



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, 6 MAY 2017

The year gone by was as busy as ever, and yet not as busy as the year to come for the AOC.

This year's President's Address starts with a report on the year that was.

A year in which Jared Tallent was finally presented with his Gold medal for the 50km Walk at the London Olympic Games at a ceremony in Melbourne and at which Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove also presented Jared with the Order of Australia Medal.

A year in which Olympic rowing gold medallist, Kim Brennan and our golden Women's sevens rugby team were among 22 Olympic athletes included on the Australia Day Honours list.

Kim became a Member of the Order of Australia.

And Order of Australia Medals were awarded to:

- Chloe Esposito, the winner of our first ever Gold medal in modern pentathlon.
- Catherine Skinner for her triumph in the women's trap.
- Tom Burton, victor in the Laser class.
- Kyle Chalmers and Mack Horton in the pool.
- So too Madison Wilson, Bronte Campbell and Emma McKeon (Cate Campbell and Brittany Elmslie were, of course, already recipients).
- En masse, the women's sevens rugby team were also awarded Order of Australia Medals.
- And Dale Begg-Smith was recognised for his success at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino.

A year in which former Australian international footballer and Asian Football Confederation Vice President, Moya Dodd was awarded the IOC Women and Sport Oceania Trophy.

The year when Australia remained one of only two countries whose athletes have competed in every Olympic Games of the modern era ... winning eight Gold, 11 Silver and 10 Bronze medals.

422 athletes competed in 26 sports with 346 coaches, medics, performance and other support staff.

43% of the teams were under 25 years old.

51% of athletes were female and 49% male, a first for an Australian Olympic Summer Team.

And 65% of the athletes were rookies in a good sign for Tokyo and beyond.

We also celebrated:

- Archery's first ever Teams medal;
- Modern Pentathlon's first ever Olympic medal;
- Jared Tallent becoming our most successful male track and field athlete;
- Equestrian's first medal since Beijing;
- Rowing's first Gold since Beijing;
- Shooting's first Gold since Athens thanks to Catherine Skinner;
- Rugby Sevens women's team winning Gold on their debut; and the
- 4 x 100 metre women's freestyle relay team taking gold in world record time.

Away from the Summer Games, and over the 2016/17 winter season leading to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Australian athletes:

- won 35 World Cup and five World Championship medals, eclipsing our previous season best total of 25 World Cup and World Championship medals;
- claimed five World Championship medals including Gold to Scotty James and Britt Cox;
- and a special mention for Lydia Lassila who returned after the birth of her second child for her first competitions since Sochi to win three Gold medals in six events.

Off the track, Beijing 2008 Olympic Gold medallist and three-times Olympian, Steve Hooker was elected as Chair of the Australian Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission.

Kim Brennan was appointed deputy.

And I am very pleased to announce that Kim has been appointed Chef de Mission of our Team for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

I congratulate Steve and Kim.

Ian Chesterman who is preparing to lead his sixth Australian Olympic Team to the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea was elected a Vice President of the AOC.

Peter Montgomery announced his retirement from the AOC.

Peter first represented his country at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Recognised as one of Australia's finest water polo players he competed in Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984 when he was Team captain.

Appointed by President Juan Antonio Samaranch, Peter was a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission, foundation Chair of the World Olympians Club, member of IOC Evaluation and Coordination Commission, and three times Australian Olympic Team Deputy Chef de Mission.

Thank you Peter!

Internationally - the International Olympic Committee voted to add five new sports to the Olympic programme for the 2020 Games in Tokyo.

It is the most comprehensive evolution of the programme in Olympic history, with karate, skateboarding, sports climbing, surfing and baseball/softball taking their place on the Olympic stage.

Olympic Agenda Recommendation 11 sets a clear objective of 50% female participation at the Olympic Games. The London 2012 percentage was 44.2% and Rio 2016 was 45.6%. Proposals received from the International Federations will allow the Olympic Programme Commission and the IOC Executive Board the opportunity to take significant steps towards achieving the 50% gender balance in the Olympic Games in both athletes and events and the highest percentages in the history of the Olympic Games. I am expecting we will get to 48.5% in Tokyo.

The IOC also outlined 12 principles for a more robust and independent global Anti-Doping System to protect clean athletes. These principles require that WADA and the testing system must be equally independent from both sports organisations and from national interests.

