season.

Lake Bolac & District LAC (LBDLAC) raised the greatest amount of any Centre, contributing an amazing \$4,657.65. And all from their tiny district population of 330!

The GFA organisers are always keen to involve LAVic in formalities and accordingly, LAVic was again invited to announce its contribution and present its 'big cheque' live on the Channel 7 Good Friday broadcast at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. This year, the cheque was presented by LAVic President, Steve Waugh, LAVic Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Nathan Gjorgievski, and LBDLAC representatives Melissa Perry (President) and Georgia Ford (athlete).

LAVIC AWARDS 20/21

Congratulations to the individuals and Centres recognised for their achievements in 2021. In a pandemic-affected repeat of 2020, the 2021 Centre Excellence Awards Gala was pre-recorded and streamed online on Saturday 22nd August 2021 in a response to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions at the time. Thank you and congratulations to all the winning individuals, Centres and Regions for so graciously participating in the pre-recording of acceptance speeches.

The Awards are an opportunity to not only reward and recognise great achievements by individuals, Centres and Regions but they play a valuable role in telling and recording the stories of our Association.

- The 'Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal – Greatest Centre Donation Award' was awarded to **Ringwood LAC**.
- The 'Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal - most funds raised on a 'Per Capita Basis Award' was awarded to **Lake Bolac & District LAC**.
- 'Host Centre Award': was awarded to **Cranbourne LAC**.
- The Game Day Apparel 'Overall Centre Membership Awards': were awarded to the **Maryborough LAC** (large Centre category) and **Yarrawonga-Mulwala LAC** (small Centre category).
- The Energetic Apparel 'Centre Marketing Award': was awarded to **Albury LAC**.
- The 'Energetic Apparel' Centre Inclusion Award was awarded to **Seaford LAC**.
- The Out There Branding 'Centre Volunteer of the Year Award': was awarded to **Elisabeth McGuire of Albury LAC**.
- See the 'Education' section for the coaching and officiating award winners.

The 21/22 LAVic Awards Gala is scheduled to take place on Saturday 30th July.

2021 Association Service Awards

Congratulations to Nicole Lopes, who was awarded the Life Governor of the Association in 2021 her substantial and outstanding contribution to the Victorian Little Athletics movement over many years. Nicole, our 98th Life Governor, joins an esteemed group which includes her husband Steven, who was awarded Life Governor of the Association in 2016.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership statistics

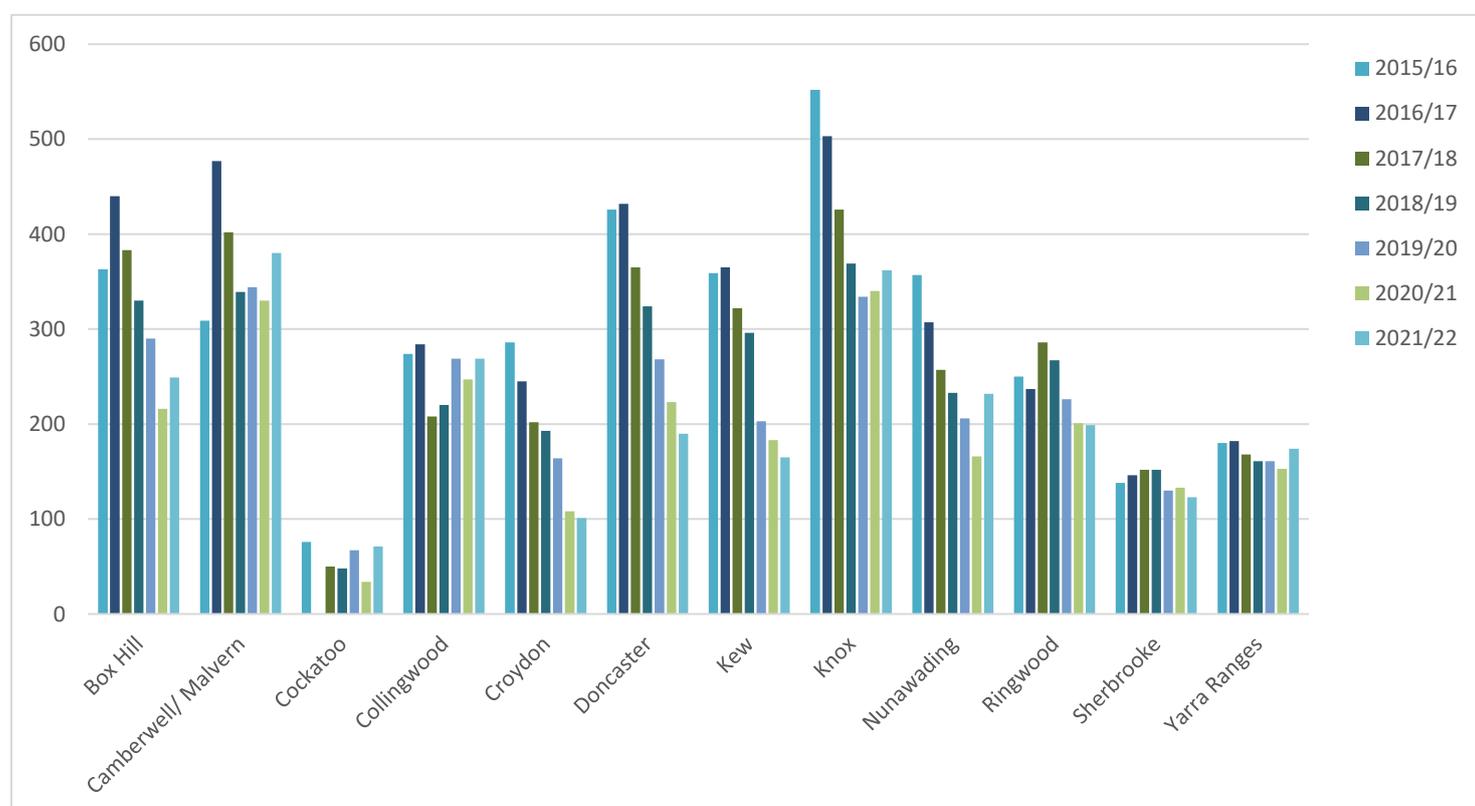
The pages following contain the statistical and graphical representations for the LAVic's Competitive Members, by Region and Centre for the previous seven seasons.

