

# Athletics Australia Board meeting #238

The Board of Athletics Australia held their last official meeting for 2017 last Thursday, 14 December. The following is a summary of the key items discussed.

## AA Strategic Plan

AA is reviewing and revising its Strategic Plan. The revised Strategic Plan draws upon the "Strategic Vision for Athletics in Australia by 2030" and provides SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely) objectives for the period from now until 2020. The plan is being developed around the following five pillars:

- Present Athletics as 'One Sport';
- Become the largest participation sport in Australia;
- Invest in our athletes and coaches for international success;
- Deliver vibrant, exciting and high quality competitions and events; and
- Create and deliver on the sport's value proposition.

The AA Board understands the importance of meaningful consultation with AA's Member Associations (states) as the success of this plan and, ultimately, our sport is (and will continue to be) a team effort. AA Management presented the outline of the revised Strategic Plan to the MA CEO's in October, and now the Board will invite the MA CEOs and also the Presidents to a forum in February so that they can contribute to the next phase of the plan's development.

## Nitro Athletics

The AA President and CEO have communicated broadly to stakeholders within the athletics community – and the public at large – that work has continued to find the right partner to help drive Nitro Athletics into its next phase. The Board remains committed to this and it spent a significant proportion of the meeting discussing potential options and the approach that will provide the best outcome for the sport. Given work is ongoing, the details remain confidential at this stage. However, the Board will provide members and interested parties with an update as soon as practical.

## Other matters

The Board engaged in discussion on a range of other matters, including the following.

- The **transition in the role of Acting High Performance Director** from Alison Campbell to Adam Bishop. Ali decided to move on from Athletics Australia and the Board thanked her for the outstanding work she has performed for the sport. AA welcomes Adam Bishop on a six-month secondment from Athletics South Australia, where he is CEO. It's obviously an important time for our sport with the Commonwealth Games approaching. Regarding the Commonwealth Games, the Board understands that plans are well advanced and that the HP leadership team are comfortable with how things are tracking.

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- The revamped **Athlete's Advisory Group** will meet prior to Christmas. AA's high performance athletes are critical stakeholders and the purpose of the AAG is to ensure that they have a clear voice on issues and a means to communicate to the Board and AA management, it also provides a mechanism for the Board and management to seek feedback from a representative body. Over the coming months, the AAG will work with a representative of the Board (initially the President, but then this will rotate) and senior AA management to develop a structure for its operation and to tackle any key issues in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games.
- AA representatives attended the **AGM of the Commonwealth Games Association**. The key business was for the CGA to pass a range of governance reforms following a significant external, independent review. AA was supportive of these changes and they went through. The other key topic was athlete quotas for the 2018 Games. As has been reported publicly, AA is pushing to have the biggest team possible, but we are awaiting final confirmation from the Commonwealth Games Federation (ie the International governing body).
- The CEO and a number of directors attended the **Australian All Schools Championships** in Adelaide in early December. The CEO complimented all participants and officials for a wonderful event, and particularly congratulated the staff from AA and Athletics South Australia that worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success.
- AA's "**Raise the Bar Academy**" enters its fourth year in January 2018. RTB is a partnership between AA and The University of Melbourne and it's a program for Australian Indigenous secondary school students (years 10 to 12) who aspire to participate in athletics and study at university. This year, in addition to the excellent, core program, AA is excited to welcome coles. In one of coles' first major initiatives as AA's Community Partner, coles will host RTBA participants at its head office for a careers day, inviting guest speakers and providing participants with an opportunity to try out a range of new skills.

Finally, the Board wishes to thank everyone in the athletics community for its support in what has been an exciting, but challenging year. It wishes you all an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year period.

The next Board meeting will be held on the Gold Coast on 15 & 16 February 2018.

If you have any specific queries, please contact the AA office at any time on 03 8646 4550 or [athletics@athletics.org.au](mailto:athletics@athletics.org.au).

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