

## NZMA AGM 2021 – President's Report

Welcome to 47<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Master's Athletics AGM being held here in Inglewood. It has been a challenging year due to Covid 19 and the affect that it is having in New Zealand and the rest of world. We have since numerous events postponed or cancelled. Depending on which news reports you listen to, some countries seem to be recovering albeit slowly, while others are having their two or third wave of new infections. What is clear, it that life as we knew has changed for the foreseeable future.

We were fortunately to get through the 2020 championships in Hastings, but once lockdown occurred in March, it was challenging for Centres to prepare or host events, not knowing what level of lockdown we would be in.

### Winter Events:

During the winter season, cross country events were held during lockdown level 2, which meant that gatherings of more than 100 in any given space was not allowed. With great effort and detailed health & safety plans, many Athletics NZ Centres were able to hold many successful events throughout the country. One of the positive outcomes of the situation was that Athletics NZ started regular monthly zoom meetings with all Centres President throughout NZ. Given there is an overlap between 'open' and masters administrators, these meetings were well received.

The national cross country championships were held in August, but down-graded to a 'challenge' event rather than a championship event, due to Aucklanders not being able to travel south to Dunedin as they were in lockdown level 3. Accordingly, competitor numbers were down as several other Centre chose not to send athletes.

NZMA were forced to cancel our indoor championships in August for the same reason, given Auckland was in lockdown.

At the 2020 NZMA AGM held in February we were unable to find a Centre willing to host for the North Island Championships. Once Covid 19 stuck in March, Centres became even more reluctant to plan for this event, so this event was unfortunately cancelled. All north islanders were advised of where the South Island event was being held and were accordingly invited, however very few attended.

The NZMA registration year starts as from 1<sup>st</sup> September. We have seen fewer NZMA members rejoin throughout the country. No doubt some are put off travelling and with no end in sight, overseas travel & competitions are all on hold, perhaps many lack the motivation to train and compete.

The National Road Championships were moved from August to November and saw fewer competitors turning out. The National Road Relay Championships were successfully held in Feilding (early October) and was by far the most enjoyable non-stadia event, well supported by masters. While the non-stadia events are organised by Athletics NZ, masters make up the bulk of the attendees, hence I have commented on them in this report.

### Memorandum of Understanding between Athletics New Zealand and New Zealand Masters Athletics

While the concept of creating this MOU has not pleased everyone, the attendance statistics at our events indicate that is the preferred way forward and I have no doubt that it has helped us retain the attendance at a consistent level. I acknowledge that with fewer local masters / NZMA members it is a challenge to run masters only events and get personnel to step up to help run your committee. However, for the good of the sport going forwards, working with Athletics NZ has its benefits.

At these championships we have 223 attendees – 164 ANZ Club members & 59 NZMA members (26%).

Hastings (2020):	201	124 ANZ Club members, 44 NZMA members (22%) & 4 overseas
Timaru (2019)	192	114 ANZ Club members, 73 NZMA members (38%) & 5 overseas
Whangarei (2018)	227	132 ANZ Club members, 88 NZMA members (39%) & 7 overseas
Nelson (2017)	223	

## **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 belongs to NZMA, this trend is not surprising. However, it does have a flow on effort. 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 continues to be 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.

The July issue in 2020 was not published, so we provided all previously paid up members with the January 2021 issue (230). I have now deleted that database and based on NZMA subs since September and purchases via the website shop, the number of Vetline copies required has dropped considerably to 115.

	NZMA Members	ANZ Vetline
NLD	4	
AKL	1	
WBOP	18	9
HBG	16	
WMA	12	1
TAR	1	1
WEL	15	4
TAS	3	
CAN	12	3
OTG	11	2
STH	0	2
	<b>93</b>	<b>22</b>

## **Ocean Championships update:**

The OMA Council held a zoom meeting January 2021. While there was a changing of the guard after the AGM in Mackay 2019, Stewart Foster has been re-instated as treasurer, due to the elected treasurer resigning. During the zoom meeting we discussed the 2022 Norfolk Island event. There is real problem getting flights to and from the island as scheduled flight get cancelled immediately if there is a community Covid 19 case in Australia. They are concerned that it simply could be too problematic to go ahead with this event, given it already is a difficult place to fly into. When we know more, we will pass on that information.

OMA did successful run a virtual championship during January and that seemed to be well received.

## **NZMA Board Election:**

This year a group has been nominated to be on the NZMA Board. Once elected, the various roles within the Board will be located. We also now have the option to coop people onto the board, if a skill set is lacking from within the current members.

Two members are stepping down this year. Stewart Foster and John Campbell. 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 (26th February 2021)*