

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting Of LITTLE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

4pm, 27th July 2024

Manningham Hotel & Club

1 Thompsons Road, Bulleen, Victoria, 3105

Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Little Athletics Association of Victoria Inc.

Members attending their first AGM are especially welcome to join 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 well experienced at attending LAVic AGMs. The support, experience, and wisdom you bring provides the basis upon which we can move confidently into the new 24/25 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 2023 / 2024

| | | End of Term |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Elected Director | Shoshana Simonovski - President | 2025 |
| Elected Director | Julie Bicknell - Vice President | 2024 |
| Elected Director 19.06.24) | Steve Waugh | 2024 (terminated |
| Elected Director | Malcolm Duncan | 2024 |
| Elected Director | Maryanne Gec | 2024 |
| Elected Director | Erina Cunningham | 2025 |
| Elected Director | Sarah Lorentzen | 2025 |
| Appointed Director | Russell Dmytrenko | 2024 |

The Team in 2023 / 2024

| | |
|--|---|
| Chief Executive Officer: | Anthony McIntosh |
| Manager - Finance, Governance & Risk: | Julie Green |
| Manager – Competition: | Brett Johnstone |
| Manager – Education: | Nathan McConchie |
| Manager - e-Commerce & Technology: | Kim John |
| Co-ordinator - Communications & Marketing: | Nathan Gjorgievski |
| Co-ordinator - Membership, Events & Merchandise: | Caitlin Serle (commenced 11.04.23) |
| Competition Development (casual): | Debbie Baskin |
| Development Officer (casual): | Rob Belli |
| Development Officer (casual): | Kelly Costin |
| Development Officer (casual): | Doug Cobbledick (concluded 15.04.23) |
| Technical support (casual): | Graham Lucas |

Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Little Athletics Association Inc

Meeting agenda

4:00pm, Saturday 27th July 2024

Manningham Hotel & Club – 1 Thomsons Road, Bulleen, Victoria, 3105.

- 1. Opening of Meeting**
- 2. Attendance & apologies**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting**
- 4. Presentation of Reports**
- 5. Presentation of 23/24 Audited Financial Statements**
- 6. Appointment of Auditors for 24/25**
- 7. Director elections**
- 8. Service Award recipients for 2024**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Meeting Close**

3. Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE OF MOTION C24 – 01

Submitted by: The Board

“That the Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting for the Little Athletics Association of Victoria held on 15.07.2023 are true & correct.”

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|--|-----------|--|--------|
| MOTION: C24-01 | | PASSED – Amended () | | LOST | | LAPSED |
| SECONDED | | | | WITHDRAWN | | |
| Comments | | | | | | |

4. Reports

President's Report 2023-24

We're back on track!

Following the disruption of the COVID pandemic and later challenges associated with natural disasters affecting our people and centres, it is great to see our sport bounce back with a healthy membership and volunteer support base that enables Little Athletics to continue to thrive in Victoria.

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with pride and optimism further strengthened by the resilience and dedication of our members and volunteers supported by our amazing experienced LAVic team. It has been an absolute honour to lead our team of dedicated Directors, supported by LAVic CEO, Anthony McIntosh and Vice-President Julie Bicknell. Our director team have focussed their efforts on enhanced collaboration and consultation, to concentrate on developing a forward-thinking strategy that aligns with the evolving needs of our Little Athletics community and the broader athletics landscape.

Ambitious, yet focused Strategic Plan

Our ambitious yet focused Strategic Plan (Plan), reflects an unprecedented level of collaboration and input from our people, partners, and broader athletics community to encapsulate our promise of continued growth and success for Little Athletics in Victoria.

To ensure we deliver on our purpose to inspire the next generation of athletes through fun, inclusive, and accessible athletics programs, our Plan focuses on five key priority areas: our Athletes & Parents, Centres, Regions & Volunteers, Participation Formats & Pathways, Partners & Relationships, and Leadership & Advocacy.

In its first year, our Plan has provided a roadmap to inform operational activities and will continue to guide us through the coming years, ensuring we dynamically adapt to emerging trends while upholding the core values that define who we are and what makes our sport great.

Over the next two years, these priorities will continue guide us towards realising our refreshed vision of delivering inclusive community-based athletics for children and young people that promotes positive attitudes and healthy, active lifestyles.

Prioritising Child Safety at all levels of our sport

The safety and well-being of our young athletes remains a key focus area and remains at the heart of everything we do. This year, we have placed a significant focus on child safety resources and information to support our centres and volunteers and strengthen our culture of child safety during Little Athletics activities and events. Our Child Safety Working Group is now fully established to help drive the development of education, information, and resources to ensure we are all well-positioned to deliver on our child safety commitments and obligations. Our progress in this area reflects not only a deep understanding of our regulatory obligations but a deeper commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for every child who participates in our sport.

We also remain committed to addressing the ongoing concerns posed by historic sex abuse cases and continued ambition to drive awareness alongside preventative measures so we can embed a culture of accountability and safety that permeates every level of Little Athletics in Victoria.

Investing in the future of our sport

Our financial strength continues to provide us with the opportunity to drive positive change and deliver on our strategic purpose. We continue to invest in our ongoing financial stability through the appointment of a dedicated Finance Director, Russell Dmytrenko and we are again pleased to share that we have ended the year with a positive financial result. This achievement is a testament to our disciplined fiscal management and strategic planning in concert with our LAVic team and our Board. Importantly, continued financial stability will enable us to reinvest in our people and our sporting community. Our strategic commitment aims to enhance opportunities for our officials and volunteers and increase support for our centres and athletes. This reinvestment will help us build capacity and deliver even better experiences for all our members and we look forward to sharing more in this space soon.

Enhancing our offering through innovation

Innovation and enhancement of our programs have been key priorities this year. Driven from our Plan, the LAVic team have successfully delivered new product offerings such as the New Zealand Development Tour, the Race Walking Road Championships, and the Winter Track Series, all of which have been received enthusiastically. These new editions provide diverse competition and development opportunities for our athletes, and I am inspired by the commitment of the LAVic team to continue to seek out and implement innovative offerings that add value to our community and enrich the overall Little Athletics experience.

Continued support from our sponsors and partners

As a non-for-profit community sporting organisation, sponsorship and commercial partners play an integral role in helping us invest in the future of our sport. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our generous sponsors and partners whose support goes beyond financial commitments. I would like to thank the Commonwealth Bank (Gold State Sponsor) who for four years has continued to offer financial support to LAVic and holds the naming rights to Region & State Relay Championships. To our national sponsor, Coles thank you for your continued support to our Centres with bananas, grant opportunities, Cole Ambassador visits and other benefits. Finally, thank you to the Victorian State Government who continues to support our sport by providing LAVic and our centres us with grant funding and sporting facilities to compete in so we can continue to do what we do best, deliver amazing little athletic experiences.

With leadership and advocacy, a new pillar of our strategic focus, we look forward to inspiring more partnerships and connections that enhance our sport and strengthen our athletics community beyond the track.

Looking ahead toward a prosperous future

Looking ahead, our collaborative efforts have laid a sturdy foundation for the continuous improvement and innovation that will drive us forward. Building on the momentum we've gained and supported by our national body, Little Athletics Australia; we will keep striving to exceed our goals and enhance the quality of athletics for all our members.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors for their unwavering support and strategic guidance. Your contributions have been invaluable in getting us to where we are today. Special thanks go out to our outgoing directors, for their dedicated service and continued support on the future of Little Athletics in Victoria.

Lastly on behalf of our director team, thank you to our members, volunteers and Region and Centre leaders for your outstanding contributions and continued support. We look forward to continuing this journey with all of you as we bring our ambitious strategy to life. The collective efforts and passion within our Little Athletics community are what makes Little Athletics in Victoria truly exceptional. I am confident that together, we will build on our achievements and continue to thrive for years to come.

Shoshana Simonovski

President, Little Athletics Victoria

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Having been in the privileged position of administering Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic) for over seven years now, I can't help but make comparisons to other sports and State Sporting Organisations. It is helpful to occasionally step back to assess LAVic's role and standing amongst other State Sporting Associations, and the Victorian grassroots sporting community in general. By almost every measure, LAVic and its Centres are standing up well in an economy that is seriously challenging many sports.

With the COVID-19 pandemic firmly in the rear vision mirror, LAVic's Centres have done an excellent job in maintaining engagement with their families and communities as they confront a possibly more enduring challenge: the ever-increasing cost of living. To that end, Little Aths has not been immune, and this will partly explain the 4.5% drop in registrations this season to 17339 - down 809 athletes.

Another challenge impacting many sports is the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events. Our Association has been severely impacted in recent seasons by multiple flooding events, and at the 23/24 State Track & Field Championships, those present were subjected to oppressively hot conditions over both days (we extend an enormous debt of gratitude to the Knox Little Athletics Centre for their generous and unwavering support of this event). Opinion from researchers and social commentators is now mainstream in that we can expect more of these weather events, not less. Again, compared to other sports, Little Athletics, with its low athlete equipment needs and open space requirements, is well placed to adapt to these challenges.

Challenges will keep coming.

Volunteerism is another sport-wide challenge. All sports are battling for volunteers. It follows that a healthy population of capable, connected, and happy volunteers is the secret to a robust and sustainable Little Athletics program at Centre, Region, and State levels. Not only does this allow the essence of our sport – participation and competition – to be conducted, but it strengthens the resilience of the Association when we are confronted by challenges.

To recognise outstanding voluntary service has long been part of the Little Athletics fabric. However, our sport, like every sport, has volunteers that selflessly labour away for decades on end at their local Centre without anyone outside of their Centre knowing. The recent introduction of formal Length of Service Recognition of 30, 40 or 50 years' service increments will go a long way towards giving those individuals – and there are a surprising number of them – the recognition they deserve.

On a different note, during 23/24, LAVic made the decision to become a party to the National Redress Scheme. This involves owning historical responsibilities LAVic and its Centres may have to victims of child sexual abuse from the past six decades. At the time of writing, it's not clear what impact – positive or otherwise – this decision will have on survivors or LAVic: this will become clear in the fullness of time. To date, LAVic has received two applications, with both thus far unresolved. Notwithstanding, LAVic is convinced that it remains the right course to take in playing its role in this space.

LAVic has the strategic imperative to participate in - and lead – industry initiatives for the betterment of our sport, and community sport in general in Victoria. Our relationships with key sporting agencies such as Vicsport, Sport & Recreation Victoria and VicHealth have never been better. LAVic is a key member of the 'Community Sport Workforce Strategy' working group (Sport & Recreation Victoria); surveyed its members health habits of adolescent female athletes (Federation University); and is one of twelve sports in the

longitudinal 'Sports Participation Research Project' (Federation University). Further, there are few, if any educational interventions conducted by industry peak body, Vicsport, that LAVic is not an enthused participant and supporter of. These relationships, the activities and the industry prominence serve our sport well.

Thanks:

- Thanks to the hardworking Committee member of our affiliated Centres. They are often parents with incredibly busy lives, giving their time to our sport so others can participate.
- Thanks to the seven Region Committees and their members. Their efforts provide thousands of athletes and families with lifelong memories of good times had in our sport.
- Thanks to the dedicated and experienced LAVic team – Julie Green, Nathan McConchie, Brett Johnstone, Kim John, Nathan Gjorgievski, Caitlin Serle, Debbie Baskin, Graham Lucas, Rob Belli & Kelly Costin.
- Thanks to the LAVic Board, led by its first all-female ticket in President Shoshana Simonovski and Vice President Julie Bicknell.

As 23/24 is formally brought to a close, I wish all every success for the 24/25 season.

