

President's Report – 2020

Sport Sector Recognition:

MPA remains a recognised sport by Sport Australia (formally known as the Australian Sports Commission) and a recognised member of the Australian Olympic Committee and the UIPM. During 2020 we fulfilled all requirements of these organisations and our relationship with all remains very strong.

With the awarding of our Pathways Workforce grant early in 2020 we are now also recognised by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) as an investment partner, having a Sports Investment Agreement between AIS and MPA.

UIPM:

Due to COVID, there was no Congress held during 2020. This has been delayed until the end of 2021, along with the terms of all elected and appointed members being extended for a further year, to keep in line with the election period being at the Congress immediately following the summer Olympic Games.

Due to COVID and the necessity to amend the Tokyo Games qualification criteria and postpone / cancel many international competitions, there was a lot of UIPM Executive Board activity throughout 2020 and, as President of Oceania, I attended 5 online EB meetings throughout the year as well as participating in many email discussions and votes on various matters.

The highlight of the year from UIPM perspective was the confirmation that pentathlon would remain in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with no reduction in numbers (as majority of sports did have), and with a new format. Testing continues to refine exactly what that format will be. When competitions re-started as soon as COVID restrictions allowed in Europe, the UIPM continued its innovating testing and trialling of new competition formats. The disappointing news from the IOC was that again the Mixed Relay was not given Olympic status for Paris.

Funding:

AIS: The appointment of Hannah Every-Hall as our High Performance and Pathways Manager, thanks to the AIS Pathways Grant, has seen incredible progress made since she started with MPA in February 2020. Hannah's experience as an Olympian herself (rowing), as well as her sports science and management experience and qualifications enables her to bring a professional, global perspective to how we should best develop our athletes and coaches. The first year of Hannah's tenure was spent putting frameworks and systems in place and developing great networks at the AIS and state institutes, along with some incredible coach development work.

A lot of Hannah's work and the systems and professionalism we are trying to bring to our sport is new for us in Australia but if all our community have trust and belief, everyone will benefit in the long term. The aim of our approach is not to 'take over' or question all the great work that is already happening, but rather to bring an evidence backed approach to show us all how we can get even better – as athletes and coaches.



Details of the achievements in year one can be found in the High Performance Report.

AOC: In 2020 MPA was successful again to receive continued special assistance funding from the AOC. MPA submitted a project plan and associated budget at the end of 2019 and we were successful in receiving the full amount submitted. This funding must be dedicated to Tokyo 2020 athletes. Unfortunately as there were no competitions in 2020 for our two qualified Olympians to attend the funding was used to support Ed and marina's at home training regime during COVID.

MPA Executive Board:

It was extremely sad to see the passing of long time MPA Treasurer Ernie Fontaine during 2020. Ernie had had health issues for many years but he continued to be a dedicated and extremely hard working member of the MPA and Modern Pentathlon Victoria team until his retirement. The entire Modern Pentathlon family passes their condolences to Ernie's family. He was a true gentlemen in life and sport and he will be missed.

2020 saw the resignation of Melanie Zimmermann as MPA Secretary. Melanie has been an enthusiastic and committed member of the team for 4 years and we thank her for all her work. The MPA EB has appointed Alex Boyd to replace Melanie. Alex comes highly credentialled from both an academic and high performance sports (paddling) background.

I would like thank Vice President John Fernon for his constant support and wise counsel and also for his continued work on setting MPA up as a Company Limited by Guarantee during 2020 (refer to VP report) and also to Andrew Reid for overseeing our media and communications, including working with new MPA Communications Manager Shannon Knaus who commenced part time work with MPA in 2020 under the AIS Pathways workforce grant. MPA Treasurer Hannah Crowther has worked extremely hard throughout 2020 behind the scenes, streamlining and improving our financial processes, especially now with the AIS funding considerably increasing our acquittal and financial management requirements.

Kitty Chiller

President

Modern Pentathlon Australia



Vice President's Report – 2020

The progress of Modern Pentathlon Australia Inc to registration as a company limited by guarantee continues. Following the unanimous resolution of MPA last year to become a company limited by guarantee application was made to ASIC to give effect to the resolution.

The application currently remains with ASIC and we have the expertise of a Sydney firm of solicitors who have been providing assistance with the application. This application is to modernise the governance of MPA in line with the policies of part of a process of the modernisation of Sport Australia.

