

1971 – Hamersley Little Athletics Centre - The Beginning

Little Athletics started in Western Australia when the Perry Lakes Centre was opened in 1968. By the 1970/71 season there were Centres of which Perry Lakes was by far the strongest. It was decided to open new Centres in the North Coastal and the Eastern Suburbs for 1971/72, these becoming Hamersley and Gosnells respectively.

A public meeting was held in late September 1971, to see whether there was support for a Centre in the northern coastal suburbs. Interest was strong and an Interim Committee was elected. A General Meeting was called for the 15 October 1971, when the Centre Executive and Key Officials were elected. The Chairman was John Minekus and the Secretary Jean Goold. A strong feature of this management team was the strong input from the Karrinyup Club, which had formed previously and had been competing at Perry Lakes. This enabled the first Executive to draw on the experience and assistance of an existing club and provided a very strong base for the Centre during its formative years. Six clubs were formed; North Beach, Marmion and Sorrento were completely new. Karrinyup and Karrinyup Gold were two sections of the same club, but limited in membership to achieve a more even competition within the Centre. Stirling was basically formed to accept the overflow from the two Karrinyup Clubs. Total membership was 357 of which 180 belonged to the Karrinyup/Stirling complex. Club organisation was: Karrinyup and Karrinyup Gold at Pascoe Reserve, Stirling at Newborough School, Sorrento at Robin Reserve, Marmion at Marmion Primary School and North Beach at the Charles Riley Oval.

During October and November 1971 the Centre was formed, the Clubs set up, and the equipment, programme and other details organised so that the first meeting was held on 13 November 1971, four weeks from the first Centre Meeting. An enormous amount of work was performed by the first Centre and Club officials. Much of the ongoing action and technical preparation was carried out by Vern Herd of Karrinyup and his band of willing helpers.

The Centre commenced operation with a \$33 Jaycee voucher and a loan of \$100 from the Karrinyup Club. A Social Committee was set up to organise fund raising activities throughout the year. This success was shown by an operating profit of \$853 by the end of the season, with a considerable amount of the required equipment purchased and paid for. A series of bottle drives, raffles, drink stalls etc., were organised, and the Committee undertook to provide the refreshments for the State Championships, with a profit of \$230. As well as funds for Centre activities, each club had to raise its own funds for club equipment and functions. In all a very active year. Centre registration fees were \$2.50 per athlete.

Equipment was borrowed from the Western Australian Little Athletics Association and from the clubs to meet the deadline of the first meeting. During the season the Centre bought or made the bulk of its equipment including a Judges and Timekeepers stand. The only outstanding major item being a set of hurdles. Storage was a major problem as there was nothing available on Charles Riley Oval. All items, including the hurdles, jump buns and the timekeepers' stand were stored in peoples' homes or the old Rugby Club rooms on West Coast Drive and manhandled to the track each Saturday.

The track was a 300 metre one at the North end of the Charles Riley Oval. Hurdles were run on the main straight. The lanes were marked in lime wash and required renewing every second or third week, often being touched up whilst the meetings were in progress. The throwing rings were aluminium circles laid on grass. The jumps were foam rubber mats laid on grass run-ups. The high jump buns were foam off cuts in hessian bags and soon became very lumpy and very difficult to handle. Contacts were made with a view to opening clubs at Glendale, Takari and Duncraig, but were

deferred to the following year. A poor response from the Gwelup school saw this club shelved. Tentative enquiries regarding a club at Balga were cancelled when the W.A.L.A.A. indicated that it would open another Centre in this area. The boundary was to be Wanneroo Road. There were also considerable discussions about possible affiliation with the North Beach Sportsmen's Club which was then being set-up.

The programme consisted basically the same events that are now run, except there was not a 1500 metre run for girls. Some of the early programmes gave only three events per athlete per meeting, however, refinements were made throughout the season. An interclub competition was set up, however there were a number of inter centre meetings, home and away with Rockingham and Gosnells. A Centre team was sent to the inter centre meeting at Capel and a great deal was learned regarding the organization necessary for the competitive meets. The State Relay Championships were held at Rockingham with the teams based on Clubs not Centres. The State Track and Field Championships were held at Forster Park, Belmont, with four athletes per Centre per events. Hamersley competed under its Centre Banner for the first time, however athletes were still in club uniforms. The first successes included 6 gold, 10 silver and 17 bronze medals (22 of these to Karrinyup athletes). The first Centre Championships were held in conjunction with the normal programme and spread over a number of weeks. This Championship was apparently an innovation as other Centres and the Board of the W.A.L.A.A. expressed keen interest.

Long distance events were not able to be run on a Saturday and a number of cold, blustery twilight meetings were held. Records were hard to beat due to gale force sea breezes. One meeting was cancelled during the summer due to extreme heat and the lack of shade on the oval. The experience of the first season led to recommendations for proper marshalling areas, alterations to the programme to avoid some of the clashes between track and field events and to increase the number of events available each morning. There were also many schemes to start the programme on time and to get enough officials. The interclub competition used the pentathlon points scoring system and in the pre-computer days, the points were calculated manually. The end of year recommendations here were for only the best three in each club to count and for the Centre to buy an "adding machine". The only external training seminar was one on race walking by Rick Morsley of the W.A. Walkers' Club.

The winter cross country and road walk programme was undertaken by a small but keen group from the Centre, with meetings held throughout the metropolitan and some country Centres. The State Cross Country Championships at Reabold Hill saw two bronze medals and the State Road Walking Championships at City Beach gave two gold and two bronze medals to complete the first year for the Hamersley Centre.

1972/73

The second year of the Centre saw growth and consolidation, John Minekus remained Chairman, ably assisted by Des Mardle, with Bob Fergie as Secretary. Registrations were 537 athletes, 115 with Karrinyup, however Sorrento became the largest club with 130, and split into two sections, Sorrento and Sorrento Red. New clubs were opened at Takari and Whitford. Negotiations commenced to open Glendale the following season.

At the end of the season the Centre had a cash balance of \$316. Equipment was valued at \$1800. Major items purchased during the year included a public address system, forty hurdles and a large red truck (Chevrolet 1949). Funds were raised from registration fees, drink stalls and raffles etc. The programme of events was restructured to avoid the clashes between track and field events, and the long intervals seen with the earlier one. The new programme ran effectively even with the extra athletes, however delays due to late starts and problems with officials led to a number of late

finishes. Competitive inter centre meetings were held at Charles Riley oval with Gosnells and Rockingham and were very successful. The Centre also competed in the inter centre meeting at Capel. Centre Championships were run in conjunction with the normal programme over a period of six weeks, at two events per week. An additional event, the 1500 metre for U11, U12, U13 girls was introduced late in the season after acceptance by the National Body and included with the Centre Championships.

