

**Explanatory Paper SECTION 1**  
**Proposed Changes to the Constitution & Logo of Manly Warringah Athletics Centre**  
**July 2021**

**Proposal**

**Manly Warringah Athletics**  
*One Club – More Opportunity*

Give our U12 -U17 athletes the opportunity to represent one club, Manly Warringah, in additional competitions, traditionally known as ‘Seniors’ if they choose to. Plus, improve our chances of keeping teenagers in the sport by staying connected with us when they are older.

To do so requires the Centre the option to affiliate with both LANSW and ANSW, plus enable it to add an Open group to the Centre for athletes 18+.

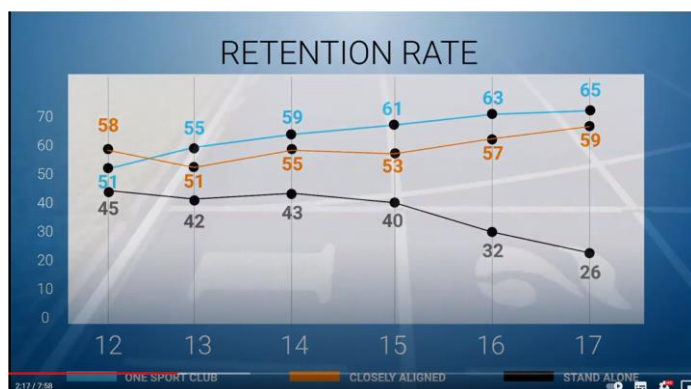
**Why does the Centre wish to affiliate with Athletics NSW (ANSW) as well as Little Athletics NSW (LANSW)?**

For the past 5 years, all U12-U17 athletes have had the option of dual registration with LANSW and ANSW. To enter ‘Seniors’ competition held around Sydney, however, they needed to register with Sydney Pacific, UTS Norths, Sydney Striders etc.

With Manly Warringah having dual affiliation with both LANSW and ANSW, the Centre will be better able to assist our older athletes who wish to experience a broader range of competition, including ANSW approved Meets and winter events such as Cross Country.

**What is the Benefit of One Club?**

Research conducted a few years ago in Australia, illustrates the benefit of retaining athletes in the sport, particularly from U13 – U17, if they belong to a one club. (refer to the blue line below)



Source: LANSW - *OneSport Strategic Plan Informational Video*

**Does this mean the spirit and ethos of Little Athletics will be lost if an Open age group is added?**

No. Grassroots participation and the ethos of “Be Your Best” is in the DNA of MWLA and will continue. So will Saturday morning competition for children and the encouragement of the fun of sport and the many benefits of exercise.

Athletes who are age 18+ will compete in different competitions at different times and on different days or nights.

## **Why Now?**

Little Athletics Australia (LAA) and Athletics Australia (AA) have been working together to align athletics towards a common framework. In October 2019 a formal announcement was made proposing the merger of LAA and AA under an initiative called [OneAthletics](#). On 1 July 2021 a major publicity drive commenced with more information in the above link.

One of the key aims is to provide a clear pathway for growing children and teens to seamlessly continue their interest in athletics as they grow beyond the age of 16.

We should do the same and in doing so, support the goal of Australian Athletics. There is no better time to start than in a year of the Olympic Games!

## **Have any Centres in the area undertaken similar changes?**

Quite a number of Centres have already moved to incorporate the OneAthletics philosophy.

Please see the Appendix for extracts from Hornsby District Little Athletics, Cherrybrook Athletics, Ryde Athletics and Hills District Little Athletics, along with the likes of Winston Hills Athletics Centre.

## **Why does the Constitution of the Centre need to change?**

The Constitution specifies the operating parameters for the Centre, and currently only allows for affiliation with LANSW. To enable the Centre to be dual affiliated with LANSW and ANSW the constitution needs to be amended to reference both LANSW and ANSW, as well as the respective national bodies of Little Athletics Australia (LAA) and (AA).

## **Are there any other changes to the Constitution?**

There are no other substantive changes, only some minor typographical and formatting updates. *You can review the proposed changes on the MWLA website.*

## **Is the Centre changing its name?**

Initially, the legal name will remain as Manly Warringah Athletics Centre Incorporated. The trading name and competition name, however, will change from Manly Warringah Little Athletics to the more contemporary Manly Warringah Athletics (MWA). It is planned that the legal name of Manly Warringah Athletics Centre Incorporated will change to Manly Warringah Athletics Inc in the coming years.