MPA will continue to update policies for an Olympic sport in Australia in all areas, including drugs in sport and code of conduct.

Unfortunately with the consequences of the pandemic that has affected just about everything, including sport, and international sport in particular, it has not been possible for our athletes to compete in overseas for the last year. The situation will be kept under review as the situation develops and regulations change. It is hoped that we will be able to return to more normal arrangements in the not too distant future – but for the moment this remains uncertain.

John Fernon

Vice President

Modern Pentathlon Australia



High Performance Report – 2020

As the first year of Modern Pentathlon Australia employing a Pathways and Performance Director ends, we can look very positively on our accomplishments in a year that provided so many challenges and unknowns.

Whilst it was a year like no other, there is a lot that has been achieved that we should celebrate. In many ways, without the competitions and camps happening, it was an ideal opportunity to embed a framework of processes and personnel to sustain our growth and development moving forward.

Some of the major achievements in the High Performance and Pathways space are detailed below:

Workforce:

- In February, MPA employed Hannah Every-Hall in the Pathways and Performance Director's role, funded through a workforce grant from the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).
- MPA successfully secured an additional 'Solutions Grant' for long term projects that will help support our athletes as they embark on the journey of becoming an athlete on the pathway to the podium. These projects included the engagement of Pedro (Bernhard Petruschinski) as consultant Technical lead. Pedro has been imparting his support and knowledge across the country, directly and indirectly, to coaches, athletes, parents, administrators and officials).
- Also through the AIS workforce grant, MPA employed a media and communications consultant, Shannon Knaus, who has kept MPA social media channels updated, refreshed the MPA website and logo, and assisted with marketing.

Policies

- As required by the AIS as part of our investment agreement, MPA was required to develop its own Categorisation framework to fit in with the broader AIS framework. Categorisation guides and drives the whole sport system in Australia in regards to investment and opportunities. As MPA does not currently have any athletes categorised in the upper levels of the AIS framework, we developed our own replica framework 'underneath' the AIS levels, in order to capture all our young athletes currently on the Pathway.
- MPA also revamped the Selection Policy in 2020, simplifying it and aligning it to the Categorisation framework



Events

- MP Queensland hosted a fabulous National Championships in March 2020 with the largest number of competitors we have seen for many years at a National Championships. Congratulations to Rhys Lanskey and Nikita Mawhirt for earning the titles of Australian Open Champion.
- We began Monthly Time Trials as an opportunity to connect with each other across the country. In the absence of 'real' competitions due to COVID, the aim of these time trials was to virtually compete against each other for fun, engagement and inspiration, as well as to provide data back to the HP team around performances and development trajectory. This data is required for us to provide back to the AIS about how our athletes are tracking. The data is essential to show the AIS continued improvement of athletes in order for us to remain as a funded sport so we strongly encouraged everyone to take part.

Opportunities for Athletes and Coaches

- Thanks to the AIS Pathways Workforce grant, MPA engaged the services of well known and respected swim coach Kirsten Norden to provide technical development opportunities through the "Swimnastics" program for our Pathways athletes. This online program is a strength, movement and body awareness program. Swimnastics was an excellent opportunity for our pathways athletes to connect with each other, share experiences, and build body strength. This program will continue to be funded by the AIS grant into 2021.
- Led by Pedro, MPA ran a Level 1 judges course in Swimming, Laser-Run, Biathlon, Triathlon. We had 18 participants, which is a great number.
- MPA ran a series of online coaching workshops on a variety of topics including laser running, general knowledge and the collaborative coaching support structure. With expert guests from the AIS and other sorts presenting, these workshops were an ideal vehicle for coaches to enhance their learning
- Considering we were unable to go away physically for the planned December camp, at late notice MPA staged a virtual camp for our pathways coaches, athletes and parents in Melbourne. Participants learned about goal setting, communication, working with teams, building physical capacity, and building a positive training environment. – through visiting guest presenters including Pedro and experts from the AIS
- MPA developed the concept of setting up Modern Pentathlon Training Hubs and we continue to establish a support framework around this around the country. The aim of these hubs is to have someone in various geographic areas who can act as a point of contact for current and potential athletes in the area.
- MPA has as a priority to upskill individual discipline coaches into the nuances of training for Modern Pentathlon so they have a better understanding about how to structure a program for any MP athletes training with them (eg especially swimming and running coaches). We continue to run a formal process of identifying and educating these individual discipline coaches.