Twilight meetings were held for the 1500 metre and to enable relay events to run. The track was still 300 metres as approval could not be obtained to extend this to 400 metres as it was considered that it would clash with other users of the oval. The throwing circles were still grass, however approval was given to lay the concrete circles during the winter.

A club championship was held with pennants given for all age group winners. The overall champion club was Stirling with Karrinyup second and Karrinyup Gold third. Teams were entered in all age groups at the State Relay Championships resulting in one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The State Track and Field Championships saw 100 athletes competing and Hamersley emerging as the fourth strongest Centre with 20 gold, 12 silver and 14 bronze medals. An outstanding improvement from the first year. Four Hamersley athletes were selected for the State Team. A small number of athletes competed in the Winter Season events, with the note that, in this very wet winter, webbed feet were essential. Inter centre cross country meetings were held at Gosnells and at Hamersley. Both were very successful with a contrast between a wet and muddy riverside run and the dry sandy bush at North Beach. The head high lupins at Gosnells were definitely favoured by the younger age groups. Centre Cross Country Championships were held for the first time. The State Cross Country and Road Walking Championships saw Hamersley win four gold medals and one bronze.

New equipment in 1972/73 included a full set of forty hurdles made by Mr Hugh Muir, with a great saving to the Centre. Mr Muir also agreed to garage the red truck and all the gear stored on it. When the oval was set-up, the truck had to be collected from Margaret Street Marmion followed by the thrill(?) of the drive to Charles Riley Oval. Unfortunately the convenience of being able to stow much of the gear together was offset by the temperamental nature of old Chevrolet, with its reluctance to start, particularly in hot weather.

Other equipment included more throwing implements, watches and jump buns and most vital, two awnings for officials. A public address system was purchased to enable all sites to hear marshalling calls etc. The effectiveness of the system can be judged by reports of calls to the U8 long jump being heard more than a mile out to sea, and more seriously, a number of complaints from local North Beach residents.

Problems with obtaining the necessary number of officials and their training were given a high priority and considerable effort was made to resolve them. The recording system was still manual so that there was a need for large numbers of records at the meetings and also mid-week for the calculation of the various point scores, however the major recording plea was for more awnings for shade on a Saturday as the sea breezes made short work of any umbrellas.

An end of season presentation night and social was held at the Charles Riley Hall and was very successful due to the effort of a large number of helpers and was a fitting finale to the second Track and Field Season.

1973/74

The 1973/74 season saw further growth and development of the Centre with Des Mardle as Chairman and Bob Fergie as Secretary. Registrations were 514 with Glendale the largest club (92). Karrinyup and Sorrento reverted to single clubs. The new club Glendale, achieved the distinction of becoming the largest club in its first season. The Marmion club had only 16 enrolments and transferred its athletes to the North Beach Club. Problems with officials plagued the Whitford Club and extraordinary elections were held in mid-season. Generally the Club was healthy with good facilities being set-up on Cook Oval. Stirling was struggling with lack of officials and late in the season a couple of other Clubs had fallen to a handful of athletes. The lack of coaching and parental help led to the recommendation at the Club AGM that the athletes be transferred to Karrinyup the following season, as this had initially been the parent club.

The cash balance at the end of the season was \$659 with equipment worth \$1,813. Major purchases being more jump buns and watches. Repairs and servicing of the truck cost \$143, an expensive item. Funds were raised from the usual drink stalls and raffles, \$200 profit was made on a train trip to Gingin organised by Laurie Strutt, a most successful day.

Major changes to the grounds enabled a much more flexible programme to be developed. The concrete throwing circles were installed and approval was given for a 400 metre track to be laid out. This also enabled a 60 metre hurdles track to be marked inside the circular track, enabling both to be used at the same time. Inter centre meetings were still popular with meetings at Gosnells and Rockingham. A three way meeting at Hamersley with Balga and Inglewood saw the use of an experimental multi choice programme. This meeting was also a pre cursor of the City of Stirling meetings. The Centre hired a coach to transport a team to the Capel inter centre meeting, which was a very enjoyable outing.

Athletes also competed at Perry Lakes in two Telethon twilight meetings. The most popular event at these meetings was an 800 metre steeplechase complete with the full size water jump. Centre Championships were held over six weeks, though a recommendation was made for future events to be held over two days. State Relay Championships were held at Bunbury with Hamersley winning one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The State Track and Field Championships saw the use of nominated "minders" for the athletes - similar to age group managers. This was done to ensure that athletes reached their events and that any problems were rapidly sorted out. The athletes performed well with nineteen gold, nine silver and fourteen bronze medals. Three athletes were selected for the State Team and Diana Christiansen was the Athlete of the Year for her excellent performances throughout the year and at the Championships.

The winter season was well supported this year, with the Centre running two cross country events prior to the association runs. Special events were held with the Bill Tucker Trophy run at Thornlie and the South West Open Championships at Boyanup, The Roscoe Walk was also held at Thornlie. The Centre Cross Country was run from the North Beach School. Pennants were awarded to the age group winners in both cross country and road walking for the first time. Eighteen athletes competed at the State Cross Country Championships held at the old golf course in Harvey, winning three gold medals. The Road Walks at City Beach saw two gold, one silver and three bronze medals won by Hamersley athletes.

The Champion Club for the 1973/74 season was Sorrento. A new award this year, the Parent Participation Trophy was won by Karrinyup. This award was conceived as an incentive to parent involvement and was calculated from the number of parents officiating at meetings, weighted for the number off club registrations. It proved to be popular and there was considerable competition between clubs. Stirling was second and Takari third. As in previous years, new equipment included

the general upgrading of the jump buns. Rubber tyres were added to the Judges' stand making its movement much easier. The Chevrolet truck, though convenient for the storage and movement of equipment became a problem in its own right, requiring its own busy bee to keep it roadworthy, though at the end of the season the Balga Technical College offered to repair it free of labour charges, as a training exercise. Also the North Beach Rugby Club generously offered space for the winter storage of equipment.

Though the Parent Participation Trophy helped the problem of lack of officials on competition days, both clubs and Centre met problems filling their Executive positions. Centre social functions were limited, however the end of year presentations and the Wind-up Dance were again very successful. Recording was still manual, however a number of plans were started for changes in the following season. The Centre had now started to print much of its own paperwork, after using Association forms for the previous years. Other developments during the year included the rostering of clubs to lay up the oval, rather than use individuals, the responsibility became a club one. Centre colours, track suit badges were awarded to all Centre team selections, with almost a quarter of the athletes achieving this award in its first year of operation. The experimental use of walkie talkies during meetings was very successful, however the reliability and upkeep of the models used, plus the cost, precluded immediate full-time use.

Centre involvement in training was restricted to relay teams for the State Relay Championships and to a coaching clinic given by Franz Stampfl. An Association coaching clinic was held on the Charles Riley oval.