The IOC stripped a further 10 athletes of medals from the 2008 Beijing Olympics after banned substances were found during re-testing of samples from the Games. More will follow from the 2012 London re-testing.

With regard to sanctioning the individual athletes having taken part in the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi 2014, all Russian samples are under investigation by the IOC Oswald Disciplinary Commission for manipulation or doping.

With regard to all the other Russian athletes who may have benefited from the Russian system, it is the sole responsibility of the respective International Federation to take the appropriate action.

To address the systematic manipulation of the anti-doping system in Russia as revealed by Professor Richard McLaren in his Independent Report, the IOC's Inquiry Commission, chaired by the former President of Switzerland, Mr Samuel Schmid, is following up his findings as necessary.

This week the IOC President, Thomas Bach, Professor McLaren and WADA President, Sir Craig Reedie met and confirmed they are fully aligned in their determination to a close co-operation in the fight against doping. Their common goal is to do everything possible to protect the clean athletes so that such a systematic manipulation of the anti-doping system can never happen again.

Back home, on Anzac Day 2017, the Australian Olympic Committee released a list of Olympians who enlisted in World War I.

Three members from the Stockholm 1912 team – Cecil Healy (swimming), Keith Heritage (rowing) and Claude Ross (athletics) – made the ultimate sacrifice in the war. Cecil Healy won gold and silver medals at Stockholm. He was one of nine medallists who enlisted.

Finally, 90 outstanding secondary students were presented with the Pierre de Coubertin award after displaying the Olympic ideals of fair play and sportsmanship...what it is after all, all about.

That, was some year.

Another year of glory, of victory, of remembering lives lost and above all else, of competing for our sports, our families, our communities and our country.

But of course, not only do these activities roll on, they gather pace. Ahead of us are more Games, more events, more sports, more opportunities and more dreams.

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS FOR THE 2017-2020 OLYMPIAD

In total the AOC is preparing for eight teams - 783 athletes and 460 support staff, totalling 1,243 to represent Australia over the next four years. I speak of:

- the Asian Winter Games in Sapporo last February where we had a team of 52;
- the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in September this year with a team of 29 in wrestling, taekwondo and weightlifting;
- the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea from 9-25 February, 2018 for which we are projecting a team of 94;
- the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires from 6-18 October, 2018 with a team of 151;
- the Pacific Games in Tonga in 2019 with a team of 71;
- also in 2019, the Association of National Olympic Committees is planning the ANOC World Beach Games in San Diego, USA, for which our team, depending on the events in which we are invited to compete, could number 60;
- we expect to have a team of 36 competing in the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland from 10-19 January, 2020; and
- from 24 July – 9 August 2020 we expect to field a team of 750 in the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

What that means is that by this schedule, we are preparing for two teams overseas in each year of the period.

Which is why we have totally restructured our sports department to form AOC Games Support and Operations.

A change in design to ensure we are fit for this even larger purpose.

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS FOR THE 2021-2024 OLYMPIAD

For these four years, we expect to be invited to participate in more sports at the Asian Winter Games in February 2021.

And for a decision to be taken at the Olympic Council of Asia meeting in Ashgabat in September this year to open the doors for the NOCs of Oceania to be included in the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

With all sports on the Olympic Games programme being included in the Asian Games, our team could total as many as 750.

This would mean the AOC sending nine teams – 1,321 athletes and 743 support staff, for a total of 2,064.

The Commonwealth Games falls in the year of the Asian Games and for the current 16 Olympic sports involved in both, the Commonwealth Games must remain the priority.

To this end, the AOC will not conduct any separate fundraising for its Asian Games team and our fundraising for the 2024 Games will again be limited to the last two years of the Olympiad - 2023 and 2024.

ELECTION OF THE CITIES TO HOST THE 2024 AND 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES AND THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING OLYMPIC AND OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The IOC is investigating awarding both the 2024 and 2032 Olympic Games at the same time in September.

Los Angeles and Paris are the only bidders left (in what was originally a five-city race) before the withdrawal of Hamburg, Rome and Budapest.

They are both outstanding candidates with little to be spent by way of new sports infrastructure.

But both have repeatedly insisted they are only interested in the 2024 event.

A working group was set up by IOC President, Thomas Bach in March to consider jointly awarding the 2024 and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games at this year's IOC Session in Lima on September 13.

There are many issues to be worked through under the Olympic Charter.