## **Who is Manly Warringah Athletics?**

It is the proposed new name for the Centre and if all resolutions are passed, it will be the combined force and experience of Manly Warringah Little Athletics (MWLA) and Sydney Pacific Athletic Club (SPAC). Please refer to the other Explanatory Paper.

## **Why not consider a new name such as Northern Beaches Athletics?**

Since Manly Warringah has a strong presence in Little Athletics and that the origin of Sydney Pacific was Manly Warringah, it was considered only natural to continue the legacy of the name in the sport in NSW.

### What is the proposed logo?

It is a more contemporary design of the current MWLA logo, but with some special touches.



The circle depicts the bright sun and sunset over the northern beaches and upper north shore, with a sea eagle soaring over the track. The sea eagle acknowledges its presence on the original logo when the MWLA Centre was established 50 years ago.

The blue reflects the heritage of Sydney Pacific as well as water, to represent the meaning of Warringah which some believe is Aboriginal for 'sign of rain', 'across the waves' or 'sea'.

## Explanatory Paper SECTION 2

### Proposed Joining/Merger of Sydney Pacific Athletic Club (SPAC) with Manly Warringah Little Athletics (MWLA)

July 2021

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#### Proposal

### Manly Warringah Athletics

*A Sport for Life - A Club for Life*

Athletics can and should be a sport for life ... no matter your age, ability, or gender, all you need is a love of running, jumping, throwing, rolling, or walking.

Rather than lose teenagers from the sport altogether and to build a stronger community of athletes from recreational to elite across all ages, we wish to have an athletics club that members can choose to be part of for life.

To do this requires the maximum age group of the Centre to extend beyond the age of 16.

#### Proposal

For Sydney Pacific to join Manly Warringah, both with a rich history in the sport to form a 'OneAthletics Club' called >>

### Manly Warringah Athletics



MWLA is one of the foundation centres of Little Athletics NSW celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and is one the largest little athletics centres in Australia. The origin of SPAC dates back more than 120 years and in 1968 was even called Manly Warringah Amateur Athletic Association. Between the years of 1988 - 2012, at least one member of SPAC has represented Australia at the Olympic Games.

#### Why Now

To align with the [OneAthletics](#) initiative announced by Athletics Australia and Little Athletics Australia in October 2019. "To transform athletics into the biggest participation sport in the country. Australian Athletics will provide a clear and logical pathway for athletes, coaches and officials throughout their life in the sport."

Given our history and prominence we feel we should be at the forefront of progress of the sport in Australia.

If not, the sport which faces increased competition from many others in Australia may go into decline, when it has the opportunity to prosper, either in its own right, or as the foundation to a lifelong love of sporting activity.

### **Who Will Have the Control and Influence?**

MWLA will. This is to be expected when 85% of athletes are from MWLA and more than 85% of total financial assets reside with MWLA.

The Constitution of MWLA will control the merged entities and the Committee, most of whom have a past or current connection with MWLA will continue to influence the future of Manly Warringah Athletics.

### **Does the Centre Need to Merge with Sydney Pacific?**

The Centre can become dual affiliated with LANSW and ANSW without merging with Sydney Pacific. We can simply add another age bracket of over 18's and try and build the capability to support older athletes from scratch.

Rather than do that, we believe it makes much more sense and will be faster to draw on the vast experience and expertise of the Coaches, Officials and athletes of Sydney Pacific, many of whom are ex-Manly Warringah Little athletes and coach/train at Narrabeen every week.

In fact, currently, 34% of Sydney Pacific athletes are MWLA athletes and a further 9% are ex-MWLA athletes.

The merger will progress the Memorandum of Understanding announced in October 2020 (refer to Appendix 1).