Regards,



Anthony McIntosh

Chief Executive Officer

Operations Report

Staff movements in summary during the reporting period:

Caitlin Serle commenced in the role of Membership, Events, and Merchandise Co-ordinator in April 2023.

There were no resignations.

The LAVic team's expertise in the delivery of high quality athletics events was again in evidence with the entire team assisting with event administration roles at the 2024 Australian Little Athletics Championships ('ALAC'), held in Adelaide on 27th & 28th April, at SA Athletics Stadium, Adelaide, South Australia.

Communications and Marketing

LAVic's focus on communication and marketing continued during the 2023-24 season with a new focus on the National Marketing Campaign. This initiative was designed to elevate the profile of Little Athletics across the wider community. LAVic opted to channel all its communications and key messaging exclusively through digital and online platforms, recognising the power and reach of these mediums.

Throughout the 2023-24 season, the National Marketing Campaign surged into action, spanning from September to February. With LAVic & Centres provided with their own State & Centre Marketing Kit containing a mixture of social media vertical flyers, additional marketing resources, call to action tiles & frequently used tiles. With 'We are' impactful key messaging remaining consistent with all Centres on all marketing material. Ensuring LAVic and our Centres were aligned together in our messaging and branding of Little Athletics.

During the season, an impressive 89% of Centres actively utilised materials from their Centre Marketing Kit to bolster their presence across social media platforms. This concerted effort was aimed at engaging both returning and prospective members through online means. The results were striking: a remarkable 295% surge in pageviews on the LAVic website during the campaign period, as compared to the corresponding timeframe in the previous year (September to February).

Social Media

Social media remained integral to LAVic's communication and engagement strategies. With LAVic placing a significant emphasis on the 2023-24 State Marketing Kit, ensuring its prominent showcase across all our social media channels. Growth across all significant social networks continued holding LAVic amongst the most followed athletics organisation in Australia. See the figures in the table below.

Most platforms displayed growth, year on year. Facebook, with its appeal to young mothers, remains the most effective platform for engagement and return on investment. While LinkedIn tends to have limitations for the Little Athletics market.

Instagram and TikTok persist in their rapid evolution, serving as dynamic platforms for engaging with our younger demographic and spotlighting Little Athletics. Throughout the 2023-24 season, our team strategically allocated resources to craft short-form video reels aimed at promoting Little Athletics across

all levels, from regional to national events. This initiative provided remarkable success, particularly evident in the staggering growth rates a remarkable - 362% surge in TikTok followers and an impressive 112% increase in Instagram followers.

YouTube's trajectory is poised for further rise, propelled by the increase emphasis on online video content. Notably, the livestreaming of our State Championships events stands as a pivotal contributor to this surge. Additionally, the recent educational video resources, LAVic Volunteer Officiating series and LAVic Coaching Tips for Centre Volunteers series, has gained significant traction, generating hundreds of views within this year alone.

| Social Network | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Facebook | 17,961 | 23,710 | 24,492 | 26,276 | 27,833 |
| Instagram | 4,859 | 5,080 | 5,303 | 5,827 | 6,554 |
| LinkedIn | 157 | 207 | 252 | 300 | 359 |
| YouTube | 3,360 | 4,390 | 5,100 | 5,990 | 6,703 |
| TikTok | N/A | N/A | 190* | 305 | 1104 |

Table 1: Social Network follower stats based on the 21st of May 2024.

Livestream

In the 2023-24 season, LAVic significantly expanded its online presence by live streaming three State Championships: Combined Events, Relays, and Track and Field. Among its various social media platforms, YouTube emerged as a strong performer, experiencing growth throughout the season. This surge in demand, resulted in an impressive 70,000 views on the LAVic YouTube channel alone.

This uptick in viewership underscores the growing appetite for high-quality Little Athletics content among LAVic members and followers. By leveraging the Livestreams and breaking them down into individual heats and finals across all Championship events, LAVic has been able to create a wealth of engaging content. This not only enhances the overall experience for members during the events but, also extends the excitement and value of the Championships well beyond their conclusion.

Through strategic content creation and distribution across social media platforms, LAVic continues to foster a sense of community and connection among its audience, ensuring that members remain actively engaged before, during, and after each State event.

Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

LAVic affiliated Centres raised a combined total of \$35,712.22 for the 2023 Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Lake Bolac & District LAC raised the most of all Centres: \$6264.75. Vice President Shoshana Simonovski, LBDLAC President Melissa Perry and athletes presented the big cheque to the Royal Children's Hospital live on Channel 7

LAVic participated in the 'Kids Day Out' (KDO) event at Melbourne Exhibition Centre, on Good Friday. LAVic set up a 6-lane 30m sprint track complete with timing equipment. 554 races were conducted.

Uniform and apparel licences

Uniform licences: in January 2023, LAVic sought expressions of interest from apparel providers to supply competition uniforms to our affiliated Centres. A maximum of three licences were made available for a contractual term of three years. The three successful applicants – Game Day Apparel, Energetic Apparel and Blackchrome – commenced their contracts in May 2023.

State Apparel licence: in August 2023, LAVic sought expressions of interest from apparel providers to supply State apparel items, inclusive of commemorative items for State Championships, staff uniform items, State representative competition items, uniform items for officials and items for special activities. Expressions of interest were sought. Energetic Apparel were awarded the licence for a 2-year period, commencing August 2023.

National Redress Scheme

LAVic applied and was accepted to into the National Redress Scheme (NRS) in December 2023. The NRS provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The Scheme started in 2018 and will run for 10 years.

LAVic received one request for information in response to an application for redress during the reporting period.

Governance & Risk Report

During the reporting period and pursuant to the second phase of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, work in the area of Governance and Risk continued.

The Association's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 was finalised and published in 2024 and sets LAVic's strategic priorities for the next 3 years.

With the intention of keeping the Constitution of Little Athletics Victoria a contemporary governing instrument, the current Constitution has been reviewed by the Association's legal representatives and ongoing work will take place with the intention of presenting a proposed updated Constitution to the Members during the 2024/2025 season and eventually becoming the subject of a special resolution at the AGM in 2025.

The Association's legal representatives also reviewed our Privacy Policy and VicSport has been engaged to review the Board Charter to ensure that it also remains appropriate for our association.

Updated Regulations:

- Regulation 6: Terms for Affiliation
- Regulation 14: Administrative Requirements for Service Awards

Updated Policies:

- Code of Conduct Policy
- Trial Athlete Policy
- ALAC Selection Policy and Guidelines
- ALAC Team Management and Selection Policy Guidelines
- Working With Children Check Policy

At the time of drafting this report a Financial Management Policy was still in the process of review and approval.

Child Safety forms a substantial part of the body of work completed or is in progress during the reporting period in the area of risk, with the Child Safe Working Party having continued to meet regularly. The Child Safe section of the LAVIC website has been revamped in accordance with guidance from the committee and new resources added. Priorities within the Child Safe Plan have been established, a Child Safe Marketing tile was developed within the office and a Child Safe survey will soon be sent to our Centres. Child Safety Officer badges were distributed to all affiliated Centres during the reporting period, and Centres were invited to collect a series of Child Safe Posters that were distributed at State Events. Continued implementation and refinement of the Child Safe Sport Plan is an ongoing task for LAVic, and we continue to be represented at training and networking held by organisations including VicSport and the Commissioner of Children and Young People.

The area of the Cyber Security Risk continues to be a high priority and to this end Multi Factor Authentication has been implemented for Staff, Board and Region email addresses and is in progress for Centre email addresses. To date, no reportable data breaches involving LAVic, or its key member data management partners have occurred.

During the reporting period, Little Athletics Victoria was successful in joining the National Redress Scheme ('NRS') which provides an alternative pathway for sex abuse victims to seek redress.

Insurance is procured annually by Little Athletics Australia for all member associations and LAVic has been involved in work to ensure that appropriate insurance at an economical cost continues to provide for our sport.

LAVic has again been able to secure Funding from the Victorian State Government for several projects that will extend over multiple seasons, those projects include Governance related projects including those relating to the updating of the Association's Constitution and Privacy Policy. LAVic continues to be a member of VicSport, the peak body for sport and recreation in Victoria which works closely with the Victorian Government whilst providing resources and training opportunities to their membership. In accordance with strategic objectives to adopt sustainable practices and minimise our impact on communities and the environment, LAVic joined the Sports Environment Alliance during the reporting period.

Competition Report

The 2023-24 competition season was a successful one with our regular Region and Championship events all being completed and the addition of some new events to increase participation opportunities for our members.

This season saw the addition of a Race Walk Road Championships (held in conjunction with the Victorian Race Walking Club), some trial Winter Track and Field meets and an Under 14/15 Development Tour to New Zealand to compete at the North Island "Colgate Games".

Multi-Class athletics continues to evolve, and it is pleasing to see more Centres including these athletes in their weekly program and a greater participation at all levels from Centre level through to National level. Extra events (800m & Javelin) were added to the Multi-Class event selection and significant progress has been made towards establishing Victorian Best Performances for these athletes.

Our Competition program is constantly reviewed to seek ways to improve the experience for our athletes, parents and volunteers and we continue to seek opportunities for more members to get more out of their involvement with Little Athletics. This is particularly important to aid in retention and to continue to make Little Athletics an attractive option for existing and potential members in a very competitive sporting market.

State Cross Country Relay Championships

The State Cross Country Relay Championships for 2023 and 2024 were held at Cruden Farm, Langwarrin.

| Age Group | 2024 Entries | | 2023 Entries | | 2022 Entries | | 2019* Entries | |
|-----------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 9 | 30 | 24 | 31 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 18 | 22 |
| Under 10 | 37 | 35 | 34 | 38 | 35 | 32 | 30 | 27 |
| Under 11 | 34 | 28 | 32 | 27 | 18 | 24 | 25 | 19 |
| Under 12 | 33 | 26 | 25 | 19 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 20 |
| Under 13 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 7 | 11 |
| Under 14 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Under 15 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| Under 16 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Under 17 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Multi-Class | 3 (Mixed) | 2 (Mixed) | 1 (Mixed) | n/a |
| TOTALS | 319 | 288 | 251 | 240 |

*NOTE: Event not held in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid Restrictions.

Region Cross Country Carnivals

The 2023 Region Cross Country Carnivals were held over 29th/30th July 2023 at various locations throughout the State and served as the qualifying events for the State Cross Country Championships. The 2024 Region Cross Country Carnivals will be held on the weekend of 13th/14th July 2024.

| Region | 2024 Entries | | | 2023 Entries | | | 2022 Entries | | | 2019* Entries | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| | Boys | Girls | TOT | Boys | Girls | TOT | Boys | Girls | TOT | Boys | Girls | TOT |
| EMR | 102 | 109 | 211 | 103 | 110 | 213 | 95 | 121 | 216 | 100 | 131 | 231 |
| GCR | 95 | 76 | 171 | 90 | 80 | 170 | 72 | 65 | 137 | 73 | 73 | 146 |
| NCR | 30 | 36 | 66 | 33 | 40 | 73 | 27 | 17 | 44 | 40 | 47 | 87 |
| NMR | 110 | 71 | 181 | 104 | 68 | 172 | 74 | 64 | 138 | 106 | 78 | 184 |
| SMR | 108 | 107 | 215 | 108 | 96 | 204 | 98 | 87 | 185 | 117 | 101 | 218 |
| WCR | 55 | 45 | 100 | 24 | 32 | 56 | 19 | 27 | 46 | 45 | 30 | 75 |
| WMR | 100 | 88 | 188 | 102 | 87 | 189 | 84 | 77 | 161 | 91 | 96 | 187 |
| TOTALS | 600 | 532 | 1132 | 564 | 513 | 1077 | 469 | 458 | 927 | 572 | 556 | 1128 |

*NOTE: Event not held in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid Restrictions.