What is required is to have indications from authorities that the commitments and guarantees they would be prepared to make for 2024 would carry to 2028.

Thus, this is best described as an urgent work in progress with the possibility of an elegant solution.

Time will tell.

Equally, time is in short supply.

We also must acknowledge the situation facing the IOC regarding candidates for the Olympic Winter Games.

How local and domestic opposition has prevented European and Scandinavian countries bids from materialising in recent years.

In 2016 I chaired a strategic review working group into the challenges facing the Olympic Winter Games, along with the International Federations and various experts.

There were some good learnings.

We acknowledged there are 13 sliding venues in the world and no need to construct any more.

We also looked at the invitation phase identifying cities that could host the Games and sending in experts to help them formulate their bids.

It is true that the technical requirements for bids have been too onerous.

We must make them simpler and less expensive.

We are now extending that invitational phase to get as many of the approvals considered during that phase, then selecting two or three candidate cities.

By having a shorter candidate period, less money is going to be spent.

I am also thinking on an option where the city that comes second could exercise an option in a shorter period to have the next Games.

That would save having to spend a second 30 or 40 million dollars in the case of the Winter bids and make it more attractive.

At these amounts the argument that this money is justifiable for tourism or another kind of other promotion for the city is not as compelling as it once was.

This therefore is an ongoing productive discussion with the benefit of less time pressure.

AN OLYMPIC GAMES BID FROM SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

As I have reported at our last two AGMs, the AOC has given the go-ahead for a feasibility study by Brisbane and six surrounding cities in South-East Queensland (SEQ) into hosting the 2028 or 2032 Olympic Games.

We have advised them from the outset that the study should adhere to IOC principles for meeting long-term sporting, economic, environmental and social needs and using existing facilities.

And we believe this is possible given the existing and planned infrastructure spread throughout South-East Queensland.

The current venues centred on Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast would be boosted by the additional venues being built as part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

No decision on a bid for 2028 is required until early 2019 when the IOC will be seeking an expression of interest if those Games are not decided with those for 2024 this September. If they are, then the SEQ feasibility study will focus on 2032.

But these are exciting developments.

From my perspective, this is a very interesting watching brief for the people of Queensland and Australia.

Under the Olympic Charter, it is a City and National Olympic Committee that bid for the Games, but obviously undertakings and guarantees are required from Government.

SPONSORSHIPS AND LICENSING

With Asia hosting the next three Olympics in PyeongChang 2018, Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022, sponsorship interest is high among Australian companies.

I will rephrase that - two decades into the Asian century – it is ‘super high.’

Meaning that the AOC is better positioned with many long-term sponsorships than it has ever been.

We commenced this year with sponsorships secured for the next four years of \$37.13 million – that is the deferred revenue recorded in the 2016 Financial Statements.

In the first few months of this year we have signed Alibaba as a new sponsor and have agreed on renewal agreements, subject to contract, with Qantas and the Royal Australian Mint to a total value of \$6.27 million.

So we have \$42.9 million in sponsorships to date – well ahead of where we have ever been so early in an Olympiad. Our target to balance the books is \$55 million.

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC FOUNDATION

The AOC enjoys strong distributions from the Australian Olympic Foundation.

On your tables you will find my Chairman's Report to yesterday's Board meeting of the Australian Olympic Foundation.

The composite return from the Foundation's portfolio since inception to March 2017 is 8.1% per annum which is 2.7% above its historic return target of rolling 4-year CPI plus the ten-year bond rate.

After the March quarter distribution, cash contributions to the AOC since 1 January 2001 totalled \$106.76 million. A further interim distribution of \$1.562 million for the 2017 June quarter has been made in April 2017.

Net assets have increased to \$148.9 million as at 31 March 2017 after the March quarter distribution.

Without these distributions the AOC would not be able to fully fund its representation and participation in the Olympic, Olympic Winter, Youth Olympic, Youth Olympic Winter and Regional Games.

We are both able to do so and remain free of public sector budget cycles and party politics.

We are independent. And we have the financial strength to stay that way.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES DRIVEN BY THE AOC

For the past 12 months, the AOC has been considering a fundamental shift in the way we do business.

The adoption of the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020 roadmap and its Recommendation 23 to 'Engage with Communities' has relaxed regulations around the Olympic brand for the purposes of community engagement.

The AOC is now looking to provide a more meaningful engagement between the Olympic Movement and Australian communities.