Equipment

- Through an additional AIS Impact Solutions grant, MPA was able to engage an expert to build purpose built mobile shooting stands that will be used at national events, and will also be available to be sent / loaned to state / club programs around the country. Purchasing equipment and several mobile shooting stands that can be utilised throughout the country.
- Through an additional Impact Solutions grant from the AIS, MPA was able to purchase 20 EcoAims pp520 pistols and targets that will be used in national events and also able to be loaned out to new athletes.

Communications

- We commenced monthly MPA Newsletters to create greater engagement and connection, keeping our entire community up to date with the Modern Pentathlon community's activities.

Research

- MPA identified the need to gather more intelligence data about "What it Takes to Win" in Modern Pentathlon to assist how we should best prioritise development of pathways athletes. MPA instigated and supported a comprehensive and robust data research project in conjunction with Queensland Academy of Sport, Queensland University of Technology, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers and Griffith University. Results of this incredible project were presented to MPA (and the AIS) late in 2020 and will be used moving forward to enable better talent identification and fantastic information for coaches on where to prioritise skill development across all sports. The project focused on which sports provided the most 'return on investment' in respect of training load compared to effect on overall result.

Olympic preparations

- Despite the challenges COVID threw at us all, our two qualified Modern Pentathletes (Edward Fernon and Marina Carrier), under the supervision of their coach (Dean Gleeson), have continued to train consistently and to a high standard throughout 2020. It has been a long time coming, but we wish our athletes heading into the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games all the very best for a strong performance. 5-7 August 2021.

Hannah Every-Hall

Pathways and High Performance Director
Modern Pentathlon Australia



Media and Communications Report – 2020

With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic starting to become apparent soon after the 2020 National Championships it became a very different 12 months for all athletes across the sport. On March 24 2020 the IOC with the Tokyo organisers announced that the Olympic Games would be postponed for 12 months to July 23 2021. The international competition season stopped and really did not properly resume throughout this time. Even the few events that could take place where not possible for Australian athletes due to the impact on international travel.

During this time, it was fantastic to see the pentathlon community supporting each other and the focus moving to domestic training and online time trials and events. The silver lining for our selected Olympic athletes in Ed Fernon and Marina Carrier was that at least the Olympics hadn't been cancelled altogether. And Marina now had plenty of time to recover properly from an injury that was impacting her Tokyo preparations for the original dates.

The COVID-19 disruptions did mean that there was no international competitions and therefore a lot less activity to be covering on the social channels and website, however we promoted resources for a safe reboot to sport. And you'll see from the following summary it was still a positive 12 months to consolidate earlier work in the Media and Communications area.

In May, Shannon Knaus came on board to spend some time each week to drive the social channels and website content. This was very important for MPA as Andrew Reid's work commitments during COVID made it difficult for him to devote too much time to MPA duties. Shannon and Andrew worked together to keep things progressing during this strange period for everyone. And we look forward to a big 12 months ahead. Here are the brief updates by area:

Olympic related content

With the Tokyo Games postponed we continued to promote our selected athletes for Tokyo and Australia's great Olympic history with the following content activities:

- Q&A with Ed and Marina in May/June, and organised other news interviews as they refocussed on 2021.
- Olympic Day in June with quotes from several Australian Olympians
- One Year To Go to Tokyo in July
- With the AOC digital team we amplified Wellbeing Week and produced our own content to support the #MySydney2000 20th Anniversary celebrations in September.
- During the year we also supported the Brisbane 2032 bid and the Modern Pentathlon Olympic merchandise.



Community content

- We remembered the wonderful gentleman Ernie Fontaine who sadly left us and gave so much time to the sport and the MPA Board.
- We focussed on profiling volunteers who keep our wonderful sport going.
- We shared a lot of content of our great junior athletes and squads training across Australia. Thanks to all the great content creators, and of course the coaches and parents making the sport fun and enjoyable for the future of our sport
- And speaking of future we were very excited by the safe arrival Chloe Esposito and Matt Cooper's first child Ted.

Social Media

Facebook

Facebook continued to grow steadily over the past 12 months the MPA Facebook page has grown from 862 to 1032. Increased engagement coincided with the above content.

Instagram

MPA added Instagram to its channel mix in April 2020, as this is where a lot of the youth now spend their time. We have posted around 80 times and have got 286 followers. We expect this to continue to grow over the next 12 months.