State Cross Country Championships

The State Cross Country Championships for 2023 were held at Lake Dewar, Myrning on 12th August 2023. The 2024 Championships will be held at Bundoora Park on 10th August 2024. All athletes that complete their Region Cross Country Carnival automatically qualify for the State Cross Country Championships.

| Age Group | 2023 Competitors | | 2022 Competitors | | 2019* Competitors | |
|-----------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 9 | 74 | 56 | 56 | 59 | 64 | 52 |
| Under 10 | 73 | 67 | 62 | 66 | 65 | 68 |
| Under 11 | 71 | 69 | 55 | 47 | 67 | 57 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Under 12 | 48 | 44 | 49 | 33 | 63 | 62 |
| Under 13 | 37 | 30 | 38 | 37 | 34 | 46 |
| Under 14 | 26 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 30 | 31 |
| Under 15 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 20 | 27 | 18 |
| Under 16 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 9 |
| Under 17 | 2 | 7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Under 9-10 MC | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Under 11-12 MC | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Under 13-17 MC | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 686 | | 604 | | 718 | |

*NOTE: Event not held in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid Restrictions.

Race Walk Road Championships

This event was added to the calendar for the 2023-24 season. The event was run in partnership with the Victorian Race Walking Club and was held at Middle Park, near the Albert Park Lake on 22nd June 2024.

| Age Group | Entries Received | | Competed | |
|---------------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 9 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 12 |
| Under 10 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 7 |
| Under 11 | 6 | 15 | 5 | 14 |
| Under 12 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Under 13 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Under 14 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Under 15 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Under 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under 17 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 102 | | 82 | |

Region Relay Carnivals

The 2023-24 Region Relay Carnivals were held on the weekend of 18th/19th November 2023 across the 7 Regions and served as the qualifying event for the State Relay Championships.

| Region | 2023-24 Team Entries | 2022-23 Team Entries | 2019-20* Team Entries |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| EMR | 539 | 449 | 478 |
| GCR | 358 | 369 | 332 |
| NCR | 169 | 176 | 294 |
| NMR | 472 | 443 | 401 |
| SMR | 590 | 530 | 586 |
| WCR | 153 | 148 | 123 |
| WMR | 486 | 484 | 451 |
| TOTALS | 2767 | 2599 | 2665 |

*NOTE: Due to Covid restrictions, Region Relay Carnivals were not held in the 20-21 & 21-22 seasons.

State Relay Championships

The State Relay Championships were held at Lakeside Stadium on Saturday 16th December 2023.

| Age Group | 2023-24 Entries | | | 2022-23 Entries | | | 2019-20* Entries | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Mixed | Boys | Girls | Mixed | Boys | Girls | Mixed |
| Under 9 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 48 | 48 | 32 |
| Under 10 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 48 | 49 | 32 |
| Under 11 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 56 | 55 | 40 | 48 | 48 | 32 |
| Under 12 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 53 | 56 | 40 | 48 | 48 | 32 |
| Under 13 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 53 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 32 |
| Under 14 | 56 | 56 | 40 | 48 | 49 | 38 | 40 | 40 | 24 |
| Under 15 | 40 | 45 | 37 | 36 | 42 | 24 | 40 | 40 | 24 |
| Under 16 | 32 | 32 | 17 | 23 | 25 | 20 | 35 | 28 | 22 |
| Under 17 | 19 | 34 | 20 | 8 | 26 | 17 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|--|---|------------|--|---|
| Under 9-10 MC | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| Under 11-12 MC | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| Under 13-17 MC | | | 8 | | | 4 | | | 3 |
| TOTAL | 1196 | | | 1112 | | | 921 | | |

*NOTES:

- The 2020-21 State Relay Championships were held in March 2021 with a limited number of entries competing in the 4x100m only due to Covid restrictions.
- The 2021-22 State Relay Championships were not held due to Covid restrictions.
- Team Entries in **BOLD** denotes maximum entry number for that age/event.

Combined Event Championships

The State Combined Event Championships were held at Lakeside Stadium on 20th/21st January 2024 with 862 entries received.

| Age Group | 2023-24 Entries | | 2022-23 Entries | | 2021-22 Entries | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 9 (max 72) | 72 | 72 | 72 | 71 | 74 | 71 |
| Under 10 (max 72) | 72 | 72 | 72 | 71 | 71 | 72 |
| Under 11 (max 72) | 72 | 72 | 72 | 71 | 73 | 72 |
| Under 12 (max 72) | 72 | 72 | 72 | 63 | 72 | 71 |
| Under 13 (max 54) | 54 | 47 | 54 | 53 | 53 | 53 |
| Under 14 (max 36) | 36 | 31 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 35 |
| Under 15 (max 36) | 32 | 15 | 30 | 20 | 29 | 25 |
| Under 16 (max 36) | 11 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 18 |
| Under 17 (max 36) | 11 | 14 | 9 | 9 | n/a | n/a |
| Under 9-10 MC | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under 11-12 MC | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Under 13-17 MC | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 862 | | 857 | | 856 | |

Region Track and Field Carnivals

The Region Track and Field Carnivals were held on the weekend of 10th/11th February 2024 in various locations across the 7 Regions. These Carnivals served as the qualifying events for the State Track and Field Championships.

| Region | 2023-24 Athlete (Event) Entries | | 2022-23 Athlete (Event) Entries | | 2021-22 Athlete (Event) Entries | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| EMR | 311 (1062) | 324 (1095) | 317 (1063) | 332 (1108) | 248 (835) | 298 (942) |
| GCR | 285 (1031) | 288 (1016) | 289 (1052) | 264 (933) | 222 (780) | 220 (756) |
| NCR | 146 (585) | 204 (771) | 167 (640) | 199 (762) | 140 (553) | 168 (605) |
| NMR | 321 (1155) | 290 (1002) | 331 (1180) | 337 (1173) | 268 (945) | 277 (915) |
| SMR | 351 (1190) | 347 (1132) | 374 (1223) | 327 (1108) | 283 (930) | 299 (1034) |
| WCR | 123 (476) | 148 (575) | 140 (520) | 162 (632) | 100 (389) | 140 (532) |
| WMR | 319 (1165) | 361 (1282) | 339 (1219) | 362 (1284) | 269 (963) | 283 (991) |
| TOTAL | 3818 (13537) | | 3940 (13897) | | 3215 (11070) | |

*Figures in above table are numbers of athletes entered with total events entered in brackets.

e.g., 140 athletes entered doing 520 events in total is listed as 140 (520).

State Track and Field Championships

The State Track and Field Championships were held on the weekend of 9th/10th March 2024 at the Knox Athletics Track. They were scheduled to be held at Casey Fields (Lakeside Stadium unavailable due to the Grand Prix) but a late change was required due to scheduled works at Casey Fields running over time.

| Age Group | 2023-24 Athlete (Event) Entries | | 2022-23 Athlete (Event) Entries | | 2021-22 Athlete (Event) Entries | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 9 | 123 (256) | 118 (255) | 120 (253) | 122 (251) | 117 (246) | 108 (256) |
| Under 10 | 112 (247) | 129 (255) | 124 (253) | 121 (254) | 111 (242) | 120 (246) |
| Under 11 | 140 (291) | 147 (303) | 148 (300) | 149 (304) | 135 (295) | 133 (304) |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Under 12 | 139 (287) | 147 (300) | 145 (293) | 137 (303) | 131 (288) | 138 (298) |
| Under 13 | 141 (315) | 144 (317) | 142 (309) | 154 (326) | 123 (309) | 142 (320) |
| Under 14 | 133 (299) | 130 (314) | 128 (308) | 140 (314) | 114 (292) | 122 (304) |
| Under 15 | 106 (276) | 115 (279) | 101 (284) | 117 (284) | 101 (270) | 121 (307) |
| Under 16 | 57 (162) | 82 (207) | 67 (209) | 88 (228) | 77 (233) | 97 (269) |
| Under 17 | 46 (150) | 59 (185) | 36 (122) | 46 (154) | N/A | N/A |
| Under 9-10 MC | 4 (16) | 0 | 2 (9) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under 11-12 MC | 5 (21) | 3 (11) | 10 (46) | 4 (17) | 6 (27) | 3 (12) |
| Under 13-17 MC | 13 (62) | 4 (20) | 10 (45) | 5 (19) | 8 (37) | 7 (23) |
| TOTAL | 2097 (4828) | | 2116 (4885) | | 1914 (4586) | |

*Figures in above table are numbers of athletes entered with total events entered in brackets.

e.g., 50 athletes entered doing 185 events in total is listed as 50 (185)

Multi-Class

Three "Come and Try" Days were held through October/November in Craigieburn, Doncaster and Williamstown. These clinics provided athletes with the opportunity to have small group coaching from specialist coaches and for parents and Centre volunteers to learn more about Multi-Class opportunities and the classification process. A total of 39 athletes attended across the 3 sessions with several of them new to the sport.

Two events (800m and Javelin) were added to the Multi-Class program at Region Carnivals and State Track and Field Championships giving athletes additional opportunities to participate. With the extra events added to the Multi-Class program, their events were spread across two days rather than one.

Progress has been made on setting up Victorian Best Performances (VBPs) for Multi-Class. Going back through the historical data is taking some time but this should be completed in time for the start of the upcoming 2024-25 summer season.

Our Multi-Class Ambassador, Richard Colman, continues to do an amazing job in encouraging greater participation and opportunities for these athletes. A big thank you is extended to Richard and his team of coaches for the work they do with our Multi-Class athletes at the Come and Try Days and at our various Region/State Competitions.

Stawell Gift

LAVic again offered several handicapped events at the Stawell Gift – 100m, 400m, 800m and 1600m. Unfortunately, the 1600m event had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

| | 100m Boys | 100m Girls | 400m Mixed | 800m Mixed | 1600m Mixed | TOTAL |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| 2024 Entries | 81 | 83 | 132 | 91 | 47 | 434 |
| 2023 Entries | 72 | 79 | 80 | 80 | 34 | 345 |
| 2022 Entries | 67 | 79 | 99 | 83 | 37 | 365 |

Congratulations are extended to our event winners:

- 100m Boys – Mitchell Iannello (Keilor LAC)
- 100m Girls – Alicia Gec (Keilor LAC)
- 400m Mixed – Cooper Tuddenham (Ballarat LAC)
- 800m Mixed – Jett Hill (Horsham LAC)
- 1600m Mixed – Event Cancelled

Victorian Best Performances (VBPs)

