



## Presidents Report 2018 AGM

DATE: 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

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2018 has been a mixed year. Numbers are down on previous years which is disappointing with some clubs having large increases while others struggled. There are still a number of positives that can be taken away from the year, some being:

- NT athletes attending BIMP EAGA games in Indonesia in 2017 and again in 2018 plus the recent trip to Singapore to take part in the Kindred Spirit Games on 18<sup>th</sup> August.
- Athletics being selected to take part in the Arafura Games for 2019
- The JV with Little Athletics Australia, tying in the link with three levels of athletics in the country
- Working with government across a number of sectors, including Sport, Asian Relations and Trade and Tourism.
- More NT officials being involved at a National Level and having three at the Commonwealth Games

A lot of what has been achieved over the last few years has evolved from the two strategic plans developed by the board in conjunction with advice from MAs. Planning works and I encourage all clubs to take the time to plan. The EO is more than happy to provide feedback and tools to help any club develop capacity or strategic direction.

Many close relationships have been built. Unfortunately, the relationship that was seen most important to us, being that with the NTIS whom we share the Arafura facility with, still seems distant. It is disappointing that the only time the NTIS did have direct involvement in a club saw the club move from a membership base of 300 and expanding to now having membership under 100. Their involvement was built on their belief that athletics would fold if the club did not embrace the NTIS philosophy.

While only small in stature we have made a large impact with involvement in Athletics Australia decision making. I've been on their Board Selection panel for the last two years, our opinion is regularly sought at board and operational levels. The relationship is strong and we do hold the respect of the greater athletics community.

It is great to see a large contingent coming from Alice Springs this year, the largest they have ever sent. I remember last year after the NT Champs Klaus Roth commented that middle distance is the strongest he has seen in the NT in years. The squad from Alice Springs is mixed but has a large focus on middle distance, which is a credit to the Alice Springs Clubs.

From a corporate governance perspective, 2018 saw a shift in the board to that of more strategy and less operational focus. This is in line with best practice as outlined by the NT Department of Sport and the Australian Sports Commission. The move has been recognized by the NT government and seen our Association very involved in government initiatives and strategies. We have been called on several times in their pursuit of the BIMP EAGA relationship via their annual games and will be co-ordinating the entire NT team when they compete in Brunei in December.

Looking around the Marrara Sporting Complex some of the other sports have had massive facilities built or being built. While it would be nice to see an upgrade at Arafura Stadium for us focusing on developing better facilities in rural/remote areas is of more importance. The track is adequate given the number of events it hosts and the level of competitions it attracts. If we were to bid for a large International Event such as the World Para Athletics European Championships we could look to an upgrade. That said there is still the concept of a shared grandstand being built between the TIO Stadium, Arafura Stadium and Hockey.

This year has flown. I am grateful for the support of Shane in the role of EO and the help and feedback provided by the Board. Work commitments have seen me out of Darwin for a lot of 2018 and having the comfort to know things are being accomplished while away has been fantastic. Thank you to the Presidents and the MAs for the good work being done at club level. Numbers might be down for the NT Champs this year but other clubs are sending record teams to the event, it is a sign that things are going well in the sport.