## Potential Benefits

- ✓ Retain athletes from the Junior division (under age 12) to the Senior division (all the way to age 80) representing the one club, Manly Warringah Athletics. Rather than lose them from the sport or to other clubs such as UTS Norths, Sydney Striders, etc.
- ✓ Cost saving on having one representative Manly Warringah uniform for athletes older than age 12 who compete at both LANSW and ANSW events.
- ✓ A larger club representing children and adult members should give us a louder voice in negotiations on athletic facilities and more scope with grants. The rapid deterioration of the Narrabeen track and frequent flooding is a major concern, which if not addressed will lead to ongoing disruption to our weekly competition and training, plus increase safety concerns for athletes.
- ✓ Corporate sponsors are attracted to a larger and broader membership base, particularly if there is a MWA presence at Narrabeen more than Saturday mornings.
- ✓ Extend the athletic experience for the whole year by supporting coaching and participation in the winter season for events such as Cross Country.

## Potential Risks

- × OneAthletics stalls and/or LANSW and ANSW don't merge.  
Even if neither occurs, dual affiliation by MWA will enable U12 – U17 athletes to participate in LANSW and ANSW competitions as they wish.  
  
MWLA pays LANSW a levy of \$35,000 - \$50,000 pa based on total athlete registrations, whereas, ANSW charges a flat affiliation fee of \$1,100 pa, plus a fee to each athlete when entering a competition (a user pays model). Therefore, MWLA won't be any worse off.
- × The Committee is distracted from maximising the Little Athletics experience.  
In 2020-21 MWLA had 583 registrations. SPAC had far fewer with only 157 members, of which, 54 were MWLA athletes. It is clear that with only 15% of the combined total, the older athletes won't be an undue distraction or demand on the time of the Committee, particularly with the addition of several specific roles to cater for athletes in the Senior division.

## Top 4 Concerns

### 1. Will regular weekly MWLA competition change?

No. There will be no change to the weekly Saturday morning MWLA Centre competition.

### 2. Will adult athletes compete at the same time as little athletes?

No. For safety reasons and logistics, they won't compete at the same time.

We will explore, if and how best to utilise some of the equipment already in use in the morning for Senior division athletes to utilise for competition potentially in the afternoon, or on other days.

### 3. Will registration fees rise and/or resources be directed to the Senior division?

The merger will not impact the cost of athlete registration.

Surplus funds will continue to be directed at grassroots participation and the development of younger athletes to achieve growth and sustainability for the sport.

### 4. Is this a means for Sydney Pacific to takeover MWLA and access their accumulated funds?

Far from it. All of the Committee originate from MWLA and many have been with the Centre for many years as responsible custodians of its finances. This fiduciary responsibility will not change, nor will the direction of surplus funds as outlined in Pt.3 above.

After the merger with SPAC the intent is to have one Committee with the majority representatives from the current MWLA. Ideally some positions will be added to support the specific needs of athletes in the Junior division and Senior division such as Registrars and Championships.

In addition, if ultimately agreed by the members of SPAC, the company would be wound up and their accumulated funds would be transferred to the current legal entity of MWLA. Not the other way around.

## **Additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

### **Q: Have any Centres in the area undertaken similar changes?**

A: You may be surprised to find that over the past few years quite a number of Centres have already moved to incorporate the OneAthletics philosophy. Please see Appendix 2 for extracts from Hornsby District Little Athletics, Cherrybrook Athletics, Ryde Athletics and Hills District Little Athletics, along with the likes of Winston Hills Athletics Centre.

### **Q: What are the financial implications for MWLA and SPAC?**

A: Both entities are financially secure and have been for many years. SPAC was incorporated in 1994 and is regulated by Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC). It has low operating costs and has sufficient surplus funds to support itself independently for many years.

As MWLA and SPAC are different legal structures, for the time being, both will remain financially independent with shared costs where appropriate.

### **Q: Will the Centre become more focussed on Senior division athletes at the expense of Little Athletes, particularly U6 - U11's (Junior division)?**

A: No. The Centre understands that the sport of athletics is vitally important for the development of young children. The changes in the proposed Constitution and the merger with Sydney Pacific will enable the Centre to nurture current and past athletes as they progress to senior athletics and encourage greater participation in the sport by athletes of all abilities.

### **Q: Will there be separate competitions for Senior division athletes?**

A: Senior athletes currently compete in a range of other competitions held across Sydney as part of the ANSW calendar. We are discussing options with the Sydney Academy of Sport and Athletics NSW on how best to host select competitions at Narrabeen on Friday nights or Saturday afternoons for athletes in the Senior division.