Congratulations to the following athletes/teams for achieving VBPs during the 2023-24 season:

| Athlete/Team | Centre | Age | Event | Perf. |
|------------------|----------------|------|--------------|---------|
| Lily Bowkett | Geelong | U9G | 700m Walk | 3:33.56 |
| Annabel Miller | Caulfield | U9G | High Jump | 1.18m |
| Harper Harding | Doncaster | U12G | 200m | 25.74 |
| Harper Harding | Doncaster | U12G | 80m Hurdles | 12.37 |
| Sophie Hall | Box Hill | U13G | 1500m | 4:36.14 |
| Ela Uzun | Essendon | U13G | 1500m Walk | 6:26.20 |
| Jemima Hood | Geelong | U14G | 200m Hurdles | 28.31 |
| Laura Wong | Caulfield | U15G | 90m Hurdles | 12.57 |
| Maddison Meagher | Diamond Valley | U16G | 100m | 12.29 |
| Jessica Nolan | Doncaster | U16G | Javelin | 40.64m |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------|--------------|---------|
| Sophie Cheep | Mentone | U17G | 100m | 12.47 |
| Hailey Buckley | Knox | U17G | 200m | 25.33 |
| Suzanna Mavromihakis | Geelong | U17G | 1500m | 4:52.35 |
| Mikayla Talbot | Albury | U17G | 100m Hurdles | 14.63 |
| Mikayla Talbot | Albury | U17G | Long Jump | 5.66m |
| Mikayla Talbot | Albury | U17G | Triple Jump | 12.00m |
| Madison Carr | Caulfield | U17G | Shot Put | 12.62m |
| Kayleigh Samuel | Brimbank | U17G | Discus | 35.09m |
| Ryder Peresso | Berwick | U10B | 70m | 9.66 |
| Ryder Peresso | Berwick | U10B | 200m | 27.94 |
| Kai Brooks | Knox | U10B | 60m Hurdles | 9.86 |
| Ajay Vijayagopal | Melton City | U11B | 200m | 26.61 |
| James Hall | Box Hill | U11B | 800m | 2:15.86 |
| James Hall | Box Hill | U11B | 1500m | 4:35.25 |
| Charlie Ellis | Berwick | U12B | Shot Put | 14.79m |
| Ben Tornatora | Knox | U13B | 100m | 11.43 |
| William Hurt | Keilor | U16B | 100m | 10.76 |
| William Hurt | Keilor | U16B | 200m | 22.07 |
| Jake Frost | Knox | U16B | 400m | 51.12 |
| Rhylee Stewart | Moe | U16B | 1500m | 4:15.91 |
| Jake Frost | Knox | U16B | 100m Hurdles | 12.87 |
| Issac Malamatinas | Whittlesea City | U17B | 100m | 11.14 |
| Jaikiah Honner | Caulfield | U17B | 200m | 22.28 |
| Jaikiah Honner | Caulfield | U17B | 400m | 50.31 |
| Finn Daffey | Keilor | U17B | 800m | 2:04.62 |
| Cooper Bayliss | Springvale | U17B | 1500m | 4:23.45 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------|--------------|---------|
| Ethan Stegehuis | Keilor | U17B | 110m Hurdles | 13.51 |
| Ethan Stegehuis | Keilor | U17B | 300m Hurdles | 37.99 |
| Riley Coughlan | Sunbury | U17B | 1500m Walk | 5:44.30 |
| Noah McMenamin | Keilor | U17B | High Jump | 2.00m |
| Bailey Farrington | Keilor | U17B | Long Jump | 6.58m |

| Athlete/Team | Centre | Age | Event | Perf. |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Knox A | Knox | U16B | 4 X 100m Relay | 44.73 |
| Keilor A | Keilor | U17B | 4 X 100m Relay | 45.04 |
| Caulfield A | Caulfield | U17G | 4 X 100m Relay | 52.34 |
| Caulfield A | Caulfield | U17 Mixed | 4 X 100m Relay | 48.31 |
| Keilor A | Keilor | U16B | 4 x 200m Relay | 1:33.85 |
| Keilor A | Keilor | U17B | 4 x 200m Relay | 1:34.90 |
| Sandringham A | Sandringham | U16G | 4 x 200m Relay | 1:46.49 |
| Caulfield A | Caulfield | U17G | 4 x 200m Relay | 1:49.15 |
| Whittlesea City A | Whittlesea City | U17 Mixed | 4 x 200m Relay | 1:43.30 |
| Knox A | Knox | U9B | Swedish Relay | 2:59.10 |
| Geelong B | Geelong | U10B | Swedish Relay | 2:45.20 |
| Keilor A | Keilor | U11B | Swedish Relay | 2:35.59 |
| Mornington A | Mornington | U12B | Swedish Relay | 2:32.72 |
| Knox A | Knox | U13B | Swedish Relay | 2:22.74 |
| Berwick A | Berwick | U14B | Swedish Relay | 2:11.29 |
| Knox A | Knox | U16B | Swedish Relay | 2:04.82 |
| Keilor A | Keilor | U17B | Swedish Relay | 2:06.58 |
| Geelong A | Geelong | U10G | Swedish Relay | 2:57.98 |
| Berwick A | Berwick | U12G | Swedish Relay | 2:35.82 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------|---------------|---------|
| Geelong A | Geelong | U13G | Swedish Relay | 2:28.67 |
| Box Hill A | Box Hill | U14G | Swedish Relay | 2:28.06 |
| Caulfield A | Caulfield | U16G | Swedish Relay | 2:23.70 |
| Caulfield A | Caulfield | U17G | Swedish Relay | 2:31.32 |

Australian Best Performances (ABPs)

Congratulations to the following athletes that had claims submitted for ABPs (note - these claims are yet to be ratified by Little Athletics Australia):

- James Hall (Box Hill LAC) – Under 11 Boys 800m – 2:16.52
- Ben Tornatora (Knox LAC)– Under 13 Boys 100m – 11.43

New Zealand Development Tour

For the first time, Little Athletics Victoria ventured overseas for Competition with 36 Under 14/15 athletes competing at the North Island Colgate Games in Auckland, New Zealand. They were accompanied by a six-person Management Team.

The team travelled from 3rd to 10th January 2024 with the Competition itself taking place over 3 days (5th to 7th January). Several parents also ventured to Auckland to watch the competition. The team stayed together as a team and for some athletes it was their first time overseas and/or their first time being away from their parents on a sporting trip for multiple nights.

The New Zealand people were very welcoming, and many new friendships were formed. In addition to the competition, athletes trained and were able to partake in some social events after the competition was completed.

A post-event survey was conducted which provided overwhelmingly positive feedback. 97% of the athlete respondents said they would do the trip again if given another opportunity and 100% said they would recommend it to others. Parents were surveyed too with 93% answering "a lot" when asked if the trip was beneficial to their child from a personal growth point of view, 87% answering "a lot" when asked if their child gained confidence from the trip and 97% answering "absolutely" to the questions of whether they would send their child on another similar trip and whether they would recommend the trip to other parents.

Being the first trip, it was a bit of a "let's plan it as best as we can and see how it goes" situation. Fortunately, we didn't have any serious problems and the Team (Management and athletes) are to be commended for being flexible as we navigated our way around this first trip. We did have one Team Manager contract Covid, but we were able isolate them to avoid a major outbreak. The lessons learnt from this first trip and the feedback from the athletes/parents following the trip will only help improve future trips.

Winter Track and Field

In line with trying to provide additional competition opportunities for our athletes, LAVic will be conducting 3 Winter Track and Field meets through July and August 2024 with a view to expanding these in future seasons if the interest is there.

The first year will be a bit of "trial and error" with some events planned that aren't part of the usual suite of events offered. This will differentiate these meets from the "regular" summer Centre meets.

Looking forward

LAVic will continue to review our existing events to look for ways to improve the products offered for both our athletes and our volunteers. Following the success of our first New Zealand tour, additional overseas options will be investigated as these provide something for athletes to aim for and a reason to stay in the sport.

One of the main challenges moving forward is finding the balance between giving as many children as possible the opportunity to compete in State events and ensuring that the events are reasonable in length. Many of our competitions are very long days for athletes, officials and spectators and we need to be mindful that we don't ask too much from these people.

The State Track and Field Championships held at Knox were held in very hot conditions which necessitated the addition of extra shade structures, misting fans etc. Whilst most of the athletes got through unscathed, a few of our officials really felt the heat. They are often on duty for long periods and LAVic must do more to lessen our reliance on this group of dedicated officials. Increasing the pool of officials for all our meets is a key goal moving forward.

Draft calendar dates for the summer season have been sent to Centres/Regions for feedback and the Rules and Regulations are being updated. Both will be finalized and made available prior to the State Conference.

Thank you!

There are so many people that made our events possible that need to be thanked for their contribution to Little Athletics. Thank you to all the Centre and Region Team Managers and volunteers and to our volunteer State Officials (many of whom no longer have athletes competing) who do countless hours to enable our athletes to have access to competitions on a regular basis. The work that you do is appreciated by the board and staff at LAVic and by the athletes and their parents.

To our small but hard working and wonderful team at LAVic, congratulations on getting through another season. It has been a pleasure working with you all. Thank you also to Little Athletics Australia, our Sponsors, our co-tenants, Athletics Victoria, and all the various advisory groups for your contributions to our sport.

Thank you to all Centres that hosted our Multi-Class Come and Try Days and/or Region events and/or any of our other Coaching or Training sessions. Thank you to Knox LAC for accommodating us for the State Track and Field Championships at very short notice (and thank you to Cranbourne LAC for the work you put in leading up to the event, only to have it taken away through no fault of your own). Thanks also to the Victorian Race Walking Club for their assistance in getting the Road Walks from planning to reality.

For anyone not mentioned above that has contributed to Little Athletics in the past 12 months in any way, shape or form, thank you! Lastly, congratulations to the athletes themselves. I hope you are enjoying your Little Athletics journey and making lifelong friends.

Education Report

In another step toward pre-pandemic operations, this season saw the reintroduction of another subset of educational programs, alongside new initiatives to better service our membership.

We created a new series of both digital and physical resources, including simplified event instructional cards, and short form officiating and coaching videos.

2023/24 saw the departure of Doug Cobbledick from our team, and we thank him for his years of service as a staff member of LAVic. We extend our thanks for his continued involvement at his local and in state-based programs.

We also welcomed Kelly Costin in the role of Development Officer. Kelly brings with her a wealth of experience in Little Athletics operations, including at her local Centre, Geelong, and is also well versed in the operations of both the schools and 'senior' systems. Many of you will have met Kel throughout the season and will agree that she is an asset to the team.

Coaching

With a total engagement of 171 enrolments in coach education and accreditation across two streams, LAVic had engagement at levels unseen since the 2017/18 season. Based upon feedback from these programs, additional opportunities for program revisions and/or funding are being developed and explored. We hope to have more to report soon.

Introduction to Teaching Little Athletics Skills: 91 participants.

The Introduction to Teaching Little Athletics Skills (ITLAS) education session has been a stalwart of the LAVic education program for several years, however, has seen slow decline in participation for much of the last decade. Over the last year, this decline was accelerated, due to alternate offerings, such as the Women in Coach Education program.

Nevertheless, we were pleased to be able to stage six ITLAS sessions at Ringwood, Whittlesea, Wangaratta, Edenhope, Geelong, and Dandenong, which saw a cumulative 91 participate in the program.

Women in Coach Education: 80 participants.

Season 2023/24 also saw the rollout of our Women in Coach Education Program. Delivered in partnership with Athletics Victoria (AV), Athletics Australia (AA), and funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), the project offered a subsidy to female participants wishing to pursue their AA coach accreditation and has seen a fantastic uptake since its inception.

With a cohort of 80 hailing from Horsham to Westernport, including a special face-to-face session in Stawell, most participants undertook their Level 1 Youth Coach accreditation, while a handful undertook advanced learning.

A small amount of funding in the Women in Coach Education program remains available.

Officiating

Finding and upskilling volunteers continues to be a challenge experienced by our Centres, and sports broadly. This season we adjusted some of our product offerings and trialled some alternate delivery methods to cultivate greater engagement.

Centre Helper and Volunteer Training: 38 participants.

Following a program redesign, and subsequent rebrand, this year we relaunched the Introduction to Officiating Course (ITOC) as Centre Helper and Volunteer Training. Whilst interest in hosting the sessions was middling, we saw a marked increase in participation, including at a session hosted by Diamond Valley, which attracted 33 attendees. Our total participation in 2022/23 ITOC programs was 12. Work will continue on revision of program and resources, and we hope that this will be more broadly adopted moving forward. We extend our thanks to Julie Bicknell, Malcolm Duncan, and Shane Bicknell for helping in the development of the syllabus, but also for their assistance in the delivery of the sessions.