Some observations:

- The total number of registered athletes for 21/22 was 15,503, up 9% from 14,144 on the 20/21 season.
- Member retention across the Association rose to 61.64% (9556 retained members), from 54.22% in 20/21. Centres with the highest membership retention rates: Preston-Reservoir (87.10%), Altona (80%), Buninyong (76%) and Portland (75%).
- 67 Centres met or exceeded their membership of the previous season, compared with 27 in 20/21.
- All Regions grew their cumulative memberships over the previous season, with Western Metropolitan Region registering the largest growth in cumulative membership of its Centres, at 24%.
- Trial Athletes in 21/22: 9073, compared with 6984 in 20/21. An increase of 30%.
- New member pre-season expressions of interests captured via the LAVic website: 498.
- Five Centres – Woodend, Corner Inlet, Edenhope, Bar-Rook, and Beaufort – did not operate or affiliate.

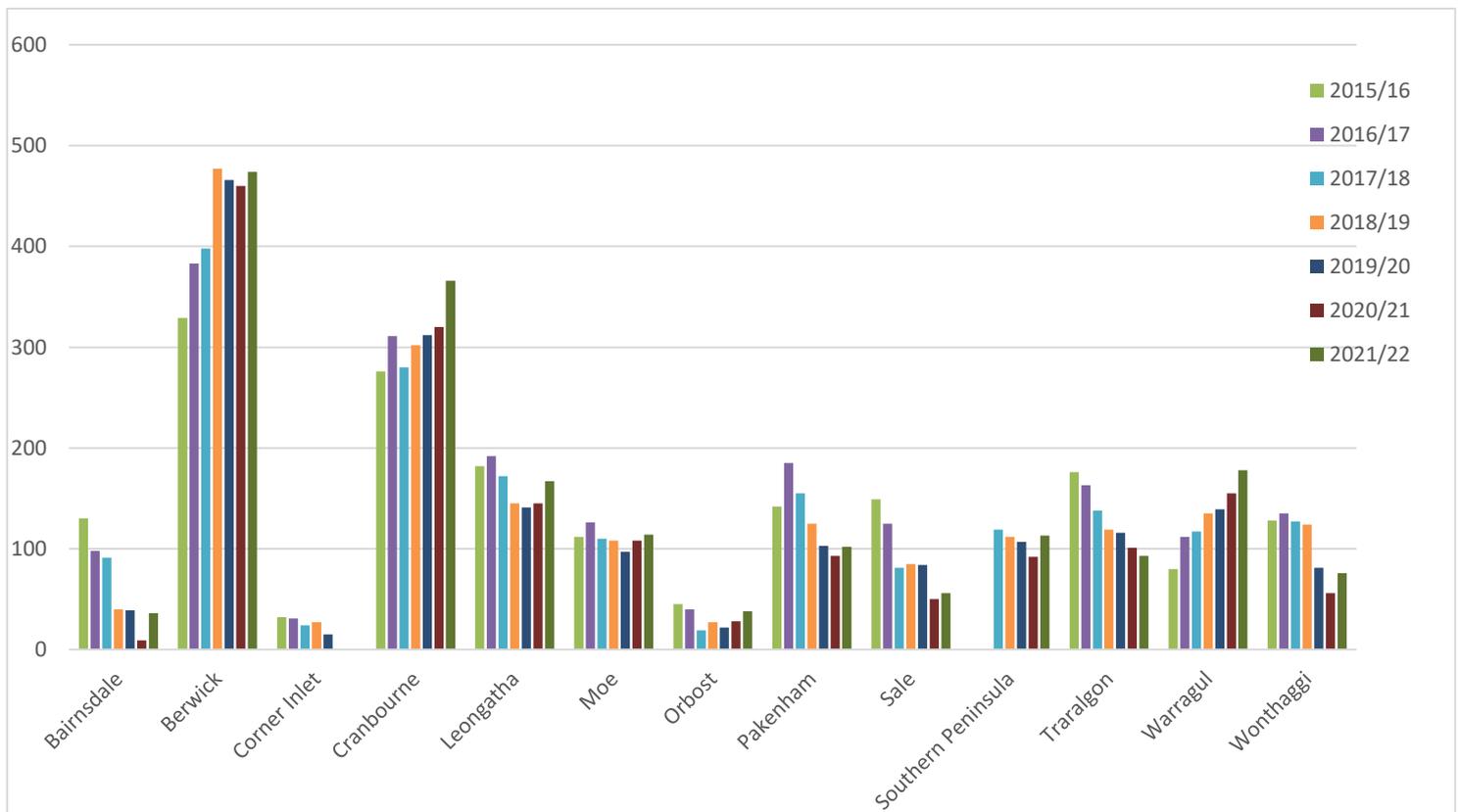
EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION (EMR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Box Hill	363	440	383	330	290	216	249	13.25%	58.57%
Camberwell/ Malvern	309	477	402	339	344	330	380	13.16%	51.67%
Cockatoo	76	0	50	48	67	34	71	52.11%	61.76%
Collingwood	274	284	208	220	269	247	269	8.18%	56.91%
Croydon	286	245	202	193	164	108	101	-6.93%	56.19%
Doncaster	426	432	365	324	268	223	190	-17.37%	63.94%
Kew	359	365	322	296	203	183	165	-10.91%	43.72%
Knox	552	503	426	369	334	340	362	6.08%	68.62%
Nunawading	357	307	257	233	206	166	232	28.45%	67.90%
Ringwood	250	237	286	267	226	201	199	-1.01%	62.05%
Sherbrooke	138	146	152	152	130	133	123	-8.13%	63.16%
Yarra Ranges	180	182	168	161	161	153	174	12.07%	69.54%
Region TOTAL	3570	3618	3221	2932	2662	2334	2515	7.20%	60.02%



