



ALBANY ATHLETICS CLUB INC.

President's Report: 2020/2021



Thank you to everyone who attended our 2021 Annual General Meeting. This was my first year as President and a big year of learning. I want to thank the current committee for their assistance in helping me learn more about this role and I look forward to what the Club can achieve together in the next 12 months.

Any club is as good and as strong as its members. Our Club is not a standalone entity – it runs on the enthusiasm of its members, volunteers and its partnership with Albany Little Athletics Club. In order to be a great Club, we need your help to make it great. We need your innovations and ideas. If you notice that something could be better or could be trialed, come and chat with the committee or email us so we can find a way to harness your enthusiasm.

Overall, having the Elleker Running Festival return after a year missed due to COVID-19 was a massive relief, as well as delivering a full Track & Field Summer season, and making it through a rather wet and at times flooded Cross-Country Winter season.



Our Accomplishments

- Working in solid partnership with Albany Little Athletics Club – coordinating track & field programs and events, line marking, sharing the timing gates with us, promoting the Elleker 2km kids dash event and sourcing volunteers, donating \$860 from kids dash entry fees to the Little Athletics Club
- Great number of families regularly participating and volunteering in the 2021 cross-country season
- Reasonable attendance at 2021 cross-country events – on average 35 participants at each event (highest number 46 participants at Bathgate Farm and lowest 11 participants at Bocian's Farm), higher participation numbers compared with last year
- Record number of entrants in the 2021 Elleker Running Festival (333 total) – an increase in first-timers to the event, record number of 2km / 10km Walk / 10km Run entrants, promising feedback from Elleker survey (90.2% said they would do the event again and 9.8% said maybe)

- Great level of participation & achievements from Albany Athletics members in the 2021 Masters Athletics WA State Championships event – 8 athletes competed and were awarded a total of 21 Gold , 11 Silver and 2 Bronze medals (including one state record broken by Kathleen Hannig)
- New-look merchandise selling well and increasing Club visibility



Our Challenges

- Being better known in the local community as several people are not even aware we exist – we need to find ways to promote the Club and highlight the sport, become a hub for athletics and running training and events, reach out to other sporting/running/athletic clubs
- Number and demographic of volunteers – we need younger members on our committee and those helping around the Club - often younger members are busy with work, their families and the own children’s sports - but we must find a way to ensure we have a sustainable number of volunteers to run our Club’s programs and events
- Increasing memberships – we need to better understand what our members & local runners or athletes want, target younger age groups 13 – 17 years / 18 - 50 years

Total number of 2021 cross-country memberships (includes 12 month annual/cross-country only memberships) - 77 members

Total number of 2020-2021 track & field memberships (includes 12 month annual/track & field only memberships) – 35 members

Average participation numbers in 2017-2021 cross-country seasons:

2021 – 35 participants
 2020 – 23 participants
 2019 – 45 participants
 2018 – 60 participants
 2017 – 41 participants

- Raising participation numbers in special events to promote the Club and increase the level of competition – Peter Watson mile & handicap races, Decima Norman and handicap races, Club Championship cross-country
- Increasing number of half-marathon runners in the Elleker Running Festival next year
- Ensuring we communicate and collaborate with our members - invite input and suggestions, find ways to provide regular and consistent updates, utilise skills and expertise within the Club
- Continuing to maintain positive relationships with Little Athletics, Albany Athletics Group and City of Albany
- Sourcing Club sponsors in meaningful sponsorships

What’s in store for 2021-2022

- Developing a three-year strategic plan to provide clarity, direction and focus for our Club
- Collaborating more effectively with other athletic, running and sporting clubs - share workloads, share resources and ideas, promote our Club and increase memberships
- Encouraging all abilities to run or walk – to have social untimed runs which target motivation to run instead of competition
- Incorporating running, sprinting, jumps or throws clinics into our training programs - focusing on technique and form to improve times and distances on competition days
- Hosting a Pentathlon event as part of our Summer track & field program
- Including more social events and social runs for our members



Our Volunteers

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” (Elizabeth Andrew).

This is certainly true for all our volunteers who offer their time and energy for the good of our Club and its members. I'd first like to acknowledge our dedicated committee members who helped the Club through these somewhat unsettling times. Your hard work and patience is greatly appreciated.

2020-2021 Committee Members:

- Dan Smith – Ordinary committee member
- Ken Willis – Ordinary committee member
- Natalie Jarvis – Ordinary committee member
- Beryl Allen – Registrar
- Caroline Evans – Secretary
- Chris Langslow – Treasurer
- Jasmine Heslop – President/Chair

A special mention to Dan Smith - our club's jack-of-all-trades - who volunteers all year round including as a committee member, setting up cross-country courses, posting cross-country results, organizing sausage sizzles, line marking the athletics track, interacting with Club sponsors, encouraging little athletes with their running and promoting the Club in the community. He also occasionally gets the chance to run.

Thank you to Basil Worner for his energy towards creating some excitement and friendly competition in our cross-country season. Basil's novelty events and entertaining weekly round-ups reminded us that our Club offers more than just hosting running events – it is a close-knit community of runners and walkers.

I would like to especially acknowledge our 2021 Elleker sub-committee who dedicated an extraordinary number of hours preparing for and organising our Club's most successful event – Jeff Douglas (Event Director), Dan Smith (Sponsorship, Awards & Course Coordinator) & his daughter Rebecca Ravenhill (Registrations Coordinator), Natalie Jarvis (Grants Coordinator & event poster) and Jacob Podlich. We had a record number of participants in the Elleker Running Festival this year thanks to the extraordinary work from the sub-committee and volunteers from the Club and Little Athletics.

We also appreciate the volunteers who lend a hand when it's needed recording results, helping with timing, packing away, taking photos, cleaning our club rooms, and providing help in many other ways. As always, we need more volunteers – like every club. Helping a little goes a long way and as a committee of busy individuals we very much understand that everyone is stretched, over-committed at times and can't always help on a regular basis – it is the times that you do that really put a smile on our faces and keeps our Club running (and jumping and throwing). Your help is important for the sustainability of the Club and what we do.

Our Sponsors

The Albany Athletics Club committee would like to say a big thanks to our generous 2020/2021 sponsors for greatly supporting our Club, our events and helping to motivate the community to run, jump and throw. As well as the sponsors to the right, we'd also like to thank Geoff Holmes from Holmes Architects Albany for his donation towards cross-country awards and prizes, Barb Wilson for her donation of shield and prizes for the 4km club champions, Don Mair for his donation of 6km club champion shield, and Stuart Walker from Gnowangerup Pharmacy for his donation of prizes for the Elleker Running Festival.

Best wishes to all,

Jasmine Heslop

Albany Athletics Club President

Southern Ports, City of Albany, ASICS, Retravision Albany, SportsPower, Advanced Family & Sports Podiatry Albany, Market Grill Albany, Sustainable Motion, BodyCare Health Club, Goodlife Albany, The Health Nut, South Coast Sports Medicine & Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