1974/75

Another season of growth and development, however with administrative problems due to the turnover of experienced Executive members and lack of training for the new members. This period was one of experimentation and a number of new procedures in recording and programming were being tried and evaluated. The Chairman was Des Mardle and the Secretary Bob Fergie Registrations were 563, the largest so far, with large numbers in the younger age groups. A new club Balcatta, transferred from another Centre but at the end of this season decided to amalgamate with Takari. Sorrento was the largest club with 112 registrations.

The cash balance at the end of the season was \$851 with equipment valued at \$1,814. Major purchases were watches and a typewriter Funds were again raised by the drink stalls and raffles. A special Cabaret evening early in the season was used to raise funds to provide a Christmas party for the athletes. Both events were extremely successful.

The building of a storage room onto the toilet block on the west side of the oval gave the Centre on-site storage facilities for the first time. This became available at the end of the Track & Field season. It also gave the opportunity to amalgamate all the equipment and also to dispose of the old red Chevrolet truck, sold for scrap for \$25.

Inter centre meetings were held with Perry Lakes and Gosnells. A coach was again hired to transport a team to the inter centre competition at Capel. Again a hot but very popular meeting. The State Relay Championship saw one gold, two silver and two bronze medals won by Hamersley. This year saw the introduction of the Divisional competition as semi-finals for the State Track and Field Championships. Two hundred and thirteen athletes were entered and eighty eight progressed to the finals. This year Hamersley's results were well below the previous year with ten gold, seven silver and ten bronze medals. It was generally agreed that competition was becoming very strong. There were now more Centres and it was virtually necessary to break the existing State record to win a championship event. Indeed, in some events the first three athletes all bettered the old record. The

only Hamersley athlete selected for the State Team was Paul Mardle. Paul was the first 'Little Athlete' in Western Australia to throw the discus 50 metres and later was to represent Scotland and England in separate Commonwealth Games.

Forty one athletes competed in the winter season events and performed well in all the events, including the Roscoe Walks and the Bill Tucker Trophy cross country events. A strong team went to Albany for the King of the Mountain and the local cross country event, and saw a strong team spirit developing with the winter season competition drawn from a number of the Hamersley clubs. Centre Cross Country Championships were held at Duncraig and the road walks at Balcatta. The State Cross Country Championships in September saw one gold, three silver and one bronze medal. The road walks at City Beach resulted in two gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Sorrento retained the Champion Club trophy for the second year and Karrinyup retained the Parent Participation trophy. The competition programme for the year came after much discussion regarding "fixed" events and "choice" events, with the resulting 'A' and 'B' programme being implemented. The inclusion of relay events in the programme was welcomed, but ongoing actual short comings did lead to time over runs. The interclub points system did not keep up with the events, and weekly progress scores were not given, the final results were not available until the end of the season. Much thought was given to improving the manual systems that had failed this year.

The grading of field events was introduced for the first time, so that the larger age groups could be effectively run on two sites whilst large numbers were competing. After Christmas it was possible to run complete age groups on a single site again. Directly after Christmas a two week Decathlon competition was held, with special certificates for all the competitors. This provided an enjoyable change for the reduced numbers during the holiday weeks. Centre Championships were held over a single weekend, with a Saturday and Sunday meeting; Presentations of certificates were made after each event.

1975/76

This was another season of development, but still with growing pains. The Chairman was Bob Fergie, Secretary Ken Scott. Registrations were 458 (105 less than 1974/75). This reduction was partly due to the development of alternative activities for children. Sorrento was the largest club, with 2 more athletes than Karrinyup. The Whitford Club had early problems, particularly as its training oval was not available for six weeks early in the season. The Glendale Club ran into personality problems at the beginning of the year, however assistance from the Centre enabled the club to continue and to re-establish itself, finishing the year in a healthy and vigorous state.

A programme of Clubs development was shelved when the Executive officer resigned and could not be replaced. It was also found to be difficult to appoint the necessary key officials to run the meetings. However, efforts to start meetings on time were successful with teams of selected officials starting the key events on schedule.

The end of year cash balance was \$444 with equipment valued at \$1,997. Major purchases were jump buns, watches and trestle tables. A Cabaret was run to raise funds for the Trophy Presentation Night. Two hundred attended and \$470 was forwarded to Centre funds.

The two cycle programme was refined and running well. The full use of the on ground store room this season enabled the setting up of the oval to be done more efficiently. The continuing redesign of forms assisted in recording, and splitting of Records and Ranking into two separate sections alleviated what had been a continuing problem. An interclub relay competition was introduced and generated considerable interest. The Decathlon weekend was again very popular. A combined meeting was held at Perry Lakes, giving the Hamersley athletes the chance to compete on the Perry

Lakes track. A coach load of athletes again competed in the inter centre meeting at Capel, coming second to Perry Lakes. The high cost of hiring coaches was noted.

The Centre's best so far results at the State Relay Championships saw one gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Five hundred and ninety four entrants competed in the Divisional Championships and saw fifteen gold, ten silver and eight bronze medals won at the State Championship finals. A considerable improvement on the previous year. Four athletes were selected for the State Team and Paul Mardle capped his Little Athletic career by being named 'Athlete of the Year'. The National Championships were held in Perth with Balga and Hamersley hosting the Victorian Team. Many friendships were made, with the event a most rewarding experience. Most athletes probably remembered the outing to Yanchep Park as the highlight, with water and boating leaving many wet, but happy people from both States.

The winter season saw forty two competing in the cross country runs and twenty two in the walks. This strong participation saw Hamersley win the Bill Tucker Cross Country Trophy and come second in the Roscoe Walk Competition. Athletes again competed in the South West Championships and the Albany King of the Mountain weekends. The State Cross Country Championships were again held at Harvey, a popular course and a well presented meeting. Hamersley won four gold and two bronze medals. In contrast the State Road Walk Championships were held at Belmont in pouring rain, with two gold, two silver and one bronze medal. Sorrento was again the Champion Club and Takari won the Parent Participation Trophy.

1976/77

This year Barry Kernaghan became Chairman. The Centre still had problems with the over running of the programmes and lack of officials, however development was steady and these problems were slowly being rectified. Registrations were 485, up on last year's low. Karrinyup was the largest club with 105 athletes. Glendale was now firmly re-established after last season's early problems.

This, the sixth season, was unique in that it awarded Foundation Member plaques to six athletes who had joined in the first year and carried on to under 13, the only athletes to do so were Sarah Fergie, Craig Goldthorpe, Lisa Kelsall, Peter Randall, Debbie Strickland, and Scott Vickery.

The cash balance at the end of the season was \$810 with equipment valued at \$1,881. The main items of purchase were three stop watches, however a considerable amount was spent on equipment maintenance, with watches the major outlay. Up to six watches at a time could be away for repair, highlighting the problems with clockwork watches.

