

HISTORY OF LITTLE ATHLETICS

Little Athletics evolved, like most voluntary community organisations, through the mind and conscience of one man – Trevor Billingham. Following the pattern set by many pioneers in the field of community service he recognised a need and introduced an idea designed to meet that need.

On an October day in 1963 three boys turned up at an athletics meeting in Geelong ready to compete; however on approaching an official they were told that they were too young to take part. That official was Trevor Billingham. The disappointment, evident in the boys left a marked impression on his mind. The thought was forgotten until it came alive again several months later at a coaching clinic designed for secondary school students, it was noted that the majority of children were of primary school age. Reminded of his earlier experience, Trevor Billingham had an idea. The answer to the need expressed in the children would be a simple Saturday morning competition.

On the first Saturday of October 1964, he met with a small group of children on a Geelong oval. They took part in a short program of running events. From that simple beginning, athletics for under 12 boys and girls developed at a phenomenal rate. Little Athletics created tremendous interest and by 1967 the Victorian Little Athletics Association was formed.

Australia Little Athletics Union was formed in Perth on March 31, 1972. The founding members were Victoria, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Western Australia. South Australia, Queensland Little Australian Capital Territory joined in 1973/1974 and Tasmania in 1974/1975 season.

The Australian Little Athletics Union became Australian Little Athletics (ALA) during 1992/93.

In 2020 Little Athletics WA merged with Athletics WA to create a single body - Athletics West

STRUCTURE OF LITTLE ATHLETICS

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS

Nationally, Little Athletics is organised by Australian Little Athletics (ALA). The policy making body of ALA is the Board of Management which comprises an Executive of four together with the Chairman/President of each affiliated State or Territory Association. These positions are elected for a two year term from nominations received from affiliated Associations and voted on by each of the affiliated Associations.

STATE ASSOCIATION (ATHLETICS WEST)

The control and direction of Little Athletics in Western Australia is vested in the Board of Management of Athletics West. The members of the Board of Management are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Company by votes from affiliated Clubs & Centres.

The Board of Management has a variety of roles, including the running of all State Championships and Association conducted events, obtaining sponsorship and/or Government assistance, provisions of publications/information, education of Coaches and Officials, guidance and support for all Centres and their Executive, conducting meetings and conferences, provision of paperwork etc.

CENTRE

Cockburn Little Athletics Centre is the body that organises and conducts our weekly competition. CLAC has an elected Committee of Management that is responsible for the administration and conduct of the Centre's affairs. Centres design their own program and timetable of weekly events, coordinate the activities of voluntary workers, register members with the State Association (Athletics West), ensure all details of equipment, recording, finance, promotions etc. are arranged and conduct regular meetings etc.

CLUBS

Clubs are affiliated to Centres and normally consist of a small management committee selected from parents within the club to perform the administrative tasks. Clubs organise training sessions for the athletes and keep them informed of the requirements for centre and state level nominations.

HISTORY OF COCKBURN LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Our Centre was originally the Fremantle Centre, and was based at Fremantle Oval, commencing on November 4, 1972. The original 5 clubs were Southerners, North Lake, Coolbellup, Mosman Park and East Hamilton Hill.

Winterfold club joined in 1973/74, followed by East Fremantle and then Phoenix Park in 1976. Southerners and East Fremantle finished as clubs in 1975. Mosman Park became Cottesloe. Yangebup Lakes joined in 1984/85, Lakes in 1990/91, Jandakot Flyers in 1993/94, Spearwood in 1997/98 and Hammond Park 2010/11.

The centre has moved several times, originally from Fremantle Oval to Bruce Lee Oval and then back to Fremantle Oval, then on to Hilton Reserve and as now in 1984/85 to Santich Park where we have since changed our name to Cockburn Centre (incorporating Fremantle).

Unfortunately the move to Santich Park saw Cottesloe elect to move on and lack of numbers forced out Winterfold in 1991.

Other clubs to have faded away include Lakes, St Jeromes, Spearwood and two of the originals in Coolbellup and North Lake who amalgamated with Yangebup Lakes, Hammond Park and most recently, East Hamilton Hill

Some of our past athletes include Olympian James Miller and Commonwealth Games representative Ryan Moore. Former athletes also include well known footballers Brad Hardie and John Worsfold.

With the help of many we have been able to build up an impressive volume and quality of equipment including horizontal jump run ups, storage facility and most recently the electronic timing systems.

COCKBURN LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE CHAMPION CLUBS

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| 1980-81 | Coolbellup | 1999-00 | Av: Phoenix Park | 2010-11 | Av: Jandakot |
| 1981-82 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1982-83 | Phoenix Park | 2000-01 | Av: Phoenix Park | 2011-12 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1983-84 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park |
| 1984-85 | Phoenix Park | 2001-02 | Av: Phoenix Park | 2012-13 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1985-86 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park |
| 1986-87 | Phoenix Park | 2002-03 | Av: Yangebup | 2013-14 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1987-88 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park |
| 1988-89 | Phoenix Park | 2003-04 | Av: Jandakot | 2014-15 | Av: Jandakot |
| 1989-90 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1990-91 | Phoenix Park | 2004-05 | Av: Spearwood | 2015-16 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1991-92 | Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1992-93 | Yangebup | 2005-06 | Av: Spearwood | 2016-17 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1993-94 | Yangebup | | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Phoenix Park |
| 1994-95 | | 2006-07 | Av: Spearwood | 2017-18 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| 1995-96 | East Hamilton Hill | | Ag: Jandakot | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1996-97 | Av: East Hamilton Hill | 2007-08 | Av: Phoenix Park | 2018-19 | Av: Yangebup |
| | Ag: Phoenix Park | | Ag: Jandakot | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1997-98 | Av: East Hamilton Hill | 2008-09 | Av: Phoenix Park | 2019-20 | Av: Phoenix Park |
| | Ag: Yangebup | | Ag: Jandakot | | Ag: Jandakot |
| 1998-99 | Av: Spearwood | 2009-10 | Av: Jandakot | | |
| | Ag: Yangebup | | Ag: Jandakot | | |