

# HIGH PERFORMANCE NEWSLETTER

## 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

### INTRODUCING THE NEW CEO, DARREN GOCHER

It is an exciting time to be coming into this role and the sport. I'm passionate about athletics and want to see it thrive.

A home Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast gives us a huge opportunity to propel athletics into the hearts and minds of the wider community and your performances will be key in promoting the sport.

Thanks to your efforts, athletics is in a good place, and the platform that we have to build upon is strong. I'm looking forward to taking on the challenge of positioning our sport where it deserves to be.

I've been in my role as CEO for just eight weeks. Previously, as CEO of Nitro, I believe we made big inroads engaging and re-engaging the public. Following a corporate career working for the likes of News Limited, Yahoo and KPMG, I'm looking forward to channeling the skills and knowledge earned in this part of my working life into a sport which has genuine reach across the community and can benefit everyone.

Speaking of community, athletics at a grassroots level is strong, and we need to do a better job of supporting the people who support us to make our sport great. I also want to ensure we shine a spotlight on the achievements of our local athletes.

I'm committed to ensuring that we find the right forums for our athletes to have a say in the way we go about our business. Let us know how we can help you achieve sustained results at the national and international level. You deserve access to best-in-class technology, medical and programs.

Following the success of Nitro, we need to pursue innovative new formats to showcase our sport. I'm also hoping we can deliver you with better opportunities for competition. All of this will go a long way to ensuring that we not only lift the profile of our sport but also you, our athletes.

### 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE

With less than six months to go before our home Commonwealth Games athletes will now be turning their attention to the Australian Domestic Season to post qualification performances and prepare for the important Commonwealth Games Nomination Trials. The trials will be held in the Commonwealth Games Carrara Stadium from 15-18 February.

The Athletics Australia Nomination Policy can be found on the AA website [here](#). The Policy has been amended to allow Para athletes with "National" classification to be provisionally nominated pending "International" classification which is being assessed at the Victorian State Championships (after the trial but before GOLDOC entries close). Additionally, clarification has been added on the restriction of athletes only competing in events which they were nominated by the Selection Panel, even if they have achieved a qualification standard within the period in another event.

A reminder that all athletes who would like to be considered for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, should submit their [online nomination](#) by **Monday 4 December 2017**.

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### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES TEAM MEMBERS – MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY**

Athletes nominated by AA to the Commonwealth Games Australia Team are expected to make themselves available for a Team Day on **Monday 19 February** on the Gold Coast (the day after the Nomination Trials). The day will include a final outfitting opportunity (to try on the kit for which you have already submitted sizing information) and a whole host of information relating to the Games, Athletics Australia Camp and how to manage the unique environment of a home Commonwealth Games.

**All prospective team members must ensure they have booked their travel home from Nationals no earlier than Monday evening (19 February) to ensure they are available for this session.**

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE – PERSONAL COACH, FAMILY & FRIENDS**

If you are a parent, partner or coach of an athlete who expects to travel to the Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, then please come to one of our **Personal Coach, Family & Friends Update** sessions.

These sessions will cover what it will be like for an athlete on the team, issues for non-athletes, such as accommodation, tickets, accreditation, the athlete village, the staging camp at Nudgee and so on.

Although these sessions are aimed at coaches, family & friends, athletes are more than welcome to attend. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to [highperformance@athletics.org.au](mailto:highperformance@athletics.org.au), indicating which session you will be attending.

DATE	CITY	LOCATION	TIMES (TBC)
Friday 12 January	Perth	TBC	6.30pm (TBC)
Saturday 27 January	Canberra	TBC	11am (TBC)
Saturday 3 February	Sydney	TBC	11am (TBC)
Saturday 3 February	Brisbane	TBC	11am (TBC)
Friday 9 February	Melbourne	TBC	6.30pm (TBC)
Saturday 10 February	Adelaide	TBC	5pm (TBC)

Please keep an eye on the [Commonwealth Games page](#) of the AA website for further details.