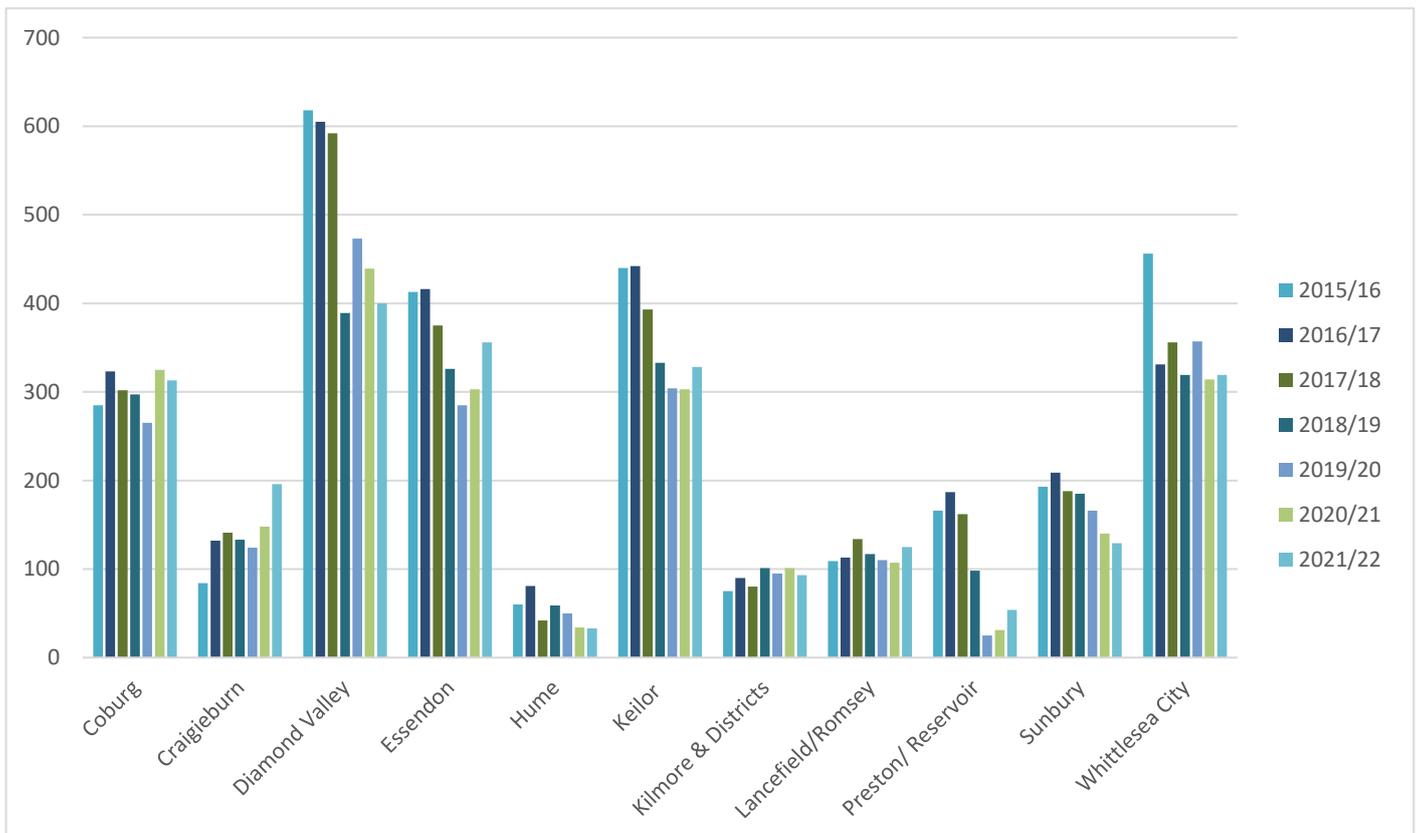
GIPPSLAND COUNTRY REGION (GCR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Bairnsdale	130	98	91	40	39	9	36	75.00%	66.67%
Berwick	329	383	398	477	466	460	474	2.95%	58.07%
Corner Inlet	32	31	24	27	15	0	0	-	-
Cranbourne	276	311	280	302	312	320	366	12.57%	67.61%
Leongatha	182	192	172	145	141	145	167	13.17%	68.31%
Moe	112	126	110	108	97	108	114	5.26%	66.98%
Orbost	45	40	19	27	22	28	38	26.32%	48.15%
Pakenham	142	185	155	125	103	93	102	8.82%	58.70%
Sale	149	125	81	85	84	50	56	10.71%	57.14%
Southern Peninsula	0	0	119	112	107	92	113	18.58%	68.97%
Traralgon	176	163	138	119	116	101	93	-8.60%	53.61%
Warragul	80	112	117	135	139	155	178	12.92%	59.35%
Wonthaggi	128	135	127	124	81	56	76	26.32%	65.38%
Region TOTAL	1781	1901	1712	1826	1722	1617	1813	10.81%	62.09%