Fund raising was very active, and the Centre had a full social calendar this year. A Quiz Night raised \$278 and a Cabaret \$449 to pay for the end of season Presentation Evening. There were also two social meetings between Centre and Club officials as a "getting to know you" occasion. Finally a barbecue evening for the under 13's, as a special farewell to the six Foundation members.

All clubs had active coaching and training facilities, so that performances throughout the year were very good, thirty six Centre records being broken. However it was noted that the manual Records and Rankings were still very onerous. There was an active pre-season recruiting campaign with posters and newspaper advertisements and articles. The Centre newsletter 'Track Chat' was issued and proved very popular. A photographer was present at the Centre Championship presentation and was well received, with many fine performances and their rewards, recorded for posterity.

The Decathlon and Club Relay days were still popular alternative days. Inter centre meetings were held with Perry Lakes and Fremantle with a one cycle, choice of five events from all except Triple

Jump, programme. Both meetings were noted for the level of competition and also as highly successful social occasions. A team was also sent to the inter centre meeting at Capel. The first City of Stirling competition was held with Hamersley the winners. Hamersley were the fourth Centre at the State Relay Championships with two gold, six silver and two bronze medals. This year saw one coach and an assistant for each age group. Centre Championships were held over two Saturdays due to the timing of the Divisionals. 175 selections were made for the Divisionals with ninety one passing to the State Championship finals, where they won twelve gold, nineteen silver and nineteen bronze medals. Three Hamersley athletes were selected for the State Team, Andrew Newton of the Whitfords club was nominated as 'Athlete of the Year'.

The winter season saw a big drop in the number of participants, however the season was quite successful. The Centre was fifth in the Bill Tucker Trophy meeting. A team contested the South West Open Championships at Donnybrook. The Centre Road Walk Championships were held at the Karrinyup Shopping Centre. The Centre Cross Country Championships were again from the North Beach School, through the Star Swamp Reserve. The State Road Walks, held this year in fine weather, resulted in three gold, two silver and one bronze medal. The State Cross Country Championships were held at Jorgensen Park, Kalamunda. The Centre won one gold, two silver and one bronze medal. This year Karrinyup regained the Club Championship and Takari won the Parent Participation Trophy.

1977/78

The completion of the seventh year saw the Hamersley Centre well set-up and run by a system of committees and working group. The Chairman was George Strickland. The Executive was now working with five sub-committees to cover the various portfolios, and there was a general upgrading of office equipment and filing facilities. A home ground sign was erected at the North end of the oval advising that the Hamersley Little Athletics Centre was based at the Charles Riley oval. At the start of the season an extensive publicity drive was carried out, with pamphlets, display stands at Warwick Grove and Karrinyup Shopping Centres, and a number of newspaper articles. The success of this campaign was demonstrated by the record 625 registrations, Karrinyup was the largest club with 2 more athletes than Glendale.

Cash in hand at the end of the year was \$1,390 with equipment valued at \$5,428. Annual cash turnover was now in excess of \$12,000. The annual subscriptions now left a shortfall of over \$1,000 on expenditure, so extensive fund raising was necessary. By far the most profitable undertaking was a Pointathon day which raised \$3,277, with \$2,700 profit. The usual raffles, drink stalls etc. were continued. A Key Officials function was held again at the start of the season. The Cabaret was not as well attended as in previous years, raising doubts as to its worth.

The instruction of officials was given a priority rating and all the Track and Field instruction sheets were revised. Records and Ranking was no longer the drudgery of previous years as each club supplied two representatives to attend to point scoring and the writing of place cards. The points scoring system was revised and simplified and a new booklet produced. A top 10 list was maintained to assist in Centre selections.

The use of C.R.C. at Perry Lakes for printing and producing publications gave a readily available and relatively cheap source of the necessary paperwork. The publication of 'Track Chat' continued, and was well received. Coaching was augmented by discussions and films, the latter particularly useful with walking. The purchase of electronic watches helped to alleviate the problems of continual repairs with the mechanical ones, though there were funny results due to low batteries. A new Judge's stand was completed and the track was officially surveyed for the first time.

This year the rostering of clubs for the laying up of the grounds led to some difficulties such as the haphazard restoring of the gear at the end of the day. Inter centre meetings were held at home with Mundaring and Melville, and away to Fremantle. Hamersley won the City of Stirling meeting with Balga and Inglewood. The Centre achieved its best result at the State Relay Championships, coming second to Belmont. Hamersley won six gold, four silver and two bronze medals. The State Track and Field Championships yielded sixteen gold, nine silver and fifteen bronze medals. There were three Hamersley athletes selected for the State Team. The Centre ran its own Centre Track and Field and Relay Championships as usual. Forty eight athletes competed in the winter season, with small numbers attending the South West Championships at Donnybrook and the Albany King of the Mountain weekend. The Centre came fourth in the Roscoe road walks, but won the Bill Tucker Cross Country Trophy. The State Road Walk Championships at Kewdale resulted in two gold, three silver and one bronze medal, and the State Cross Country Championships at Kalamunda in four gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The season closed with the Centre Walk and Cross Country Championship. This year Karrinyup were again the Champion Club. Takari won the Parent Participation Trophy with Glendale a very close second.

1978/79

A very good season for athletic performance. Hamersley became the largest Centre in the State with 7% of the total Little Athletes registered. At the State Track and Field and Relay Championships, the Centre won over 20% of the available medals. The Chairman was George Strickland and the Secretary Laurel de Vas. Registrations were 644 with Glendale at 149 just 2 ahead of Karrinyup.

The cash balance at the end of the year was \$1,390 and equipment was valued at \$9,244, this included all athletic and official equipment. Over \$1,500 was spent on new equipment. Fund raising saw the drinks stall raise over \$800 and the Pointathon, now restricted to the under 8 group, \$725. Raffles were now handed over to the clubs with some of the proceeds to the Centre. The Cabaret in December was not well attended and ran at a small loss, raising questions again about its future. The end of season social also left a small deficit. A social meeting of Key Officials early in the season was well attended and served to engender the team spirit seen throughout the season.

It was recommended that Registration Fees rise by \$1 to \$4 to help cover the running costs of the Centre. The high registration levels were the result of active promotion through schools in the area with posters and pamphlets. Unfortunately the position of Public Relations on the Executive remained vacant for the year and no follow-up promotions were made. Another victim of this lack of the Public Relations Officer was 'Track Chat', which was not published during this year.

