

MACKAY ATHLECTICS CLUB INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2009

Welcome everyone to the Club's Annual General Meeting. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

It's been another busy year for the Club. Our numbers grew steadily in the first half of the year, which was encouraging. The Saturday afternoon Club Days continued to be very popular and thank you to all the Committee Members and parents who worked hard to make them a success. Their help with setting up, marshalling age groups, helping at events or packing up was greatly appreciated. I'd also like to pay tribute to the enthusiastic participation of all our athletes during the year, who have worked very hard at developing their skills.

Your Club's Management Committee has been working hard behind the scenes this year, setting up the Club for continued success in the future. We are in the process of finalizing negotiations for a new Long Term Agreement with Mackay State High School for the continued use of the school grounds for athletics. I'd like to thank the school Principal, Mr Steve Paulger, for the school's continued support and co-operation and for his willingness to continue our association.

A New Club Constitution has been drafted which is to be adopted in the General Meeting which follows the AGM. The Constitution outlines the association's operations, including members' rights, how the management committee works and how meetings are run.

The Club recently adopted a Smoke Free Policy, Alcohol Management Policy and Safe Transport Policy. These policies have enabled the Club to become accredited as a Level O Club in the Australian Drug Foundations Good Sports program. The Management Committee is also in the process of reviewing the club's insurances.

The Club was successful in applying for a couple of grants during the year – the Club received a \$700 grant from Mackay Regional Council and a \$3,000 grant from Woolworths. These grants have been used to purchase a range of sporting equipment and shade structures for use at training days and club meets.

Mackay Regional Council has announced that it will be developing an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy for the Mackay region. The Club will be making a submission to Council as part of the Study which underpins to the Strategy.

In relation to coaching, Cameron has continued to work tirelessly on training days and at club days. Cameron is looking to upgrade his coaching skills by undertaking a Level 2 coaching course. I'd like to thank Cameron for his enthusiastic efforts over the past 12 months. A number of parents successfully completed the Level 0 Introductory Coaching course and I'd like to encourage their continued involvement with the Club.

The Committee is looking at the long-term coaching arrangements for the Club, including examining the feasibility of paying a professional coach. An approach will be made to ANQ in this regard. I believe that we also need to look to other Clubs for guidance in terms of successful operating models. For example, the Mackay Amateur Basketball Association has been able to attract a coach with national-levels skills in Leonard King. There is no reason why we could not have similar success if collectively we turn our minds to the challenge.

For the longer-term development of the sport of athletics in Mackay, we may need to join forces with other clubs in the region, particularly if we are going to encourage the development of athletics facilities. Our submission to council will suggest this as an option.

There are a number of other people I need to thank:

- James Grech for the hard work and dedication he has shown over the past 12-months. James's list of achievements are too numerous to mention, suffice it to say he has been an inspiration to us all! Just his list of official positions gives you an idea of his involvement: James is our Registrar, PR Officer and Web Coordinator!
- Rhonda Bates for her superb management of the Club's finances;
- Fiona Quirk for her sterling secretarial skills;
- Paul Burke for his quiet background support;
- And Wade Bates for getting the Club Days off with a bang! (He is the Club's starter)

Enjoy a restful off-season and good luck for a successful season in 2010.