



OCEANIA MASTERS ATHLETICS 2025 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

As with many other regional championships, the Covid pandemic had a huge impact on the Oceania region. Following elections in Fiji in 2024, OMA President Cameron Burrows and the new OMA Council took on the challenge to organize a stand-alone OMA championship from 6-9 September 2025 for the benefit of our Masters Athletics community in the Oceania region. Brisbane Australia was the host city selected, and the OMA Council and Queensland Masters Athletics provided a high level of organization for the event. Extensive promotion of the OMA championships was undertaken via the new OMA website and through social media contact.

Participating Oceania Countries: Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, New Caledonia. **International guests** came from Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Ireland, India, Sri Lanka and USA.

The high level of participation with 733 entrants across Oceania and international guests at our 5-day Championships is a testimony of the support for masters' athletics events throughout the region. The athletes enjoyed warm sunny weather for their well-conducted competition, with many personal best performances, national and OMA championship records set.



Championship Records: 144 OMA Championship Records were broken/set over the event, as well as 3 World Records:

- Marge Allison (AUS) W80 400m
- Dorn Jenkins (AUS) W70 Weight Throw
- M75 4 x 800 Relay (AUS – Allan Mayfield/Peter Fuller/David Elward/John Lamb)

Highlights of the championships included:

Inclusion of Para-athletes: As a continuation of the push for inclusion on all levels that has been happening in Australia in the past few years, the Oceania Masters Athletics Council elected to incorporate para-athlete classifications into the 2025 Oceania Masters Athletics Championships. This decision was met with a great deal of positivity and eighteen para-athletes from the Oceania region registered for the event. Some of these athletes have attended Paralympics and Para World Track and Field Championships, so it was great honour to the LOC that such high calibre athletes chose to support our event, and we look forward to having more join us in future OMA events.

This inclusion of para-athletes for the OMA championships was very well received, and the championships catered for most events, including seated throws. The para-athletes also enjoyed being included in the mixed relays, which were a highlight at these championships. Being the first time this opportunity was offered to athletes, it was expected that there would be some glitches during the competition, however due to the outstanding efforts of the technical officials, and understanding from the athletes, most issues that cropped up were dealt with in a timely manner. As there are currently no records at master's level for para-athletes, a set of "standards" were created to offer a target for athletes to set an Oceania record, and three athletes set six official Oceania Masters Championship records.



The **Opening Ceremony** which welcomed all athletes and their families, and thanks were extended to the OMA Council, the local organizing committee, the highly qualified local and interstate officials, volunteers and other support personnel who committed to the event organisation. The local Federal Member of Parliament Ms Julie-Ann Campbell officially opened the championships, and WMA was represented by Lynne Schickert WMA Executive

Vice-President. A colourful display by the flag bearers from the Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa was a feature.



The **Athletes Dinner** on Day 3 was well supported by athletes, coming together with friends old and new, meeting to share the current Championship, as well as memories of past events.



Medals – our stunning medals were well received by our athletes, their attractive design reflecting the OMA new logo and the colours of our Oceania island locations.

The **OMA Annual General Meeting**, where future planning was discussed, was well attended on Day 4. New Zealand Masters Athletics has agreed to host the 2027 OMA championship, to be held at the end of January in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the OMA Council invites masters athletes from the region and overseas to join them there.

[Oceania Masters Athletics website](#)

[OMA Championships Photo Gallery](#)