Much emphasis was made of coaching and with clubs' coaches now being experienced, their efforts were rewarded by the outstanding successes at the State Championships. It was noted that 100 Centre records were broken. Recording of results was now well under control and the use of locally designed forms eliminated the need for entry forms. It was also noted that a continual revision of the point score system was needed as it seemed that some events had a higher weighting than others. This was seen as an ongoing procedure. Work was still proceeding with the track and a top dressing of the oval removed a dip in the back straight of the track. Telephone cables were laid to six points on the oval and gave an important communication link to sites. Approval was given for a security cage around the store room, however no work was carried out. The programme was a two cycle one, as in previous years. The large numbers of athletes before Christmas did give some problems, but these were minor. It also took a few weeks to establish the track rules, no crossing the track, proper uniforms, and general behaviour were all noted. The Centre Decathlon, Club Relays and Centre Championships were all held as usual. There were four inter-centre meetings involving eight centres and a team competed at the Perry Lakes Stadium in a special W.A.L.A.A. meeting held in November.

As in other years, Hamersley won the City of Stirling meeting. The Centre won the Commonwealth Bank Relay Shield for the first time with eleven gold, three silver and two bronze medals. The State Track and Field Championships saw twenty one gold, 15 twenty five silver and eighteen bronze medals won, an outstanding performance. Three athletes were selected for the State Team. Trudy Dawson was nominated 'Little Athlete of the Year' and Brian Lewis was appointed as Manager to the State Team. The interstate competition this year was in Perth and Hamersley hosted the Queensland team. The winter season saw a drop in participants to seventeen only. The Centre came ninth in the Roscoe walks and third in the Bill Tucker Cross Country event, which was renamed the Ritchie Smith Memorial Trophy to honour a Gosnells athlete who died tragically in a rail accident. The usual Centre Road Walk and Cross Country Championships were held and were followed by the State Road Walk Championships at Belmont, where once again webbed feet were essential. Only one silver and one bronze medal resulted. The State Cross Country Championships at Harvey saw better performances with two gold, one silver and one bronze medal. At the end of the year Karrinyup won both the Champion Club and Parent Participation Trophies.

1979/80

This year saw a decline in the overall registrations of little athletes, with the start of T-Ball in Western Australia, taking two or three years to stabilise. Hamersley however remained a strong Centre.

George Strickland completed his third year as Chairman with Laurel de Vas as Secretary. This year saw the introduction of Bi-annual elections for the Executive positions and approval for the award of Life Memberships. This year the Social Co-ordinator position remained vacant. The filling of the Public Relations position enabled 'Track Chat' to be issued again.

Cash balance at the end of the year was \$1,746 with equipment valued at \$10,436. Fees were raised to \$5. The Pointathon was less successful than previously, raising only \$288, the Cabaret saw a profit of \$260. The major income was gained from a successful tender to cater for the State Track and Field Championships where \$2,407 was cleared. A meeting was again held for Key Officials and a successful pre-Christmas barbecue at the completion of the Relay Championships.

Registrations dropped to 521 with Karrinyup (116) the largest club from Glendale (110). Takari declined to 38 and early season problems were seen in recruiting for both North Beach and Takari. The long jumps were improved by the use of rubber mats instead of the old wooden take-off boards. Regular and reliable Key Officials made the meetings run smoothly. Major equipment items were a second Judges' stand and another trailer, so that there was now a trailer for track equipment and one for field equipment. Security cages were made for the store room, and also internal locking facilities were installed. A stand was built for the announcer.

The standard programmes were run through the year with one day lost through rain. An inter centre meeting was held with Northam. The State Relay Championships were very successful, with Hamersley winning the Commonwealth Bank Trophy and also both the boys and girls Kentucky Fried Chicken awards. Overall nine gold, three silver and five bronze medals were won. At the State Track and Field Championships Hamersley came second to Melville with twenty two gold, nineteen silver and fourteen bronze medals. Sixteen Centres took part at these Championships. The State Squad was not selected after these Championships as the Interstate meeting was to be held in Darwin later in the year. Eight Hamersley athletes were selected to take part in a training squad. Gillian De Gruchy was nominated 'Little Athlete of the Year' to cap a fine career.

Winter participation was a low twenty one. Athletes competed in the regular road walk and cross country meetings and also the Ritchie Smith Memorial and Roscoe meetings. A small number travelled to Donnybrook for the South West Championships. The Centre Championships were poorly attended. In the State Road Walk Championships at Burrendah, Hamersley won one gold and four silver medals and in the State Cross Country Championships at Calista, only 5 athletes won one gold, two silver and one bronze medal. Karrinyup were again the Champion Club with Sorrento claiming the Parent Participation Trophy.

1980/81

This year saw a further decline in numbers of athletes, however the athletic performance was excellent. The new Chairman was Geoff Brown with Laurel De Vos continuing as Secretary. One Executive position remained vacant, however all other positions were active throughout the year. The Centre still operated with five sub-committees. The reduced number of athletes occurred in spite of a lowering of the age for admission into Little Athletics and extensive preseason publicity. Centre badges were awarded this year. Margaret Ley and Margaret Davis were awarded Life Membership as a token of their long and unstinted service for the Centre. 'Track Chat' was not published this year, however the W.A.L.A.A paper L.A.P was actively promoted throughout the Centre.

Registrations were 445, Sorrento 96, Karrinyup 93 and Glendale 87, being the larger clubs. Takari again suffered a reduction to only 19 athletes, even after a promotion at the Takari school. A photographic initiative was tried this year, with assistance from Pacific Films. Over 1,000 photographs were taken at Saturday meetings and the City of Stirling competition and were for sale at 80 cents each. Only about a quarter were bought so costs were not recovered.

Cash in hand this year was \$1,835 with equipment valued at \$11,027. Additional funds were raised through a Quiz Night (\$568) and catering for the State Championships again (\$1,284). A Cabaret raised \$177. The Quiz Night was held at the Balga Inn with Brian Bourke (MLA) as the Quizmaster. Other social functions held included the Key Officials meeting, a Christmas Party and Executive "Get together" and the end of year presentation evening. Additionally, a Zone 9 joint meeting was held in conjunction with the other Zone 9 Centres.

The programme this year had minor alterations and did include some novelty events. There was some difficulty with bad weather early in the year however no meetings were lost. Another inconvenience was that the track was top dressed, and was heavy until the new grass grew. The Decathlon was held over two Saturdays instead of one weekend. There were no inter-centre meetings for the very first time. A Relayathon was held to raise funds for the Crippled Children's Association (\$524). More was pledged but not recovered. The meetings were running well with a core of reliable key officials, however there was a continual plea for the other officials. New starters stands were used this year and the purchase of five walkie talkies gave the Arena Manager some flexibility and the ability to act rapidly to programme hold-ups.

In the Centre Relay competition, Karrinyup won the girls trophy and Whitfords won the boy's trophy. Hamersley won the City of Stirling meeting. The State Relay Championships were again a Hamersley whitewash winning the overall Commonwealth Bank Shield and both the boys and girls trophies. There were eight gold, three silver and five bronze medals, and the Centre had a team in 19 of the 20 finals. The State Track and Field Championship saw seventeen gold, fifteen silver and fourteen bronze medals. Two athletes 18 were selected for the training squad to compete in Darwin in August 1980 and two in the regular State Competition at Easter 1981.