Introduction to Starting: 20 participants.

The Introduction to Starting program returned in a limited capacity this season, owing to a lesser hosting interest. As a result, total participation saw another slight decline, when compared to last year. An alternate starting session was offered at Melton and tied to a Development Officer visit, however numbers for this session were not tracked. Anecdotal feedback suggests that the sessions were well received, and may be worth exploring further, similar opportunities in future.

Walks Judging: 20 participants.

Walks education took centre stage in September as we partnered with the Victorian Racewalking Club (VRWC) and Athletics Victoria (AV) to offer an additional education day. Splitting into two sections, the day began with an introduction to racewalking, targeted at Centre level volunteers led by Stu from VRWC. All participants stayed on for an afternoon's advanced session that saw South Australia's Zoe Eastwood-Bryson, Chief at the most recent World Athletics Championships, deliver a session to a blended LAVic/AV cohort on the conduct of a racewalking event at international levels, and the ways in which it can be modified and delivered at all levels, including Centre. Zoe was fantastic to learn from, and we hope to hear from her again.

On Track Training: 10 participants

As was the case for a handful of other projects, On Track Training saw its return to the education schedule under the guidance of John McCall for a singular session at Oakleigh in 2023/24.

Development Programs

The standard suite of favourites returned as part of the education offerings at LAVic, and we were pleased to reintroduce the Junior Skills Clinic to the rotation this time around. Operating in a single day model, this clinic differed slightly from what members may have seen previously.

Many LAVic programs are powered and supported by a strong cohort of coaches, and season 2023/24 was no different. Across the year, we welcomed some fresh faces, both experienced and developing, including a handful of graduates from the Women in Coach Education program, and we hope that Chloe George, Claudia Cazaux, Nana Owusu-Afriyie, Nina Lawson, Rhianna Clemow, Teagan Zurawel, and Tyler Costin will join us again.

Junior Skills Clinic: 338 participants.

Returning following its pandemic-induced hiatus, the Junior Skills Clinic saw a homecoming of sorts with a staging at its birthplace in the grass fields of Waverley. Offering skill development opportunities for those aged U6-U12, the clinic was separated into three sections and delineated by age. Reaching capacity in the first two sections, the program was welcomed with total registrations reaching 338.

Junior Development Squad (JDS): 279 participants.

With a squad of 279, this year's JDS saw consolidation on last year's numbers, and consistency with standard program size. The program used mostly familiar venues, however, saw the introduction of Yarra Ranges to the program, a picturesque venue located in Mount Evelyn, close by Lilydale. The program once again started strongly, and participation remained strong despite wet weather conditions at our second training day. Our third session saw lower numbers following the announcement of alternate Centre activities, and elevated temperature forecasts saw the program pivot to a virtual education session in place of the fourth training day. We had some fantastic presenters, and we extend our sincerest thanks to Tamsyn Lewis-Manou (Welcome), Brooke Buschkuehl (Athlete story), Emma Addison (Pilates), Emily McLean (Injury Risk Reduction), Hana Basic (Athlete story), Tom Gamble (Pathways), and Taneille Crase (Athlete story) for their efforts and assistance in the production of online resources on such short notice. The fifth and final JDS session, focusing on winter conditioning and programming, saw consolidation on last year's growth.

Australian Little Athletics Championships: 105 participants.

Following a second revision to format in as many years, 2024 saw the inclusion of an additional U15 age individual competition at the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) in Adelaide from the 27th – 28th April. With the largest cohort of all states, Victoria's 105 representatives put in an impressive showing, earning the following overall results. We congratulate all team members including Captains, Maddie Tarabay and Kai Norton, assistant captains Mya McClure and Stanley Moore, and the management and coaching team.

- Under 13 Trevor Billingham Trophy – 1st
- Under 13 Alan Triscott Trophy – 1st (Ineligible, having won the TB Trophy)
- Under 14 Dick Healy Trophy – 2nd
- Under 15 Maxine Boyd Trophy – 1st
- Under 15 Life Members Trophy – 2nd

Little Athletics Australia National Camp: 19 participants.

Hosted once more at the Gold Coast Performance Centre in Runaway Bay, the Little Athletics Australia National Camp brings together a selection of U15 competitors from around the country. Participants in the program are selected by Little Athletics Australia based upon results at ALAC. In 2023, 19 LAVic members attended the camp, supported by two team managers in Erina Cunningham and Craig Chapman.

Development Officer Program

Established in 2020, and expanded at the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the Development Officer Program is in place to assist Centres in the enhancement of capacity through upskilling and assistance delivered during routine visits. In 2023/24, Rob and Kelly made 46 Centre visits.

These programs do not come together without the collective efforts of the Little Athletics Community. To those who volunteer their time and offer their assistance on any given week, we offer our sincerest thanks.

LAVic Awards

LAVic's Awards programs seek to reward and recognise great achievements by individuals, Centres and Regions. They play a valuable role in telling and recording the stories of our Association.

Congratulations to the following individuals and Centres recognised for their achievements during the previous 22/23 season.

- The 'Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal – Greatest Centre Donation Award': **Lake Bolac & Districts LAC.**
- The 'Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal - most funds raised on a 'Per Capita Basis Award': **Lake Bolac & District LAC**, for the third successive year.
- The Stack Sports/Game Day 'Overall Centre Membership Awards' were awarded to **Portland LAC** (large Centre category) and **Howlong LAC** (small Centre category).
- The Energetic Apparel 'Centre Marketing Award': was awarded to **Diamond Valley LAC.**
- The 'Commonwealth Bank' Centre Inclusion Award was awarded to **Cranbourne LAC.**
- The Out There Branding 'Centre Volunteer of the Year Award': was awarded to **Alistair Buchanan of Seaford LAC.**
- Nordic Sport State Coach of the Year: **Zoe Cunningham.**
- Nordic Sport Bryan Neighbour Centre Coach of the Year: **Ben Skurka, Chelsea LAC.**
- Nordic Sport Emerging Coach of the Year Award: **Tyler Costin, Geelong LAC.**
- Gameday Apparel State Official of the Year: **Jenny McCausland.**
- Gameday Apparel Centre Official of the Year: **Cindy MacDougall, Camperdown LAC.**
- Altegra State Championships Awards:
 - 1st Place: **Ringwood LAC**
 - 2nd: **Knox LAC**
 - 3rd **Corio LAC**

Service Awards Committee

The Service Awards Committee ('SAC') members are Life Governors Irene Harris, Debbie Baskin, Graham Lucas, Chris Doubleday, and Carol Timmins with former President Steve Ryan chairing. The purpose of the SAC is to ensure that the Association's greatest voluntary contributors receive due recognition and are honoured accordingly within the context of LAVic's Service Awards framework.

During 23/24, SAC undertook a thorough review of LAVic's Service Awards settings. Resulting from this was the establishment of the Length of Service Recognition program. This is designed to recognise volunteers that have made 30, 40 or 50 years cumulative service to any (or multiple) levels of our Association. We know there are many selfless contributors, particularly at our Centres, that, week in week out, year in, year out give a great deal to the sport and ask for next to nothing in return. Every sport has them! Thankfully, these folks can now rightly sit next to other decorated volunteers having been formally recognised for their service.

In the lead up to the 2023 AGM, the SAC considered four Service Award nominations, of which three were supported.

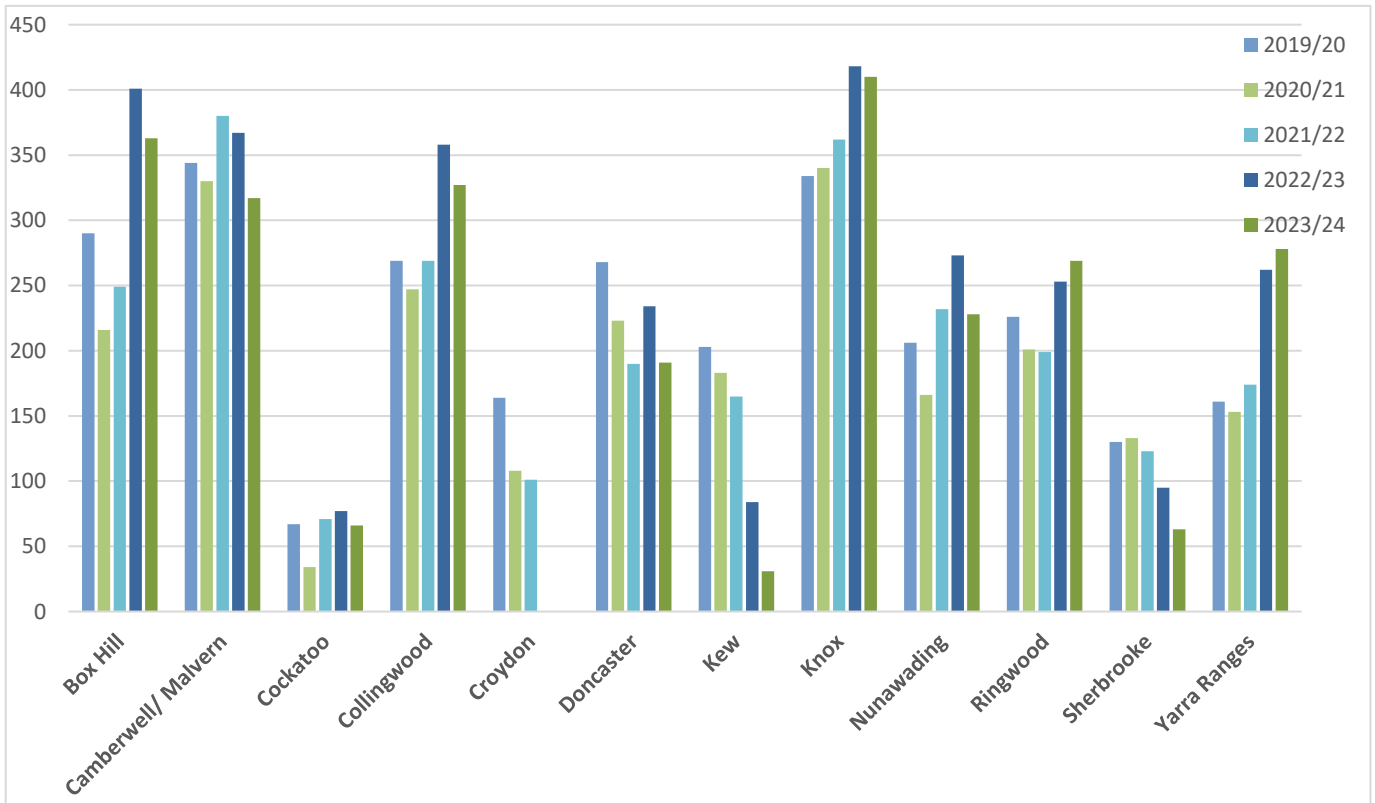
Congratulations to the following individuals recognised by Little Athletics Victoria at the 2023 AGM for their significant contributions to our sport:

- Steve Hough: Distinguished Service Award. Commenced at Knox LAC 2007; Life Member at Knox LAC, and contributed enormously at Centre, Eastern Metropolitan Region, and State levels.
- Kathleen Marsh: Distinguished Service Award. Kathleen has given over 23 years' service to Little Athletics and has been involved in many voluntary roles at Coburg LAC and Northern Metropolitan Region.
- Steve Woolfe: Distinguished Service Award. Commenced at Casey LAC in 2010. Steve has been a huge contributor at Centre (Casey LAC, since re-named Berwick LAC), Gippsland Country Region & State levels.