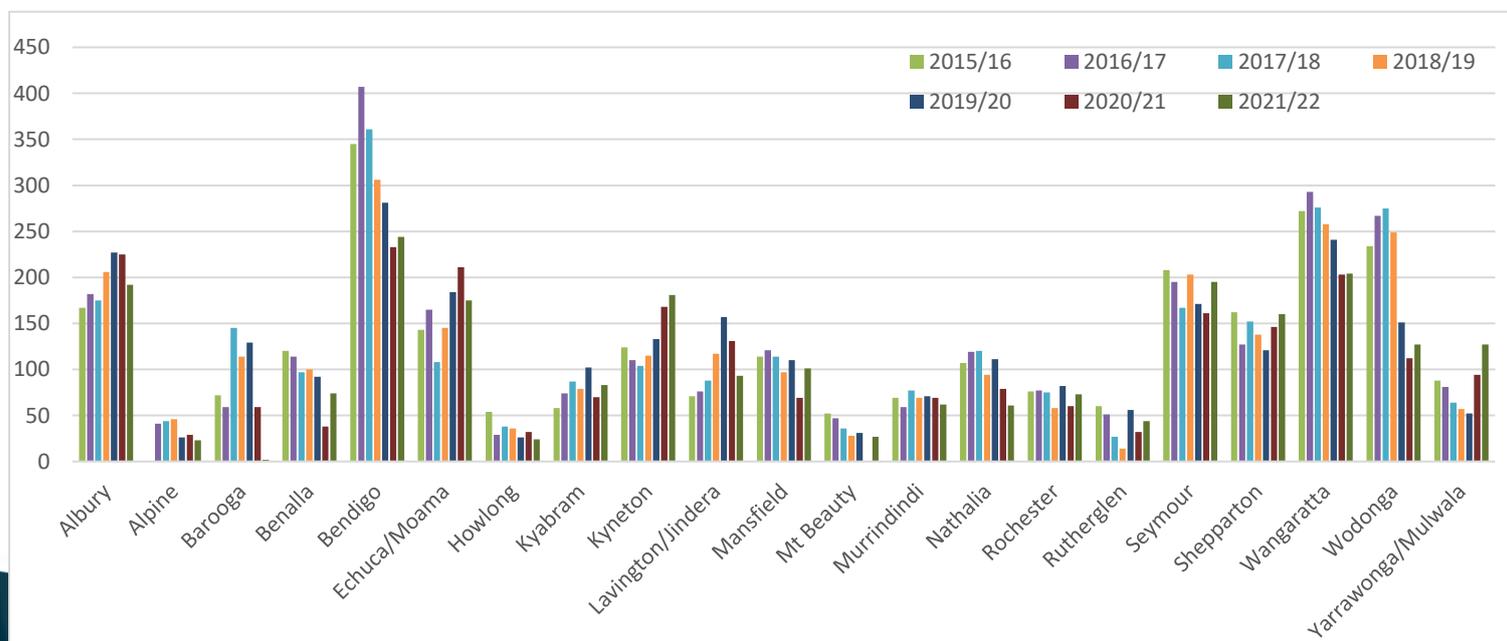
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION (NMR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Coburg	285	323	302	297	265	325	313	-3.83%	61.37%
Craigieburn	84	132	141	133	124	148	196	24.49%	70.75%
Diamond Valley	618	605	592	389	473	439	400	-9.75%	63.76%
Essendon	413	416	375	326	285	303	356	14.89%	68.38%
Hume	60	81	42	59	50	34	33	-3.03%	62.50%
Keilor	440	442	393	333	304	303	328	7.62%	66.78%
Kilmore & Districts	75	90	80	101	95	101	93	-8.60%	47.00%
Lancefield/Romsey	109	113	134	117	110	107	125	14.40%	73.58%
Preston/ Reservoir	166	187	162	98	25	31	54	42.59%	87.10%
Sunbury	193	209	188	185	166	140	129	-8.53%	59.85%
Whittlesea City	456	331	356	319	357	314	319	1.57%	67.57%
Region TOTAL	2899	2929	2765	2357	2254	2245	2346	4.31%	65.21%