The winter season saw twenty seven competitors, with participation in the regular events, the South West Championships at Donnybrook, the Roscoe and Ritchie Smith Memorial Trophies. Hamersley hosted a cross country run at the newly cleared Carine Open Space; an event memorable for the large numbers of mushrooms and double gees. The State Road Walk Championships at Inglewood Aquatic Centre saw one gold and two silver medals awarded to Hamersley athletes. The Cross Country run held at Calista produced two gold and one bronze; a very lean winter season for the Centre.

Karrinyup continued with its dominance over the first ten years of the Centre, winning the Champion Club award and the Parent Participation Trophy,

1981/82

This, the tenth Anniversary year, was again very successful. Registrations were up again to 501. 29 of these were the newly introduced Under 14 age group. The Centre distributed over 3,000 pamphlets to schools in the area at the start of the season. Whitfords was the largest club (118) with Karrinyup a close second (115). Takari remained small with 28 registrations, but remained very keen. North Beach rallied to 45 athletes around a band of eager new officials after a number of long serving helpers dropped out at the end of the previous season. Glendale changed their training ground to Carine and settled in well. An indoor cricket game between parents from Glendale and Karrinyup saw a new area for club competition Glendale won with Karrinyup looking for a rematch.

The Centre had a full Executive after a few early shuffles and worked well throughout the year. Eight issues of 'Track Chat' were made and were well received. Photographs were still being taken at meetings throughout the year, and were worthy of comment in that they ran at a profit. A tradition of taking photographs of all the Relay teams for Centre records was continued, this began in 1978 . Fund raising was very active, a Relayathon raised \$1000, with \$500 going to W ALAA. The State Championship canteen was again supplied by Hamersley, with a profit of \$1100. Other successes included a Quiz Night (\$374), Cabaret (\$276), and a bottle drive (\$157). The solid support of the drink stall was again evident, raising \$826. The funds enabled the Centre to buy an urgently needed photocopier. Unfortunately three walkie-talkies were stolen, at some inconvenience to the key officials on the Saturday mornings. Centre equipment was now valued at \$13,796 .

Social functions were well attended, with good support at the key officials meeting and the Centre cabaret with the highest numbers for some years. The Christmas party and Presentation days were very successful, the latter particularly so as it was held directly after a Saturday meeting. A barbecue held at Perry Lakes after relay practice was very popular.

Coaching was being well supported with the Centre now holding an extensive library and the WALAA running winter coaching courses. A number of Hamersley parents had already qualified through these courses, but there always seemed to be more and more demand for coaches. The key officials this year performed remarkably well, however there were the usual needs for more officials on the day and support to get the meetings finished on time. The two week cycle programme was running well and no changes were seen necessary. The City of Stirling assisted in the supply of concrete surrounds to the jump pits and rubberised run-ups. A grant of \$1000 was also made for a PA system.

The regular meetings were held throughout the year with the points competition over 6 weeks before Christmas and 2 weeks after. The Decathlon was held over 2 weekends, the second being deferred a week due to inclement weather in January. Centre Relay, Track and Field, Road Walk and Cross Country Championships were held. Hamersley won the City of Stirling trophy to maintain its unbeaten record. At the State Relay Championships, the 9 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals saw the Centre win the Commonwealth Bank Shield, the KFC Shield for boys and the KFC Shield for girls - a

clean sweep. Seven State records were set and two Australian best times. Continuing success at the State Track and Field Championships saw 21 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze medals won. The Centre billeted some of the Hedland team, during their stay for the State Track and Field Championships. This will probably become a regular item with remote country Centres now operating.

The winter season started well with 34 competitors. There were 8 runs and 7 walks with Hamersley hosting a run at Carine and a walk at Whitfords Shopping Centre. There were also the Roscoe and Ritchie Smith Memorial Meetings. The State Cross Country Championships at Jorgensen Park saw 1 gold and 4 silver. This year's Champion Club was Karrinyup who also won the Parent Participation Trophy.

1982/83

To quote the Chairman's Annual Report, "A successful year? No, a great year!", with credits to all the Clubs and Centre officials.

A recruitment campaign with the Family, Fun and Fitness pamphlets saw registrations increase by 103 to 604. Whitfords (151) became the largest club followed by Glendale (124) and Sorrento (122). The smaller clubs Takari and North Beach had substantial increases with Karrinyup the only club to show a decrease in numbers. It was noted that all sympathies should be with the Whitfords Team Manager who had 24 Under 8 boys.

The Centre Executive, under Chairman Ian Cassey, was complete and had a hard working year with Derek Donegan being awarded a Life Membership for his years of hard work for the Centre. All Clubs had a full and successful year. Sorrento acquired new equipment whilst Glendale were still having storage problems and were hoping that the City of Stirling would provide a building. Karrinyup parents were beaten again by Glendale in the return indoor cricket match.

Fund raising was at a lower level, however a peanut brittle campaign cleared \$377, advertising in the programme raised \$1224, catering for the zone finals (at Charles Riley Oval) \$336, cabaret \$466 and a boat trip \$200. Equipment was valued at \$14,386.

The two cycle programme was still used and coped with the increased numbers with the use of two sites for some of the field events. The usual features were held, Decathlon, inter-club competition, club relay competition and winter road walk and cross country championships. The Centre championships and zone finals were also held at Charles Riley oval. The Centre won the City of Stirling trophy for the seventh time. A new feature introduced by the University of WA Club was the 'Sprint Challenge'. A small Hamersley team won easily from Melville and Balga. The Centre again billeted athletes from country Centres with seven from Port Hedland and three from Wickham. The Centre won all the State Relay Championship trophies for the second year in succession, with teams in all finals and a medal tally of 8 gold, 8 silver and 4 bronze. The triumph continued at the State Track and Field Championships, Hamersley being the most successful Centre, winning the Stuart Dunne Memorial Trophy with 19 gold, 30 silver and 35 bronze medals. Sue Broadrick was nominated the 'Most Outstanding Athlete' and five athletes were selected for the State team.

The efforts of the summer seem to have had their effect on the winter season, seventeen athletes competed with only four of these in the road walks. The Centre road walk championship had only three competitors and the cross country thirteen. At the State cross country championship held in Harvey, the Centre won only 1 silver and 1 bronze medal, the State road walking championships at the Rockingham Shopping Centre realised only 1 gold medal. The Champion Club was Whitfords and

Glendale won the Parent Participation Trophy by one point from Karrinyup who pointed out that it was on loan only.

1983/84

This was another most successful year with the Centre emulating 1982/83 for the awards gained. Registrations at 468 were 29% (136) down on the previous year, however the clubs noted that the percentage of active athletes was higher so that previous levels of participation were gained. The drop in numbers was attributed to a drop of public awareness after the high publicity in 1982/83 for the Commonwealth Games. Glendale (105) was the largest club with Whitfords (101) a close second.