Membership Report

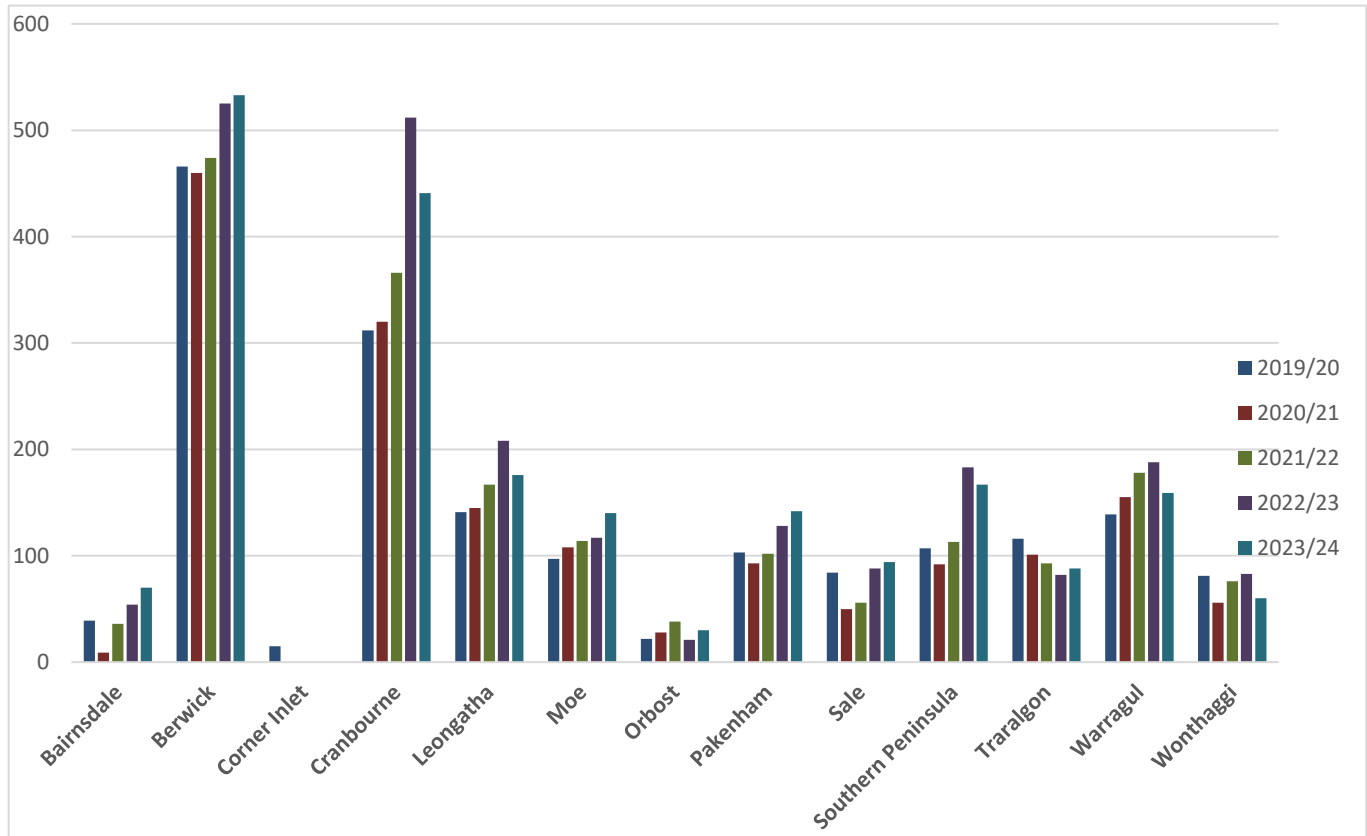
EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION (EMR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Box Hill | 290 | 216 | 249 | 401 | 363 | -38 | -9.48% | 49.62% |
| Camberwell/ Malvern | 344 | 330 | 380 | 367 | 317 | -50 | -13.62% | 43.60% |
| Cockatoo | 67 | 34 | 71 | 77 | 66 | -11 | -14.29% | 50.00% |
| Collingwood | 269 | 247 | 269 | 358 | 327 | -31 | -8.66% | 46.91% |
| Croydon | 164 | 108 | 101 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Doncaster | 268 | 223 | 190 | 234 | 191 | -43 | -18.38% | 43.35% |
| Kew | 203 | 183 | 165 | 84 | 31 | -53 | -63.10% | 8.33% |
| Knox | 334 | 340 | 362 | 418 | 410 | -8 | -1.91% | 60.72% |
| Nunawading | 206 | 166 | 232 | 273 | 228 | -45 | -16.48% | 52.96% |
| Ringwood | 226 | 201 | 199 | 253 | 269 | 16 | 6.32% | 61.26% |
| Sherbrooke | 130 | 133 | 123 | 95 | 63 | -32 | -33.68% | 41.49% |
| Yarra Ranges | 161 | 153 | 174 | 262 | 278 | 16 | 6.11% | 58.30% |
| Region TOTAL | 2662 | 2334 | 2515 | 2822 | 2543 | -279 | -9.89% | 50.29% |

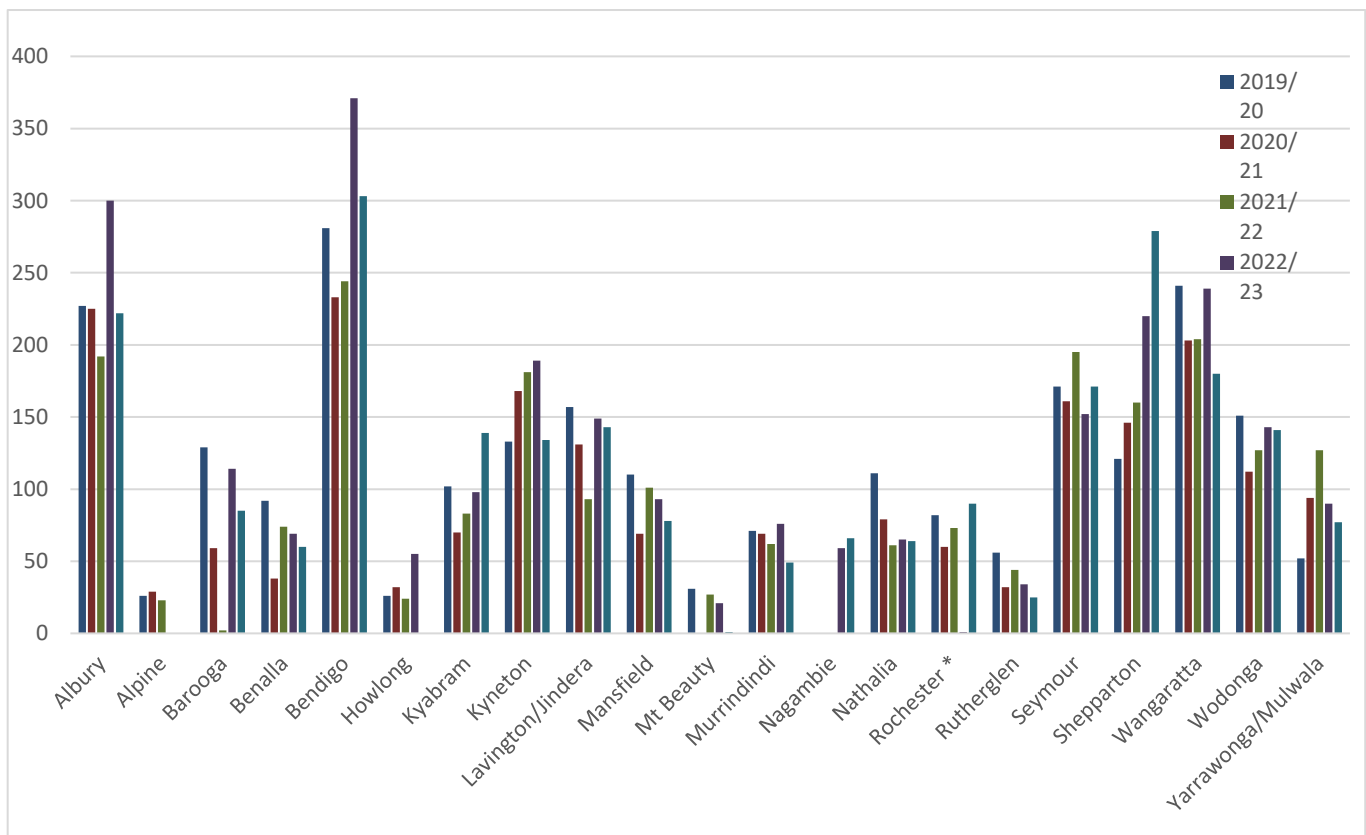


GIPPSLAND COUNTRY REGION (GCR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bairnsdale | 39 | 9 | 36 | 54 | 70 | 16 | 29.63% | 55.56% |
| Berwick | 466 | 460 | 474 | 525 | 533 | 8 | 1.52% | 56.76% |
| Corner Inlet | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Cranbourne | 312 | 320 | 366 | 512 | 441 | -71 | -13.87% | 56.69% |
| Leongatha | 141 | 145 | 167 | 208 | 176 | -32 | -15.38% | 60.89% |
| Moe | 97 | 108 | 114 | 117 | 140 | 23 | 19.66% | 72.17% |
| Orbost | 22 | 28 | 38 | 21 | 30 | 9 | 42.86% | 57.14% |
| Pakenham | 103 | 93 | 102 | 128 | 142 | 14 | 10.94% | 52.38% |
| Sale | 84 | 50 | 56 | 88 | 94 | 6 | 6.82% | 64.77% |
| Southern Peninsula | 107 | 92 | 113 | 183 | 167 | -16 | -8.74% | 56.83% |
| Traralgon | 116 | 101 | 93 | 82 | 88 | 6 | 7.32% | 62.20% |
| Warragul | 139 | 155 | 178 | 188 | 159 | -29 | -15.43% | 49.73% |
| Wonthaggi | 81 | 56 | 76 | 83 | 60 | -23 | -27.71% | 38.55% |
| Region TOTAL | 1722 | 1617 | 1813 | 2189 | 2100 | -89 | -4.07% | 56.90% |

