

Oceania Masters Council Update 22 May 2022

The new Council was elected via a virtual AGM on 22nd January 2022. The council is as follows:

President:	Ruth Mave	Cook Islands	new member
Secretary:	Hazel McDonnell	Australia	re-elected
Treasurer:	Stewart Foster	New Zealand	co-opted member elected



Council Members:

Tim Rogers	Norfolk Island	re-elected
Joan Merrilees	New Zealand	re-elected
Donna Hiscox	Australia	new member
Albert Miller	Fiji	new member
Neal Kranz	Guam	new member
Yvonne Papadimos	OAA	observer

This council has had 2 virtual meetings since the election. The first meeting was an introduction to new members and familiarising them with the changes and additions the previous council had made to the constitution and policies. These changes were essentially to be able to navigate around Covid processes.

Currently the focus for Oceania Masters Council(OMA) is to enable all masters athletes in our difficult geographical Oceania area to have the chance to compete with athletes from all federations within Oceania. Australia and New Zealand can run master's competitions efficiently while our Island federations do not have the capability currently to do this. OMA have been discussing casually with Oceania Athletics Association(OAA) around the possibility of working more closely with OAA to promote masters' athletics within the Island federations. OAA already has the networks and the resources to be able to promote to the Islands directly. After our last council meeting it was decided to formally approach OAA to start the conversation around working more closely with them. Some of OAA council members will be in Mackay as will some of the OMA council members. It is planned to start the conversation at the Oceania Area Championships and then carry on the conversation at Eugene World Champs where other council members from both organisations will be attending. Once we see if this possibility might become a reality, then federations will be asked for their input. Working more closely together will not affect athletes wanting to compete at World Championships as representation is from member federations. We look forward to these conversations and providing you with more information as soon as we are able.

It is exciting to see a large number of masters athletes entered at the forthcoming Oceania Area Championships being held in Mackay early June.

Joan Merrilees