The Centre Executive, under Chairman Ian Cassey, was again very active but suffered a vacancy in the Track and Equipment portfolio for most of the year. Fundraising was increased to finance a new storage and canteen facilities to be started in the next season. About \$5000 was raised with \$3323 raised from two lamington drives, \$1730 from the zone canteen, \$331 from a most enjoyable river cruise and \$315 from the drinks stall. A cabaret evening was cancelled due to lack of support, it was suggested that February was too hot. The Centre cash balance was \$3428, with equipment valued at \$14278. The usual Christmas and end of season functions were held and the now regular barbecue after relay training at Perry Lakes.

Glendale finally gained their storage area at the Carine oval, thanks to the City of Stirling. The smaller clubs, Takari and North Beach continued with a small but dedicated band of officials. Sorrento gained two grants to purchase a quantity of new equipment. Karrinyup extended last year's innovation of the "Keen Karrinyup Kids" awards with 25, 50 and 75 event levels. However keen, Karrinyup again lost the indoor cricket game with Glendale.

The programme continued to run well, due to the tireless efforts of the key officials, however the lower registrations this year saw many calls for officials. The introduction of a computer for recording enabled Records and Rankings to become a much easier activity. Another unseen problem was caused when the oval was reticulated, the extra water causing the track to be remarked more frequently. The Hamersley two cycle programme was gaining interest from a number of other Centres. It is not known whether they were also interested in Jim Starcevich's new event, 'Clipboard Throwing'.

The UWA Sprint Challenge was again won by Hamersley, from Fremantle and Melville. The event was run as part of a 'Big Six' meeting. The Centre again won the Twisties Shields for boys and girls at the WALAA Quadrathlon, and also won the City of Stirling Shield for the eighth time. By winning 9 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze medals at the State Relay Championships the Centre won the overall trophy, and both the boys' and girls' shields. The State Track and Field Championships saw the Stuart Dunne trophy won for the second time with 25 gold, 20 silver and 22 bronze medals. Three athletes were selected for the State team with Lisa Quick appointed Team Captain. The Centre billeted the Queensland team of 22 athletes as the interstate carnival was held in Perth. The winter season had forty competitors with only two in the road walks. The quality of these two however was shown when they both won gold medals in the State road walk championships. The cross country runners gained 3 gold medals in the State championships.

Teams were entered in the Melville Cross Country Relay competition, and gained two age grade winners with the event proving popular and leaving the promise that "we will be back". The success of the Centre and the quality of the services available to the Centre and the clubs led to the recognition of the assistance given by the City of Stirling in the provision of facilities. Val Jones of Karrinyup was awarded a Life Membership. Whitfords were again the Champion Club, and as

promised Karrinyup regained the Parent Participation Trophy. Glendale were 'sorry at the temporary displacement' of the trophy.

1984/85

This was another most successful year though Hamersley was only the fourth largest Centre. Registrations were 459 with Glendale (123) and Whitfords (96), the largest clubs. Takari dropped to 23 with no new parent help for its Committee.

The Executive, led by Ian Cassey in his last year had two vacancies throughout the season, Technical Officer and Organization of Officials. This threw extra work on the rest of the Executive and the key officials. 'Track Chat' was issued at three weekly Intervals, but did not receive information from some of the clubs.

There were a number of major changes this year, the age groups were extended to include the Under 15's. One result was that the pre-season working bee had to adjust all the hurdles to accept a new height for these larger athletes.

The Centre Championships were no longer run as a separate competition but were based on performance over the season, with some qualifying conditions. The competition days were extended from eight to twelve with points calculated from the best nine performances. These changes were aimed at increasing the attendance after Christmas. It was noted that this did vary from club to club. It was also decided that there would be no competition the Saturday before the City of Stirling competition, but reserving the need to run a limited meeting if necessary.

Another major development was the start of the building of the rooms on the south side of the Charles Riley oval. These would include storage areas, office and meeting rooms, together with change facilities. This of course required substantial fund raising for the year. \$7000 was raised for the new building, the major item being \$1700 from a lamington drive and a giant raffle (\$3424), with the usual drink stalls and the canteen for the City of Stirling meeting and the zone finals. Equipment was now valued at \$15419.

There was poor response to the cabaret, however a small profit was made. It was noted how vital the key officials pre-season meeting had become, and how dependent the Centre was on its key officials. The North Beach Club had a good start to the season after losing many of the previous season's officials. Grants for equipment ensured the club was well equipped. Sorrento noted that its post-Christmas participation was a very high 70%. Glendale had implemented a very active coaching system with the use of video presentations. A new Achievement Certificate was awarded by the coach for training effort. Whitfords had problems with parent participation at Club and Centre level and were looking at ways to involve more parents. Takari suffered from a lack of new officials, and the Club worked very well throughout the season, winning the Parent Participation Trophy. The resignation of some officials at the end of the season resulted in no new committee so on 18 March 1988 a General Meeting resolved to suspend the club for two years. Glendale again beat Karrinyup at indoor cricket, who decided that new strategies were required. The move to the new building was being planned and a new vehicle was acquired to move equipment, this was by a generous donation. Diatomaceous earth was used on the long jump take-offs and proved to be better than the talcum used previously. Again three two-way radios were stolen after the storeroom was broken into. Even after numerous appeals, they were never recovered. Moves were made to provide a more extensive and up-to-date first aid facility.

The competitions this year provided a host of awards. The Quadrathon yielded 7 age pennants and the Centre won the City of Stirling Shield yet again. The State Relay Championships saw 11 gold, 8

silver and 2 bronze medals won. A very high medal tally at the State Track and Field Championships with 25 gold, 28 silver and 19 bronze, saw the Centre win the Stuart Dunne Memorial Trophy again. This was capped by the selection of five athletes for the State team and Shane Cassey being nominated 'Athlete of the Year'. Twenty six athletes competed in the winter season, only one in the road walks. The State cross country championships yielded 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. Our sole walker won a bronze medal in the State road walk championships. Finally Glendale became Champion Club for the first time in its 12 year history. Takari won the Parent Participation Trophy, a tribute to the dedication of its small group of parents.

1985/86

This season saw the first full year with the new buildings. Much effort was needed to finance and set up the facilities. This was willingly done, to give Hamersley one of the finest home bases in Western Australia. The ground level storage allowed access by vehicle, and a car was donated by Commodore Motors and Paul Druitt Real Estate and adapted for its new task. A kiosk within the area provided first class services for the provision of refreshments. The buildings are used by others using the Charles Riley oval, including the Karrinyup Athletic Club. Many thanks were due to the City of Stirling for providing the building.