### **Q: Will the logo and uniform change?**

A: Yes, the new logo will change if the special resolution is passed at the AGM, having already been agreed at a recent MWLA Committee meeting.

A: The desire is to have a fresh look which reflects a single contemporary uniform for all ages of athletes who represent MWA. The plan is for a change to the ANSW or 'Seniors' competition uniform in the upcoming season to a new uniform and logo, it is likely that it may be a couple of seasons before the transition is made by MWLA as current stock levels of MWLA representative uniforms will need to be considered. There will be no change to the current uniforms of the 5 MWLA clubs

### **Q: Does this mean that my child (U12-U17) can compete in ANSW events in their same uniform?**

A: Yes. By having dual affiliation, all U12-U17 athletes registered with Manly Warringah Athletics can compete at Narrabeen in the morning, then compete in their same uniform at ANSW events in the afternoon, or any other day.

### **Q: Will my child be affected by this change in any other way?**

A: Not unless your child is U12-U17 and wishes to participate in ANSW or 'Seniors' events. Currently U12-U17 athletes are required to join a ANSW club and compete in such events in that club's uniform, such as Sydney Pacific, UTS Norths or Sydney Striders. With dual affiliation and the experience of people in Sydney Pacific, however, the Centre is much better placed to provide the necessary support to all athletes.



If your child is in U6 - U11's, or an older athlete who does not wish to participate in ANSW or 'Seniors' competitions, there will be no change for your child.

**Q: Will there be a new website?**

A: Like most sports clubs that span both junior and senior age groups, the desire is to have a fresh look which reflects a unified club. While there may be communication and messages specific to Junior and Senior divisions, the aim is to have one MWA website, Facebook and Instagram site which will enable a co-ordinated approach to overall communication and promote a stronger image. We will gradually migrate to a combined social media platform over the coming seasons.

**Q: Will there be a separate committee to oversee the Senior division athletes?**

A: With the merger of MWLA and Sydney Pacific the intent is to have one committee, although there will be some positions dedicated to the specific needs of athletes in the Junior division and Senior division. In the short term it will require a transition from two committees currently representing MWLA and Sydney Pacific.

## Appendix 1

### Respective Announcements of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2020

#### ***MWLA Website 27 Oct 2020***

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#### **Manly Warringah Little Athletics and Sydney Pacific enter into a Memorandum of Understanding**

Manly Warringah Little Athletics has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sydney Pacific Athletic Club.

The move has been backed by the Manly Warringah Little Athletics committee and received overwhelming support from the members of Sydney Pacific Athletic Club.

The move is in line with the OneAthletics initiative announced nationally last year, which aims to provide a single pathway for participation in athletics for everyone aged from five to 80-plus.

The two clubs will collaborate in the development of athletes, officials and coaches, in a move that has many potential benefits for athletics across North East Metropolitan Sydney.

The two highly successful clubs will also explore moves towards the next phase of a potential merger.

As the 2020-21 summer competition of ANSW commences, the first step of the MOU will see Sydney Pacific (SYP) registered athletes compete under the name Manly Warringah Athletics (MWA).

More information will be released as we make progress on joint initiatives.

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#### ***SYP Facebook Oct 2020***

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#### **Sydney Pacific and Manly Warringah Little Athletics Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding**

After overwhelming support from the members of Sydney Pacific Athletic Club, the club has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Manly Warringah Little Athletics.

This is great news for the sport in the north east metropolitan area of Sydney, as it moves to the next phase of a potential merger of two substantial clubs with a long and successful history in athletics.

In line with the OneAthletics initiative announced nationally last year, the two clubs will collaborate in the development of athletes, officials and coaches as it looks to broaden community appeal and participation from 5 year old's, all the way to 80 year old's.

As the 2020-21 summer competition of ANSW commences, the first step of the MOU will see Sydney Pacific (SYP) registered athletes compete under the name, Manly Warringah Athletics (MWA).

More information will be released as we make progress on joint initiatives.