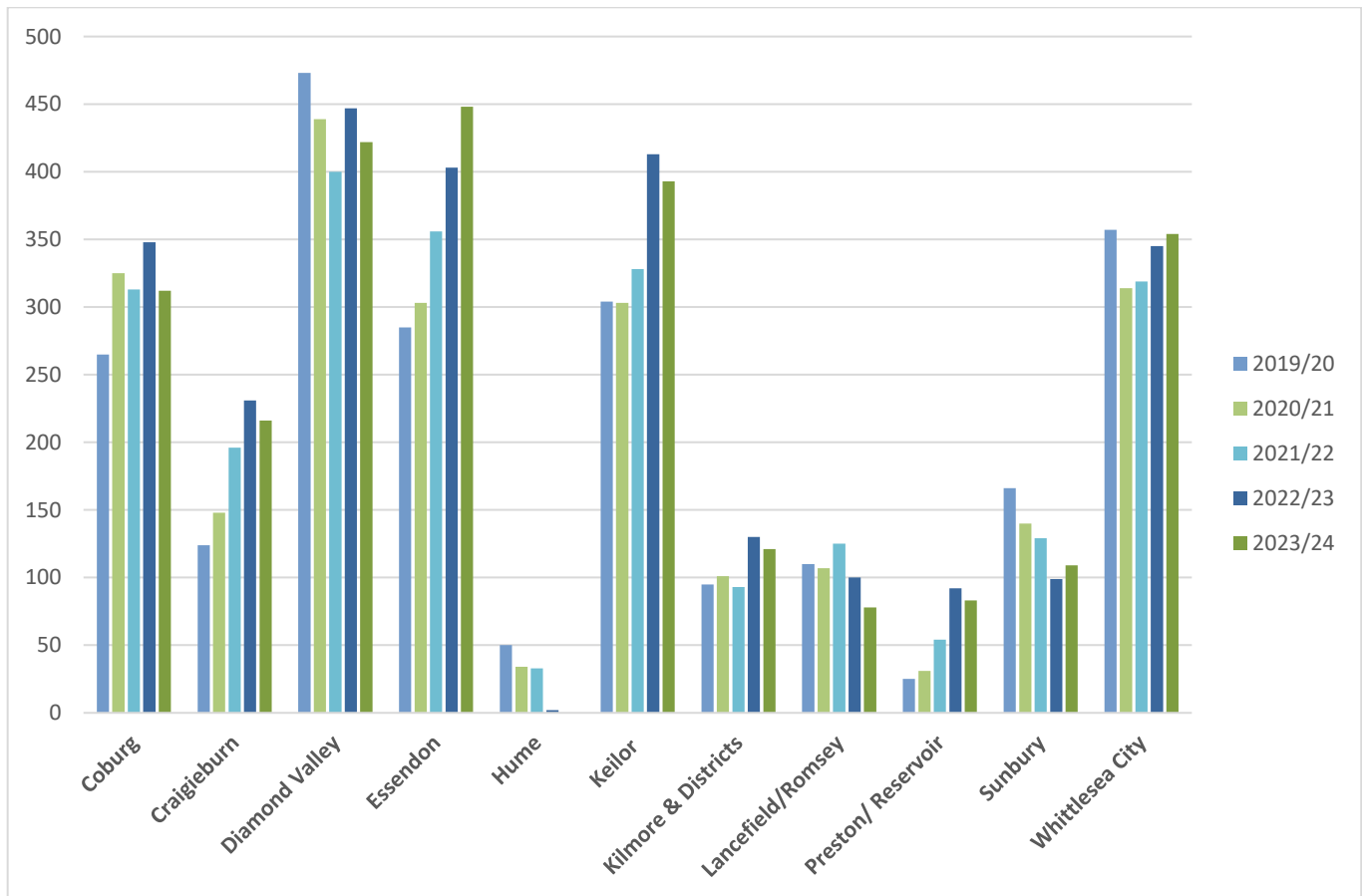


| NORTHERN COUNTRY REGION (NCR) | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
| Albury | 227 | 225 | 192 | 300 | 222 | -78 | -26.00% | 46.64% |
| Alpine | 26 | 29 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Barooga | 129 | 59 | 2 | 114 | 85 | -29 | -25.44% | 40.35% |
| Benalla | 92 | 38 | 74 | 69 | 60 | -9 | -13.04% | 47.83% |
| Bendigo | 281 | 233 | 244 | 371 | 303 | -68 | -18.33% | 43.78% |
| Echuca/Moama | 184 | 211 | 175 | 195 | 195 | 0 | - | 51.56% |
| Howlong | 26 | 32 | 24 | 55 | 0 | -55 | - | - |
| Kyabram | 102 | 70 | 83 | 98 | 139 | 41 | 41.84% | 63.27% |
| Kyneton | 133 | 168 | 181 | 189 | 134 | -55 | -29.10% | 50.53% |
| Lavington/Jindera | 157 | 131 | 93 | 149 | 143 | -6 | -4.03% | 35.81% |
| Mansfield | 110 | 69 | 101 | 93 | 78 | -15 | -16.13% | 46.74% |
| Mt Beauty | 31 | 0 | 27 | 21 | 1 | -20 | -95.24% | 4.76% |
| Murrindindi | 71 | 69 | 62 | 76 | 49 | -27 | -35.53% | 36.84% |
| Nagambie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 66 | 7 | 11.86% | 71.19% |
| Nathalia | 111 | 79 | 61 | 65 | 64 | -1 | -1.54% | 53.13% |
| Rochester * | 82 | 60 | 73 | 1 | 90 | 89 | - | - |
| Rutherglen | 56 | 32 | 44 | 34 | 25 | -9 | -26.47% | 35.29% |
| Seymour | 171 | 161 | 195 | 152 | 171 | 19 | 12.50% | 51.32% |
| Shepparton | 121 | 146 | 160 | 220 | 279 | 59 | 26.82% | 71.10% |
| Wangaratta | 241 | 203 | 204 | 239 | 180 | -59 | -24.69% | 45.38% |
| Wodonga | 151 | 112 | 127 | 143 | 141 | -2 | -1.40% | 52.52% |
| Yarrawonga/Mulwala | 52 | 94 | 127 | 90 | 77 | -13 | -14.44% | 36.67% |
| Region TOTAL | 2554 | 2221 | 2272 | 2733 | 2502 | -231 | -8.45% | 48.49% |



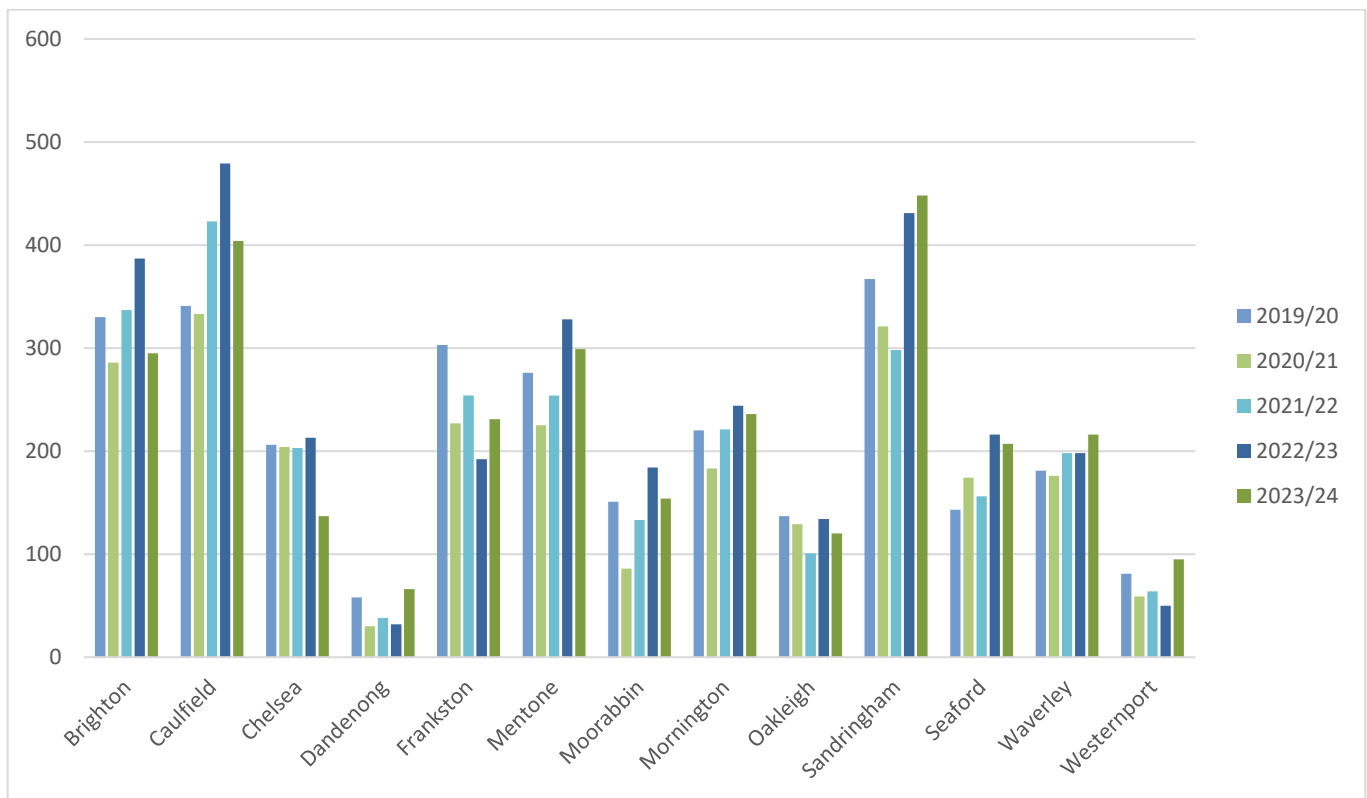
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION (NMR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Coburg | 265 | 325 | 313 | 348 | 312 | -36 | -10.34% | 56.14% |
| Craigieburn | 124 | 148 | 196 | 231 | 216 | -15 | -6.49% | 47.83% |
| Diamond Valley | 473 | 439 | 400 | 447 | 422 | -25 | -5.59% | 53.03% |
| Essendon | 285 | 303 | 356 | 403 | 448 | 45 | 11.17% | 61.10% |
| Hume | 50 | 34 | 33 | 2 | 0 | -2 | - | - |
| Keilor | 304 | 303 | 328 | 413 | 393 | -20 | -4.84% | 64.71% |
| Kilmore & Districts | 95 | 101 | 93 | 130 | 121 | -9 | -6.92% | 51.54% |
| Lancefield/Romsey | 110 | 107 | 125 | 100 | 78 | -22 | -22.00% | 47.00% |
| Preston/ Reservoir | 25 | 31 | 54 | 92 | 83 | -9 | -9.78% | 56.52% |
| Sunbury | 166 | 140 | 129 | 99 | 109 | 10 | 10.10% | 70.10% |
| Whittlesea City | 357 | 314 | 319 | 345 | 354 | 9 | 2.61% | 65.49% |
| Region TOTAL | 2254 | 2245 | 2346 | 2610 | 2536 | -74 | -2.84% | 58.12% |