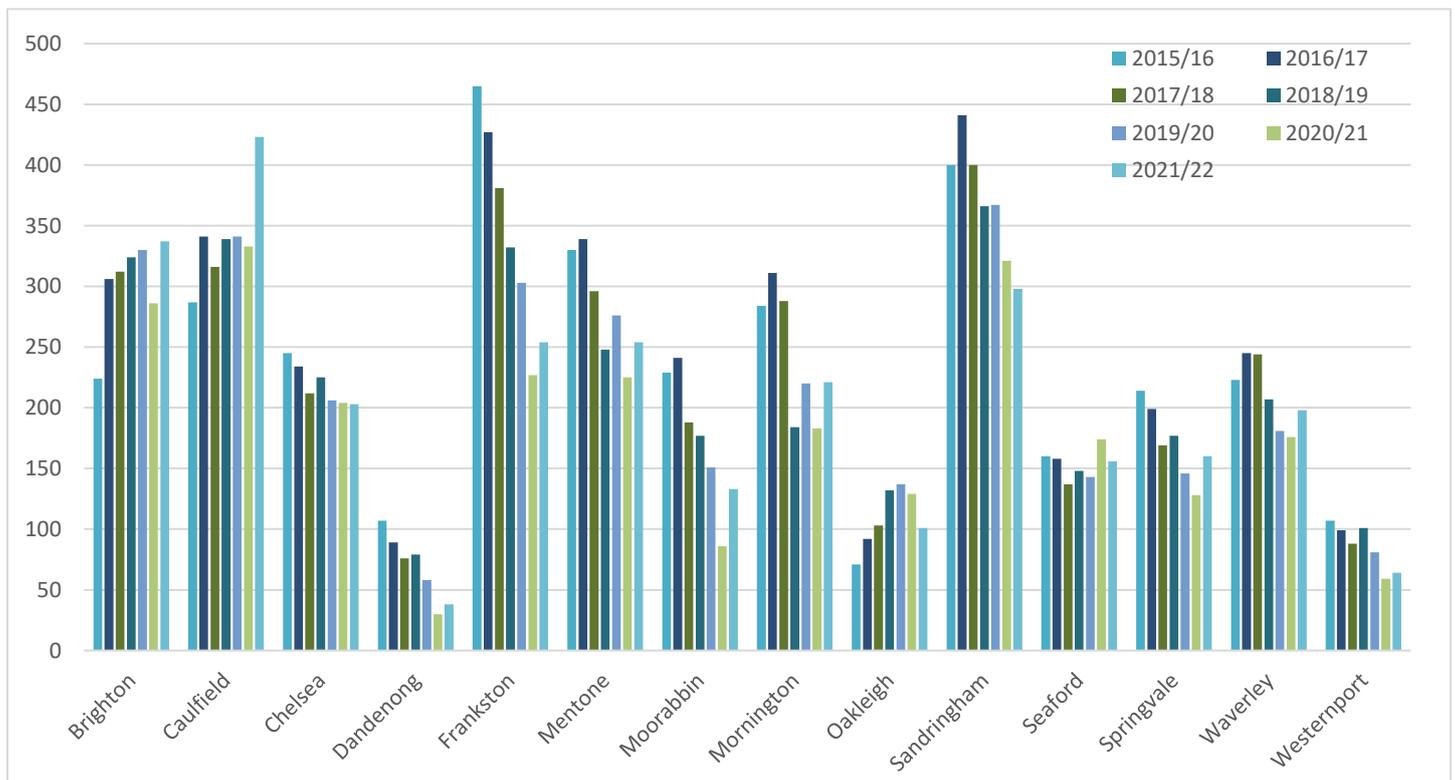
NORTHERN COUNTRY REGION (NCR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Albury	167	182	175	206	227	225	192	-17.19%	50.45%
Alpine	N/A	41	44	46	26	29	23	-26.09%	34.48%
Barooga	72	59	145	114	129	59	2	-	3.39%
Benalla	120	114	97	100	92	38	74	48.65%	65.79%
Bendigo	345	407	361	306	281	233	244	4.51%	61.16%
Corowa	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Echuca/Moama	143	165	108	145	184	211	175	-20.57%	44.98%
Howlong	54	29	38	36	26	32	24	-33.33%	37.50%
Kyabram	58	74	87	79	102	70	83	15.66%	65.22%
Kyneton	124	110	104	115	133	168	181	7.18%	54.27%
Lavington/Jindera	71	76	88	117	157	131	93	-40.86%	30.47%
Mansfield	114	121	114	97	110	69	101	31.68%	67.65%
Mt Beauty	52	47	36	28	31	0	27	-	-
Murrindindi	69	59	77	69	71	69	62	-11.29%	58.82%
Nathalia	107	119	120	94	111	79	61	-29.51%	43.59%
Rochester	76	77	75	58	82	60	73	17.81%	57.63%
Rutherglen	60	51	27	14	56	32	44	27.27%	59.38%
Seymour	208	195	167	203	171	161	195	17.44%	73.91%
Shepparton	162	127	152	138	121	146	160	8.75%	60.69%
Wangaratta	272	293	276	258	241	203	204	0.49%	57.44%
Wodonga	234	267	275	249	151	112	127	11.81%	63.64%
Yarrawonga/Mulwala	88	81	64	57	52	94	127	25.98%	64.52%
Region TOTAL	2633	2694	2630	2529	2554	2221	2272	2.24%	54.37%