### **GOLD COAST GOLD RELAY PROGRAM**

The Gold Coast GOLD relay program, made possible through the support of Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA), consists of 30 athletes (21 non-NASS members). The focus of the Gold Coast GOLD program is to provide DTE support to targeted athletes, improve relay skills and ultimately, success at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

It is Athletics Australia's intent to nominate relay teams across all relay events for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, however this will be confirmed following the confirmation of the final sport athlete quota allocation in consideration of the relay team's potential to meet the aims of the Nomination Policy. Membership in the Gold Coast GOLD relay program does in no way guarantee selection into the 2018 Commonwealth Games relay teams.

To enhance relay skills, Gold Coast GOLD squad athletes regularly attend training camps. The most recent camps were held on the Gold Coast for the men's 4x100m (6-8 October) & women's 4x100m (22-24 September). Upcoming camp dates are as follow:

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DATE	LOCATION	TEAM
17-19 November 2017	Gold Coast	Women's 4x400m & Men's 4x100m
14-17 December 2017	Brisbane	Women's 4x100m
26-28 January 2018	Canberra	Men's 4x400m
15-18 February 2018	Gold Coast (GC Nomination Trial)	Men's 4x100m & Women's 4x100m

## 2018 TEAMS UPDATE

The remaining 2018 team selection / nomination policies will be published soon. Please note that due dates for online nominations if you wish to be considered for selection in any of these teams.

TEAM	VENUE	SELECTION POLICY	ONLINE NOMINATION DUE
<a href="#">World Indoors</a>	Birmingham, GBR	Coming Soon	Friday 2 February
<a href="#">World Half Marathon</a>	Valencia, ESP	<a href="#">Published</a>	<a href="#">Monday 4 December</a>
<a href="#">Commonwealth Games</a>	Gold Coast, AUS	<a href="#">Published</a>	<a href="#">Monday 4 December</a>
<a href="#">World Uni XC</a>	St Gallen, SUI	Coming Soon	Monday 4 December
<a href="#">World Race Walking</a>	Taicang, CHN	Coming Soon	Wednesday 31 January
<a href="#">World U20s</a>	Tampere, FIN	<a href="#">Published</a>	<a href="#">Sunday 18 March</a>
<a href="#">Youth Olympic Games</a>	Buenos Aires, ARG	Coming Soon	Sunday 18 March

## 2018 TEAM STAFF – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If you would like to be considered for a Team Coach or Team Manager position in 2018, please complete the online nomination [here](#) by **Sunday 12 November 2017**. Athletics Australia intend to confirm appointments by early December, 2017.

As team staff positions are very limited, we expect the applications to exceed places available for team staff appointments. The Team Staff selection process is detailed on the website: <http://athletics.com.au/high-performance/team-staff>.

## 2018 EVENT GRID & TRAVEL FUNDING

The 2018 event grid is almost finalised after extensive consultation with the State Member Associations. It is expected that it will be released, along with information about travel funding by the end of next week.

## LOCAL TARGET TALENT PROGRAM

The Local Target Talent Program (TTP) is an AA initiative, delivered by our Member Associations (MAs). Currently in its fifth year of implementation, the local TTP aims to be the early talent identification element of AA's High-Performance Program

In 2017 549 junior athletes across Australia are involved in TTP, benefiting from the state-based coaching days run by state appointed TTP coaches, with athlete and personal coach education supported by our State Institute and Academy of Sport partners.

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### STAFF UPDATE

Steve Caddy has taken up the position of Para Athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator, following the resignation of Amy Hibbert after 4 years in the High Performance Program. Steve will be well known to many in the Para program having recently toured as a personal care attendant at the Paralympic Games and World Championships.

Some of you will be aware that Cody Lynch tendered his resignation following the IAAF World Championships after spending almost 8 years at Athletics Australia, working with many of you across the domestic season, and on international tours. Jane Aubrey started in the Communications and Media Manager role this month and wanted to share a few words by way of introduction.

*Hi everyone,*

*First and foremost, I'm excited to be working with you all in my role as Communications & Media Manager.*

*I'm hoping that we can develop a collaborative and respectful relationship along the way.*

*Know that I'm here to listen, understand and help you communicate your stories in the public space. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's any way I can assist. You can email me via [jane.aubrey@athletics.org.au](mailto:jane.aubrey@athletics.org.au)*

Jane

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