Twitter

Twitter is where the media, AOC, AIS, Sport Australia, other federations, and some athletes share their news and content so we put our toe in the water here to coincide with Olympic Day. It is harder to grow followers on Twitter but we'll get there and expect a big jump from our current 25 followers in the next 12 months.

Website

Across August and September we carried out a review of the MPA website content, hierarchy and branding. Special thanks to Hannah Every-Hall for working with Shannon and Pat Birgan from Staart Digital for implementing these improvements. A Performance Pathways section was added, social media feeds introduced, a new header and footer, and general content review and page layout improvements.

As we do with all our digital channels we welcome any feedback and contributions of content.



Looking ahead

We look forward to continuing to do what we can in the limited time we have to continue to promote the athletes, coaches and officials who make our sport so great and look to utilise our digital channels to build a supportive and positive pentathlon community. Special thanks to Shannon Knaus for all her time and great input.

Andrew Reid
Board Member
Modern Pentathlon Australia

Secretary's Report – 2020

Throughout 2020, the MPA Executive Board met online several times throughout the year. MPA met all requirements to maintain Sport Australia Recognition, as well as being an active member of the AOC and UIPM throughout 2020. A key achievement was the work completed by the Board on the development of the MPA 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, which will be finalized and released to members shortly.

The MPA Board would also like to thank Melanie Zimmermann for her contributions and support of Modern Pentathlon within Australia over the past few years. Melanie resigned as Secretary to the Board early in 2021 and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Alex Boyd
Secretary (February 2021 – Present)
Modern Pentathlon Australia



Treasurer's Report – 2020

With the successful application, by the President MPA, of the Performance Pathways grant from the AIS, MPA has had the pleasure of introducing our Performance Director – Hannah Every-Hall. Having a dedicated resource has allowed MPA to pursue diverse revenue streams and opened further opportunities for financial support. These, in turn, have led to a more stringent governance surrounding our finances including registering with the ATO and completing quarterly Business Activity Statement reports to provide accurate compliance.

Income

These have included several successful grants from AIS/Aus Sport:

- Performance Pathways
- Performance Pathways Solutions
- AOC 2020 Athlete Support Grant
- Australian High Performance Fund



MODERN PENTATHLON AUSTRALIA INC

ABN – 37 679 275 315
VICTORIAN INCORPORATIONS – A0037777R

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1st JANUARY 2020 TO 31st DECEMBER 2020

Opening Balance 1st January 2020 **\$ 12,312.50**

INCOME

AOC 2020 Athlete Support Grant	\$23,905
Oceania MPA Development	\$1,500
AOC	\$3,000
Australian Sports Commission ex GST	\$25,000
Australian Sports Commission inc GST	\$495,907.50
Australian High Performance Fund	\$2,750
Oceania and State Contributions (2019-20)	\$2,500
Bank Interest	\$15.82
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Subtotal	\$554,578.32
Total Income (inc starting balance)	\$566,890.82

EXPENDITURE

Some examples of the categories are shown, this list is not exhaustive of each category.

Subscriptions and Technology	\$6,920.19
UIPM membership	
Website and Marketing Campaigns	
Insurance	
MailChimp and Training Peaks	
Consultants	\$102,773.37
High Performance Director	
Core consultants	
Pedro MP consultant	
Media and Comms	
Equipment and Postage	\$31,414.61
Pistols, Targets, Stands	
Postage	
Miscellaneous	\$67,404.53
Majority of cost:	
\$45,186 in GST BAS payment	
\$10.5k in AOC Funding for Olympic athletes	
\$1540.28 Tokyo tickets	
\$4515.47 Reimbursement for Peter Ridgeway (China 2019)	
Consumer Affairs Fee	
Total Expenditure	\$208,512.70
Funds in International Transfer Wise Account	\$1134.35

Unpresented cheques - nil

Closing Balance 31st December 2020 **\$358,378.12**



I certify that the financial statement as presented is a true and accurate record of Modern Pentathlon Australia's financial position, with regards to its income and expenditure for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020, as reconciled with online banking for Commonwealth Bank account number 10477910 and Transfer Wise for international transfers, and that MPA Inc does not hold any other bank or financial accounts. The statement has been verified by a third party for assurance purposes.

Hannah Crowther – Treasurer – MPA Inc – 3rd Feb 2021