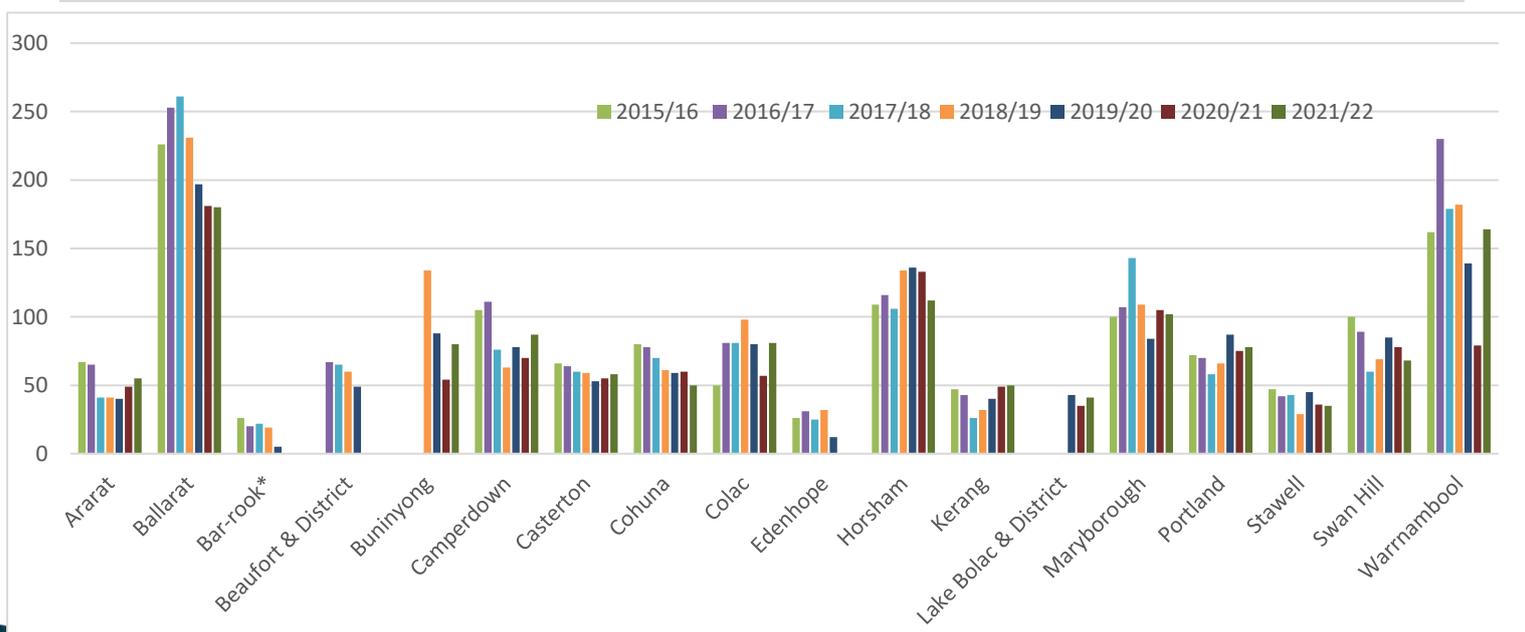
SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION (SMR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Brighton	224	306	312	324	330	286	337	15.13%	62.77%
Caulfield	287	341	316	339	341	333	423	21.28%	67.69%
Chelsea	245	234	212	225	206	204	203	-0.49%	64.47%
Dandenong	107	89	76	79	58	30	38	21.05%	41.38%
Frankston	465	427	381	332	303	227	254	10.63%	65.00%
Mentone	330	339	296	248	276	225	254	11.42%	66.52%
Moorabbin	229	241	188	177	151	86	133	35.34%	58.02%
Mornington	284	311	288	184	220	183	221	17.19%	58.01%
Oakleigh	71	92	103	132	137	129	101	-27.72%	64.06%
Sandringham	400	441	400	366	367	321	298	-7.72%	54.11%
Seaford	160	158	137	148	143	174	156	-11.54%	58.48%
Southern Peninsula	144	160	119	0	0	0	0	-	-
Springvale	214	199	169	177	146	128	160	20.00%	66.94%
Waverley	223	245	244	207	181	176	198	11.11%	68.00%
Westernport	107	99	88	101	81	59	64	7.31%	59.32%
Region TOTAL	3490	3682	3329	3039	2940	2561	2840	9.82%	62.50%