We want to take Olympians and the Olympic Movement into communities to encourage participation in sport for the many positive health outcomes – for all Australians.

The proposed changes to the AOC objects are in line with the Government's view about the role sport plays to promote health.

To this end, the AOC has identified several existing community programs within the Department of Health and Department of Education which we feel may benefit from collaborating with the Olympic Movement.

The values of fair play and excellence are embodied in Australia's Olympic athletes and the Olympic Symbol, the most recognisable sporting brand in the world.

The strength of the Olympic brand and inspiring sporting journeys of Olympic athletes could enhance these existing programs.

The AOC has already made great strides in support of our community.

Our Olympic Education program has never been stronger with its programs of Chat to a Champ, Meet with a Champ and Eat Like a Champ.

In secondary schools, the AOC enjoys a phenomenal reach with our Pierre de Coubertin Awards for year 10-12 students. We also provide ongoing support of the Cathy Freeman Foundation and Robert de Castella's Indigenous Marathon Foundation.

We continue to support the Department of Indigenous Affairs with our Olympians going into remote indigenous communities either in person or online as part of the Department's Remote School Attendance Strategy.

But we would like to do more.

In consultation with Minister Greg Hunt, we have begun discussions in Canberra with the Department of Health to zero in on the role sport can play to promote health and getting Australians more active.

We have met with the Department of Education and Training on how we might integrate the Olympic Movement and its values, into the promotion of sport and physical exercise in schools.

Discussions are also underway with the Australian Sports Foundation, chaired by Olympian Mark Stockwell, to explore ways of partnering with the ASF's projects in support of sports participation and attracting philanthropy.

Naturally, our next conversation in this space must be with the Australian Sports Commission to discuss partnerships with the Olympic brand and the ASC's participation programs.

I am committed to this dialogue.

This is an exciting new chapter for the AOC and if our Member sports wish to propose similar partnerships to increase participation, you are most welcome.

AOC ATHLETE TRANSITION PROGRAM

The AOC, in conjunction with the AOC's Athlete's Commission, is committed to assisting Australian Olympians in their transition from an athletic career to life after sport.

Our Athletes Commission have been very active in driving this new initiative with the AOC's Athlete Services team.

The Athlete Transition program focuses on two areas: Health & Wellness; and Career Progression. Both have independent drivers, but are linked.

Within the health and wellness space, the AOC is developing strong networks and resources to assist our Olympians and National Sporting Organisations.

We are engaged with several independent organisations who are experts in this field, with the knowledge and skills to assist Olympians.

Discussions are underway with BeyondBlue, Crossing The Line Sport and we are keen to dovetail our program with that of the Personal Excellence program run by the AIS.

The AOC is also committed to providing practical support to athletes as they transition into the workforce.

We have designed three career programs in the form of either a mentorship, internship or flexible work opportunities for Australian Olympians.

The support of our Olympic Family will be essential in making these programs a success and we hope we can count on you to be a part of our Olympians journey beyond the Games.

The AOC has run several events post Rio, and now the Transition Program has funding and resources allocated to it for this four-year cycle.

I congratulate the Athletes' Commission for the genesis of this program. The AOC Executive offers our full support.

NICHOLAS GREEN OAM

As you will realise, Nick is not standing for re-election. A dual Gold medallist in Rowing (1992 and 1996), Nick has been a member of the AOC Executive since 2005, the Board of the Victorian Olympic Council for 15 years and its President for 11, was Chef de Mission of our 2012 London Olympic Team and these days is Chief Executive Officer for Cycling Australia.

Nick was one of the eight Olympians I selected to carry the Olympic Flag into the stadium in the 2000 Olympics Opening Ceremony – all double gold medallists except for the oldest, the Late Bill Roycroft who won gold, silver and bronze medals.

Twenty-five years' association with the Australian Olympic Movement as an athlete and administrator at the highest level.

Nick, we thank you for your outstanding contribution and know that you will maintain your close attachment to our Movement.

2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast will host the Commonwealth Games from 4-15 April next year with a program of 20 sports of which 16 are Olympic.

Australian Commonwealth Games Association President, Sam Coffa is with us and Sam, on behalf of all present, I wish our Team, you and the Organising Committee, under Chairman, Peter Beattie and CEO, Mark Peters, all the very best for what I know will be another spectacularly successful Commonwealth Games on our shores.

That concludes the President's Address for 2017.

JOHN COATES AC
President