

Athletics Victoria Foundation

The Foundation administers a substantial investment trust for the benefit of athletics in Victoria and is completely independent from Athletics Victoria and all other athletics bodies in the country. Diligent past and current Directors have been able to grow the corpus of the investment pool at a very healthy rate since the fund was established some 30 years ago.

The Foundation operates under a Trust Deed that has a quite straightforward, but tight, set of Rules which are examined by Directors quite regularly as the demand for funds grows. Over the past few months the Board has undertaken a legal review of the Deed and reminded itself about the “restrictions” that it imposes upon us in the consideration making of any grants.

One of the requirements of the Deed is that there must always be at least female on the Board and this is sometimes not easy to achieve. At the present time the current President of Athletics Victoria, Heather Ridley, is on the Board by virtue of the fact that in that role she is an automatic *ex-officio* Director. We are acutely aware that when Heather is no longer the AV President, whenever that may be, we will not have the required female Director. This is something that we would like to resolve sooner rather than later.

In the broader commercial world there have been calls for many years now to increase the number of female company directors and more recently governments are specifying a minimum percentage of females on sporting and community body Boards. This applies principally to bodies who apply for government grants etc. Whilst we do not currently make application for any government funding we may do in certain circumstances in the future, but more importantly we would welcome at least one more lady onto our Board. In broad terms we suggest that the following are some reasonable guidelines for potential applicants to consider.

- They do not need to have been an athlete in the past but simply have an interest in the sport generally.
- The Foundation’s role is simply managing a substantial pool of investments so it follows that applicants will either have some financial, investment or management experience or interest.
- The Board usually meets three times a year for about an hour, or thereabouts and usually at the AV offices at Albert Park.

I have asked Athletics Victoria, via CEO Glenn Turnor, to distribute this document to all Clubs and post on AV’s social media sites. A list of the present Directors is on the following page.

I am very happy for interested ladies to call me, before 31st July, to chat about the role on 0419 20 10 50.

Yours sincerely

Peter Dunn

Peter Dunn
Chairman
Athletics Victoria Foundation

List of Present Directors of the Athletics Victoria Foundation

Chairman: Peter Dunn is affiliated with Athletics Essendon where he is a Life Member, a past AV Treasurer and an AV Merit Award holder. An official for almost 30 years including 15+ years as a National Technical Official.

Director: Ian Williams is the immediate Past Chairman of the AVF and is also affiliated with Athletics Essendon where he is a Life Member and is also an AV Merit Award holder. A former athlete, Club office holder and official.

Director: Peter Burke is a retired solicitor and is associated with Western Athletics where he remains an active coach.

Director: Heather Ridley is current President of AV and is a member and recent competitor of Melbourne University Club.

Company Secretary: Sharon Russell has worked in a variety of roles at AV for several years and is a former Olympian and Commonwealth Games representative. Sharon is the Board Secretary and accounts keeper.