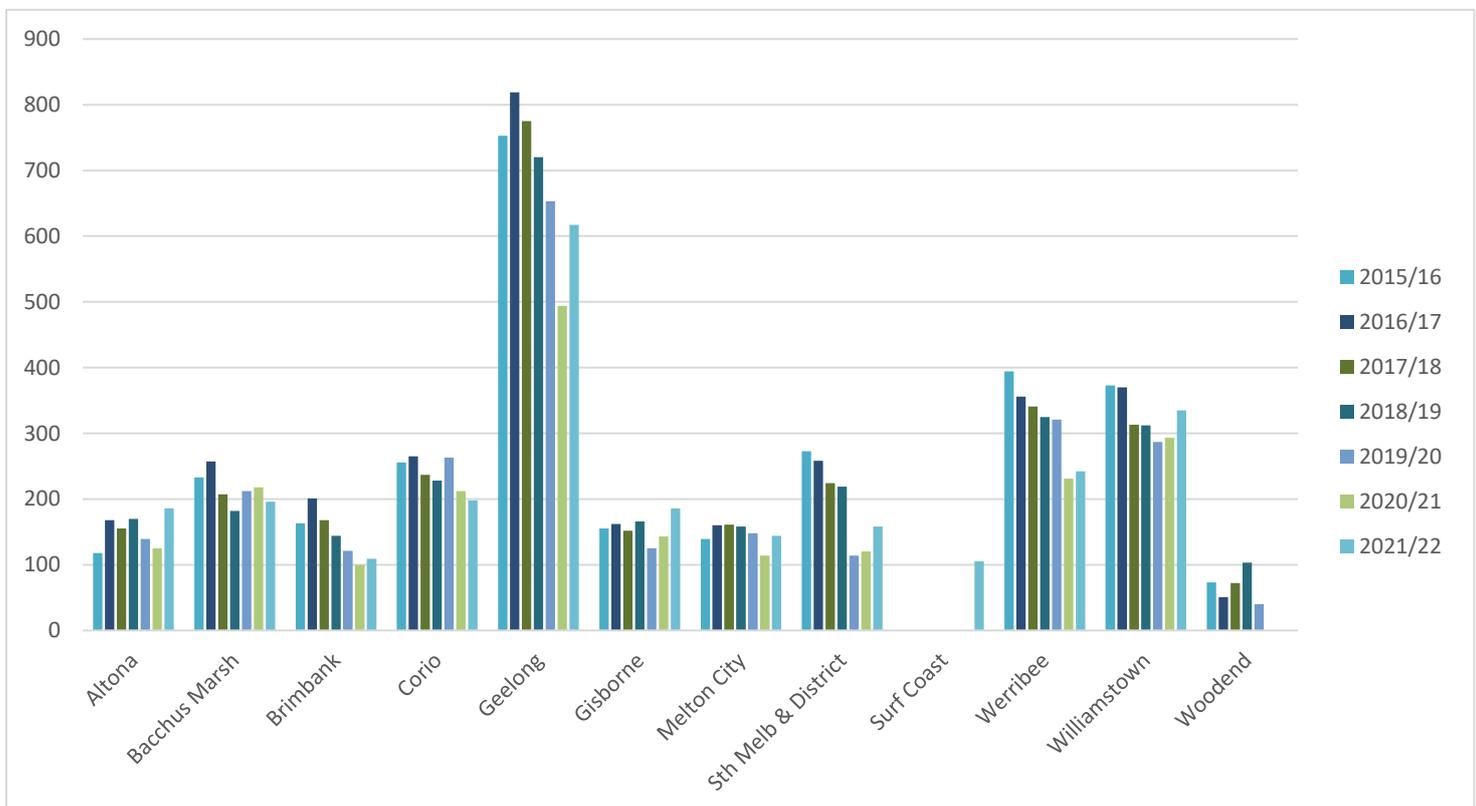
WESTERN COUNTRY REGION (WCR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Ararat	67	65	41	41	40	49	55	10.91%	63.27%
Ballarat	226	253	261	231	197	181	180	-0.56%	64.20%
Bar-rook*	26	20	22	19	5	0	0	-	-
Beaufort & District	-	67	65	60	49	0	0	-	-
Buninyong	-	-	-	134	88	54	80	32.50%	75.93%
Camperdown	105	111	76	63	78	70	87	19.54%	60.00%
Casterton	66	64	60	59	53	55	58	5.17%	69.23%
Cohuna	80	78	70	61	59	60	50	-20.00%	50.00%
Colac	50	81	81	98	80	57	81	29.63%	57.14%
Dimboola	25	22	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Edenhope	26	31	25	32	12	0	0	-	-
Hamilton	61	42	36	30	21	0	0	-	-
Horsham	109	116	106	134	136	133	112	-18.75%	55.04%
Kerang	47	43	26	32	40	49	50	2.00%	65.31%
Lake Bolac & District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43	35	41	14.63%	55.88%
Maryborough	100	107	143	109	84	105	102	-2.94%	59.22%
Portland	72	70	58	66	87	75	78	3.85%	75.34%
Stawell	47	42	43	29	45	36	35	-2.86%	51.52%
Swan Hill	100	89	60	69	85	78	68	-17.71%	62.16%
Warrnambool	162	230	179	182	139	79	164	51.83%	73.08%
Region TOTAL	1369	1531	1352	1449	1341	1116	1241	10.07%	62.68%



WESTERN METRO REGION (WMR)

Centre	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Variance	Retention
Altona	118	168	155	170	139	125	186	32.80%	79.67%
Bacchus Marsh	233	257	207	182	212	218	196	-11.22%	65.40%