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## Appendix 2

### Information on Nearby Clubs

#### Hornsby District Little Athletics

# HORNSBY DISTRICT

## LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE



- HOME
- COVID SAFETY
- ABOUT
- INFORMATION
- COMPETITION
- CHAMPIONSHIPS
- RESULTS
- TRAINING
- CONTACT

### Seniors


Home / Seniors

**NEW for 2020**

For the upcoming 20-21 Summer Season, Hornsby Athletics Club will be affiliated with Athletics NSW as a Senior Club, in addition to being affiliated with Little Athletics NSW. This means Club Membership no longer has an upper age limit, and our U12-U17 athletes can opt to select Hornsby as their Senior club.

Senior Club membership provides additional benefits to participate in events beyond those offered by Little Athletics. No changes are anticipated for our 'Home' Saturday competition, with some invitational events on offer for U18-U20s. A monthly Thursday evening competition is being considered for "Masters" athletes (Over 30s).

For more information see our [Seniors website](#) or contact [vice@hdlac.org.au](mailto:vice@hdlac.org.au).



#### Quick Links

- FAMILY LOG IN
- CENTRE LOG IN

#### Upcoming Meets

[View full calendar >](#)

#### Cherrybrook Athletics



## Cherrybrook Athletics

A club for Athletes of all ages – Little Athletics – Seniors Club – Master Athletes

- HOME
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- INFORMATION
- REGISTRATION
- UNIFORM
- NEWS
- COMPETITION
- RESULTS & RECORDS
- CHAMPIONSHIPS
- AWARDS & PATCHES
- GALLERY
- CONTACT

### Seniors Athletics Competition

The Senior athletics season runs from October to September each year. We cater for ages Under 12 upwards [Age Group Categories up to U20 level, Open athletes (20-34) and Masters (over 30's)].

Seniors can compete as part of the Club's Friday night program during the summer season (September to March) following the same program as our Little Athletes. [Click HERE](#) for our 3 week program.

Seniors also can compete at the winter and summer competition programs prepared by Athletics NSW.

- Please support our Sponsors -



## Ryde Athletics

# Welcome to Ryde Athletics Centre.

Our Centre has been part of the Ryde community for more than 60 years. Our goal is to help our members achieve their personal best and to promote fun, family and fitness.

Ryde Athletics Junior Club provides Saturday morning competition at Dunbar Park from September to the end of March for Little Athletics Ages 3-17 for our junior/Little A division and 11 to Vets for our older athletes. Our Senior Club members range from 11 years up and can compete at Athletics NSW events all over Sydney throughout the athletics season.

[Click here for Weekly Programs](#)

### Calendar and Next Events

Click here for the full calendar of our program and events for the season

### Juniors Division

Little Athletics at Ryde is for children from 3 to 16 years young.

Click here for all our information about Little A's at Ryde

### Seniors Division

Athletics is for all ages  
Our Seniors Division provides competition and training for people of all ages  
Click here for more.....

## Hills District



[EVENTS](#) [RESULTS](#) [NEWS](#) [GALLERY](#) [ABOUT](#) [COACHING](#) [CONTACT](#) [Q](#)

## Hills Senior Athletics

The Hills Athletics Club also operates at A.H. Whaling Reserve to provide the opportunity for people to participate in various forms of athletics. One of the primary objectives of that club is to provide a transition from Little Athletics through to the 'junior' ranks of the Senior Club.

The Club has been in existence for some 25 plus years and is recognised as one of the top clubs in the State. Many champions have evolved from our Senior Club and almost all have come through Little A's. Currently, the club has a number of international and nationally ranked athletes but perhaps more importantly, has many younger and older athletes who enjoy keeping fit and having competition at a level, which suits them.

Competing in the NSW Inter-District competition as North West Metro in combination with the Cumberland Ryde Hornsby Club, Hills have been extremely successful and with the continued support of the Little A's Centre will maintain a high standing on the sport.

Coaching is critical for success in athletics. The club is fortunate to have qualified, experienced coaches able to guide athletes in all track, field, cross country and road events.

Training is held at Whaling Reserve at 6:30 pm on Monday and Wednesday nights. Little A's older athletes are welcome to come along, as are any interested parents.

This season we are hoping to have some athletes from the seniors come down on a Saturday morning to compete with our older athletes.

### Upcoming Events

APR 12 Mon 9:00 am Run Jump Throw Athletics Fun Ski...