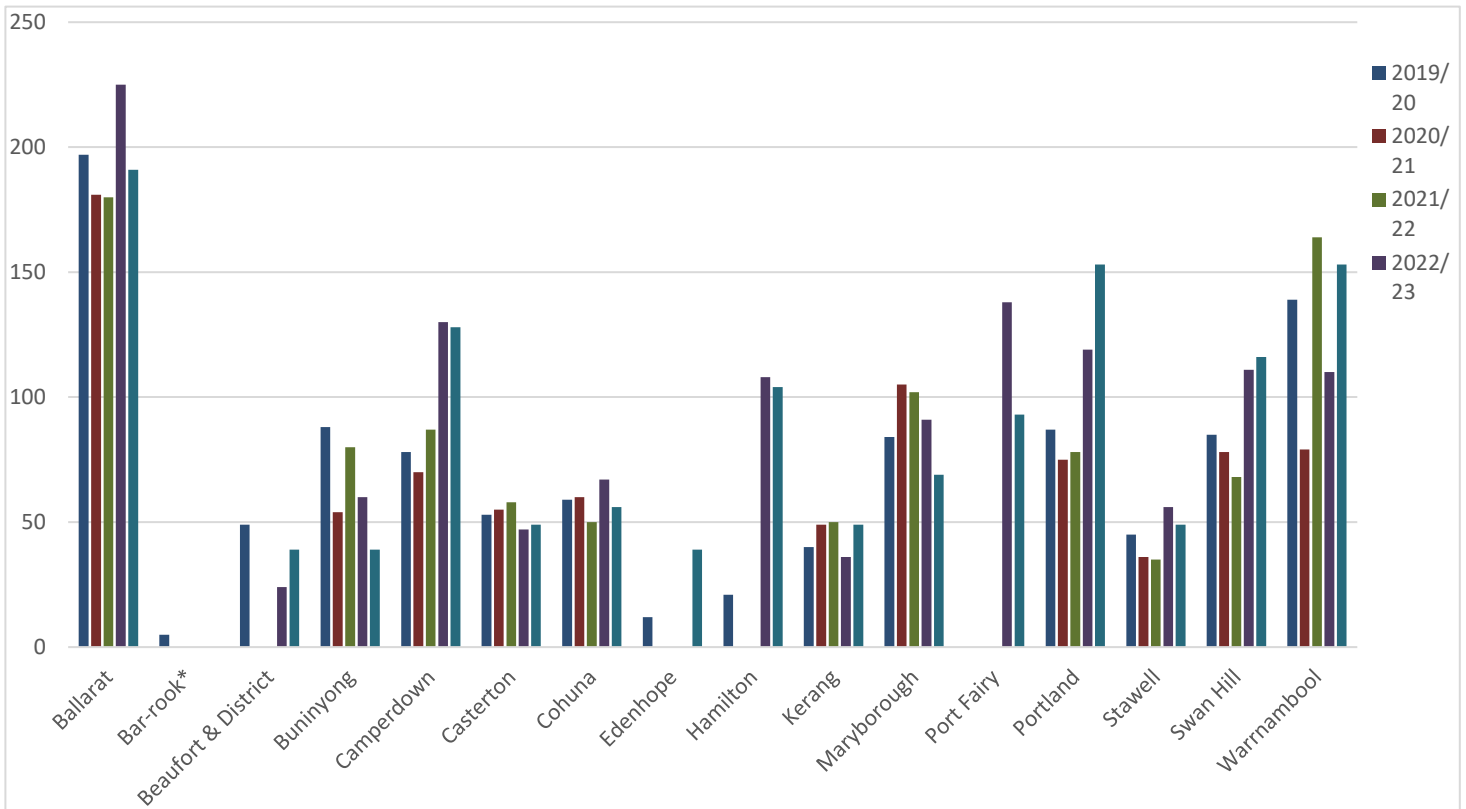
SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION (SMR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Brighton | 330 | 286 | 337 | 387 | 295 | -92 | -23.77% | 48.06% |
| Caulfield | 341 | 333 | 423 | 479 | 404 | -75 | -15.66% | 48.95% |
| Chelsea | 206 | 204 | 203 | 213 | 137 | -76 | -35.68% | 47.14% |
| Dandenong | 58 | 30 | 38 | 32 | 66 | 34 | 106.25% | 75.00% |
| Frankston | 303 | 227 | 254 | 192 | 231 | 39 | 20.31% | 60.00% |
| Mentone | 276 | 225 | 254 | 328 | 299 | -29 | -8.84% | 52.76% |
| Moorabbin | 151 | 86 | 133 | 184 | 154 | -30 | -16.30% | 45.36% |
| Mornington | 220 | 183 | 221 | 244 | 236 | -8 | -3.28% | 48.36% |
| Oakleigh | 137 | 129 | 101 | 134 | 120 | -14 | -10.45% | 58.02% |
| Sandringham | 367 | 321 | 298 | 431 | 448 | 17 | 3.94% | 54.42% |
| Seaford | 143 | 174 | 156 | 216 | 207 | -9 | -4.17% | 62.56% |
| Springvale | 146 | 128 | 160 | 188 | 149 | -39 | -20.74% | 61.62% |
| Waverley | 181 | 176 | 198 | 198 | 216 | 18 | 9.09% | 61.78% |
| Westernport | 81 | 59 | 64 | 50 | 95 | 45 | 90.00% | 54.00% |
| Region TOTAL | 2940 | 2561 | 2840 | 3276 | 3057 | -219 | -6.68% | 53.29% |



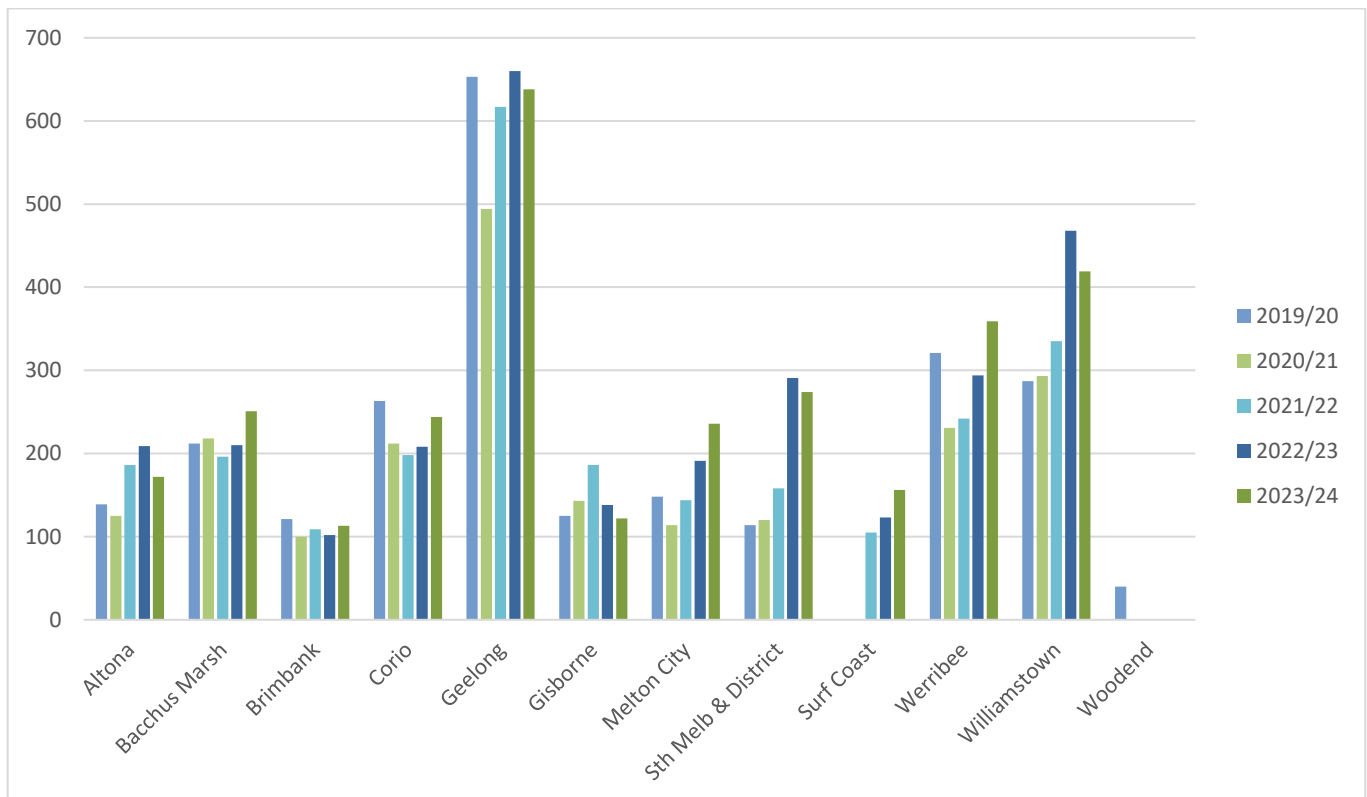
WESTERN COUNTRY REGION (WCR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Ararat | 40 | 49 | 55 | 48 | 57 | 9 | 18.75% | 56.25% |
| Ballarat | 197 | 181 | 180 | 225 | 191 | -34 | -15.11% | 53.36% |
| Bar-rook* | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Beaufort & District | 49 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 39 | 15 | 62.50% | 33.33% |
| Buninyong | 88 | 54 | 80 | 60 | 39 | -21 | -35.00% | 37.29% |
| Camperdown | 78 | 70 | 87 | 130 | 128 | -2 | -1.54% | 56.59% |
| Casterton | 53 | 55 | 58 | 47 | 49 | 2 | 4.26% | 61.70% |
| Cohuna | 59 | 60 | 50 | 67 | 56 | -11 | -16.42% | 53.73% |
| Colac | 80 | 57 | 81 | 79 | 74 | -5 | -6.33% | 45.57% |
| Edenhope | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 39 | - | - |
| Hamilton | 21 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 104 | -4 | -3.70% | 51.40% |
| Horsham | 136 | 133 | 112 | 124 | 125 | 1 | 0.81% | 61.48% |
| Kerang | 40 | 49 | 50 | 36 | 49 | 13 | 36.11% | 83.33% |
| Lake Bolac & District | 43 | 35 | 41 | 51 | 34 | -17 | -33.33% | 47.06% |
| Maryborough | 84 | 105 | 102 | 91 | 69 | -22 | -24.18% | 46.59% |
| Port Fairy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138 | 93 | -45 | -32.61% | 44.20% |
| Portland | 87 | 75 | 78 | 119 | 153 | 34 | 28.57% | 67.80% |
| Stawell | 45 | 36 | 35 | 56 | 49 | -7 | -12.50% | 37.50% |
| Swan Hill | 85 | 78 | 68 | 111 | 116 | 5 | 4.50% | 61.26% |
| Warrnambool | 139 | 79 | 164 | 110 | 153 | 43 | 39.09% | 59.26% |
| Region TOTAL | 1341 | 1116 | 1241 | 1624 | 1617 | -7 | -0.43% | 53.94% |



WESTERN METRO REGION (WMR)

| Centre | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Diff | Variance | Retention |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Altona | 139 | 125 | 186 | 209 | 172 | -37 | -17.70% | 57.00% |
| Bacchus Marsh | 212 | 218 | 196 | 210 | 251 | 41 | 19.52% | 66.67% |
| Brimbank | 121 | 100 | 109 | 102 | 113 | 11 | 10.78% | 67.65% |
| Corio | 263 | 212 | 198 | 208 | 244 | 36 | 17.31% | 65.66% |
| Geelong | 653 | 494 | 617 | 660 | 638 | -22 | -3.33% | 57.45% |
| Gisborne | 125 | 143 | 186 | 138 | 122 | -16 | -11.59% | 36.23% |
| Melton City | 148 | 114 | 144 | 191 | 236 | 45 | 23.56% | 60.43% |
| Sth Melb & District | 114 | 120 | 158 | 291 | 274 | -17 | -5.84% | 43.64% |
| Surf Coast | 0 | 0 | 105 | 123 | 156 | 33 | 26.83% | 59.35% |
| Werribee | 321 | 231 | 242 | 294 | 359 | 65 | 22.11% | 54.79% |
| Williamstown | 287 | 293 | 335 | 468 | 419 | -49 | -10.47% | 55.05% |
| Woodend | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Region TOTAL | 2423 | 2050 | 2476 | 2894 | 2984 | 90 | 3.11% | 56.19% |
| STATE TOTAL | 15896 | 14144 | 15503 | 18148 | 17339 | 2645 | -4.46% | 53.75% |



5. Presentation of Audited 23/24 Financial Statements

NOTICE OF MOTION C24 – 02

Submitted by: The Board

"That the Audited Financial Statements of the Little Athletics Association of Victoria for 2023 / 2024 be adopted, as presented."

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|--|-----------|--|--------|
| MOTION: C24-02 | | PASSED – Amended () | | LOST | | LAPSED |
| SECONDED | | | | WITHDRAWN | | |
| Comments | | | | | | |

6. Appointment of Auditors for 24/25

NOTICE OF MOTION C24 – 03

Submitted by: The Board

“That William Buck be re-appointed as LAVic auditors for 24/25 financial year.”

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------|--------|
| MOTION: C24 – 03 | | PASSED – Amended () | LOST | LAPSED |
| SECONDED | | | WITHDRAWN | |
| Comments | | | | |