Brimbank	163	201	168	144	121	100	109	8.26%	75.51%
Corio	256	265	237	228	263	212	198	-7.07%	63.32%
Geelong	753	819	775	720	653	494	617	19.94%	72.86%
Gisborne	155	162	152	166	125	143	186	23.12%	51.41%
Melton City	139	160	161	158	148	114	144	20.83%	55.26%
Sth Melb & District	273	258	224	219	114	120	158	24.05%	55.00%
Surf Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	0.00%	0.00%
Werribee	394	356	341	325	321	231	242	4.55%	61.61%
Williamstown	373	370	313	312	287	293	335	12.54%	64.48%
Woodend	73	51	72	103	40	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Region TOTAL	2930	3067	2805	2727	2423	2050	2476	17.21%	65.56%
STATE TOTAL	18672	19422	17814	16859	15896	14144	15503	9.61%	61.64%



5. Presentation of Audited 21/22 Financial Statements

NOTICE OF MOTION C22 – 01

Submitted by: The Board

"That the Audited Financial Statements of the Little Athletics Association of Victoria for 2021 / 2022 as circulated be adopted."

MOTION: C22-01		PASSED – Amended ()		LOST		LAPSED
SECONDED				WITHDRAWN		
Comments						

6. Appointment of Auditors for 22/23

NOTICE OF MOTION C22 – 02

Submitted by: The Board

“That Moore Australia be re-appointed as LAVic auditors for 22/23 financial year.”

MOTION: C22 – 02		PASSED – Amended ()		LOST		LAPSED
SECONDED				WITHDRAWN		
Comments						