

NZMA AGM 2020 – President's Report

Welcome to 46th New Zealand Master's Athletics AGM being held here in Hastings. It has been another busy year in which we have introduced several new initiatives, but let's first have an update about previous initiatives. In this report, I will highlight the significant areas of change.

1. NZMA Website & Facebook:

Both of these platforms are the preferred way of communicating to our members. All information about upcoming is regularly being added to the website, including international and national events. With the more streamlined way we handle NZMA record applications, this information is also updated as and when required. The President's e-News has been very quiet this year, which reflects how busy I have been in other areas of the sport, rather than me having nothing say!

All NZMA events are now promoted on the Athletics New Zealand website calendar. On a few occasions we have requested Athletics New Zealand to email their masters members directly to promote our event, which they have willingly done.

For several years now Michael Wray has regularly posted information on our Facebook page. He has also created Facebook groups when NZMA members have travelled overseas. This has been a good way for those with Facebook to keep in touch.

2. Memorandum of Understanding between Athletics New Zealand and New Zealand Masters Athletics

Athletics New Zealand appointed Peter Pfitzinger as their new CEO. I have had the opportunity to meet with him on several occasions. Given he was new to the job, we have spent some time going over the MOU, explaining the rationale and the process we engaged prior to its creation. Currently we both agree that it would appear that very little needs to change, if anything. I personally believe it is working well. At these Championships we have 201 entries – 124 ANZ Club members, 44 NZMA members & 4 overseas members.

As a comparison, in Timaru last year (192) - 114 ANZ Club members, 73 NZMA members & 5 overseas members.

Whangarei (2018) 227 - 132 ANZ Club members, 88 NZMA members & 7 overseas members.

3. NZMA Membership Numbers / Vetline and its future?

It is clear the NZMA (non-club) membership continues to drop. Given it is the older members who belong to NZMA, this trend is not surprising. However, it does have a flow on effect. For the January issue of Vetline, the print run dropped below 300 which means that no longer get a discount rate on postage.

As you will be aware, all NZMA members continue to get Vetline as part of their subscription. Unfortunately, the number of ANZ masters taking up a subscription has been very low, even by the ex-NZMA members who previously received the magazine. The \$25.00 for four issues no longer will cover the current production costs. Due to small number of copies being printed, it is difficult to get advertising.

In several issues of Vetline, I have commented in my President's column that we need help to keep this magazine 'alive'. It always seems to be left to the same few contributors to provide articles. If you, as members, want this magazine to continue, the attitude that 'someone else' will do it needs to change. We need some fresh ideas and input.

4. Constitution / By-Laws / Handbook

As signaled at the last AGM, we are promoting an alternative way of selecting the various positions with the

NZMA Board. Our proposed changes involved up to 8 members being elected. Once elected, this new Board allocates the 'job'. If these changes go ahead, there will be some Constitutional changes that need to be done to bring everything into line. Accordingly, there will possibly be some Lay-Laws / Handbook changes (?).

5. NZMA Successes during 2019 – 2020

In September last year the Oceania Masters Track & Field Championship was held in Mackay. A full report on the event appeared in the October Vetline. The challenge for OMA going forward to how they conduct future events. In early 2021, Norfolk Island host the event, but as yet no venue for the 2023 event has been confirmed. Initially it was suggested that this event would be a combined OAA & OMA event. However, due to it being held in Perth in 2023, that suggestion has been put on hold, as it is too far for the Island affiliates to travel. OMA are now looking for a New Zealand Centre to host the event in 2023. If your Centre is interested, let me know ASAP

At the OMA AGM in Mackay, there was a significant changing of the guard as several established Council members were replaced by very inexperienced people, in terms of how OMA is run. To be honest, I have no idea what the future is for OMA.

6. NZMA Going Forward.

I have been on the Board since 2011 and during this time we have made some significant changes as to how we do things. Last year was taken up with getting the MoU sorted and signed. In the coming year we have other important issues that need to be considered.

1. Reviewing how the NZMA Board operates / number of committee members / when, where & how often to meet face to face, in line with the reduce income we receive.
2. Create a workable Strategic Plan / Job description for NZMA Board roles, i.e. succession planning.
3. Reviewing the future direction of Vetline.
4. Looking at ways to attractively / promote NZMA to all masters aged 'athletes', not just those within clubs. This will mean working closer with ANZ.
5. Looking at how we manage our membership database. All NZMA members are entered into the ANZ system. Do we still need local Centre database 'managers' or should we be encouraging members to join themselves up, as many ANZ club members do already? Thank you to Michael Wray for his work on this database.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for the work that they have put in during the year.

Thank you for your attendance at the AGM. I trust you will enjoy the weekend and I wish all competitors well.

Andrew Stark

President New Zealand Masters Athletics

(28th February 2020)