The Centre raised \$15615 as its share of the building costs, requiring heavy demands on fund raising. Clubs and Centre worked well together with participation and performance at a high level. Those involved can be very satisfied with their efforts. Lamingtons again proved their worth, raising \$1300, the ever reliable drinks stall \$1200. The Zone Canteen \$1500 and a visit to Uncle Dominies \$679 were the other main fundraisers this year.

The Centre Executive, under Chairman John Udall, was complete for the year and worked effectively. There were great changes amongst the Key Officials and after various indoctrination's the season opened smoothly and ran well, though officials were harder to find after Christmas. Glendale met its quota by running a mini roster for officials, those not doing so noticed a much greater falloff of support. Whitfords noted that its help increased when they took up the system later.

The computer was now an integral part of the Centre management and was proving its worth in the recording and ranking etc. The availability of a "home" for the Centre allowed the setting up of honour boards to mark Centre achievements. This year the Champion Club Board was instituted.

Registrations were down 53 with a low 411, with most clubs losing numbers. Glendale retained 138 with Whitfords a distant second with 93 registrations. North Beach club started the Season without a coach but were able to carry on when one of our own ex athletes, Debbie Starcevich took on the position. Glendale active all round were one of the forces in the winter cross country season with an active team. Karrinyup were continuing with their 'Keen Karrinyup Kids' scheme with good success. This year they failed to mention their cricket results. Had they lost interest or was Glendale too good again? Sorrento had a full and active year, with sufficient effective sponsorship to meet all their requirements, whilst Whitfords spent time trying to maintain parent support.

Equipment including athletic, administrative, kiosk, stocks of clothing and the Takari gear totalled \$21865. This also included the "new" car. There were now thirteen two-way radios in use to effect the efficient running of the meetings. The first aid kit was completed with thanks to all the donors. The old street sign on the North Beach Road was replaced with a new one courtesy of Coca Cola. The programme was similar to the previous year, with the new Centre Championship format accepted and to be continued. A Visitors Open Day earned little interest and was recommended to be dropped. Centre performances were again at the highest level.

The City of Stirling Shield was won once again. A change in the rules to give the other Centres a better chance to win - only two athletes per event, had the unfortunate side effect of halving the number of parents available as officials. Athletes competed in the Swan Premium Challenge, the Big Six Challenge and the inaugural Masters' Day Competition. Hamersley again won the Twisties/Quadrathon. The State Relay Championships saw eleven gold, four silver and four bronze medals for another winning performance. Even with the extended age group, the medal tally at the State Championships was very high thirty two gold, thirty nine silver and twenty three bronze; another winning performance! One athlete was selected for the State Team.

During the winter twenty four athletes competed in the cross country events and five in the road walks. Hamersley hosted one cross country run at Carine. In the State Championships the Centre won two silver and two bronze medals in the cross country and one gold medal in the road walks. Jim Starceвич was awarded a Life Membership. Glendale, having acquired a taste of being Champion Club decided to do it again whilst the Parent Participation Trophy returned to Karrinyup.

1986/87

This season was highlighted by the opening and use of the new Clubrooms which gave the Centre a focal point for its activities and facilities for both social and athletic events. The clubrooms had also been a rallying point for parent support which the President noted - "was athletically, socially and financially exceptionally strong".

Overseas visitors to the Centre and its new base were impressed with the Centre and its ongoing achievements. They included the Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka and the Chief Organiser of the All England Schools Athletic Championships.

Changes during the year were the introduction of the Under 7 age group (46 in this first year), a longer Christmas break and the addition of Under 16 and Under 17 age groups was discussed and a number of problems were noted. It was also planned to move the date of the Centre relays. New hurdles were produced and whilst equipment was seen as being in good order, the need for proper off season maintenance was noted. As well as the extra athletes in the Under 7 age group a dramatic increase in registrations of 114 saw numbers peak at 525 athletes, 279 girls and 246 boys. Sorrento with a large increase to 140 was the largest club and North Beach at 50 the smallest. The extra athletes created problems for coaches early in the season but eased through the year. Coaching Clinics were held for all events early in the season and after Christmas the new special coaching sessions were commenced on Sundays and for Javelin on Tuesdays.

The new clubrooms allowed a succession of social events to be held, including a Wine and Cheese Night complete with fashion parade, a Kids' Disco Night and a Quiz Night, which saw the hall packed with a last minute rush of competitors. A chocolate drive raised \$2500. However participation in the WALAA raffle raised comments that Clubs' fundraising was being affected by outside fundraising activities. The Centre did pass back to Clubs \$1400 raised through the year leaving a credit balance of \$6877 The Centre cost \$27047 to operate for the year. Funds were also raised by advertising in the "Gold Book".

A number of interest articles appeared in the local paper, but difficulty was had in the regular printing of results, in spite of their prompt submission each week. "Track Chat" was issued 10 times and remained a key communication factor between the Centre, the Clubs and the individual athletes and parents.

Athletes for the Centre participated in the Swan Premium Challenge, Quit International Meeting, Big 6 Challenge, Masters Day and ET Competitions. The regular City of Stirling competition win was

achieved but only 3rd place in the Quadrathon. A series of mishaps at the State Relay Championships resulted in the Centre finishing 3rd overall even though the girls won their section. There were 9 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals. These problems gave the Centre the spark needed for the State Track and Field Championships where 32 gold, 31 silver and 24 bronze medals saw Hamersley one again the top Centre. In the winter season a successful cross country at Millington oval resulted in it being earmarked for the next season's State Championships. 21 athletes competed in the cross country event and won 2 gold medals at the State Championships at Bedfordale Mall. The 5 walkers won 1 gold and 1 silver medal.

Glendale performed well to be the Champion club whilst the Karrinyup parents did well to gain the Parent Participation Trophy. It was noted that the parent participation of the Hamersley Centre was very high at the Inter-Centre events, often 2-3 times more than rostered.

1987/88

Another year of success and development. The start of the Bicentennial period, with thought and discussion about celebrations. Suggestions were made for a week's competition, however the proposed dates in February were opposed. The debate continued. Many Centre and Club coaches joined the Coaches' Association during the year. Ten parents undertook the inaugural Level 'O' coaching course.

John Udall again presided over a full Executive. The Centre produced an Official's Manual which effectively laid out the duties of all the officials. 'Track Chat' was published eleven times. There was pressure for the Centre to form a closer liaison with the Senior Clubs or even to set up a Senior Club. Overtures to local Senior Clubs received little response. Discussions continued. The Honour Boards for the Centre Clubroom were finally prepared, and installed, they represented much of the history of the Centre. An Athletes' Council was formed with membership including Club and Centre Captains and enabled the athletes to have input into Centre affairs. There were a number of important projects that the Centre was involved in discussions and planning, these included the Constitutional reforms proposed by WALAA, plans to extend the Community Hall at the Charles Riley Oval to include an indoor stadium and a proposal by the City of Wanneroo to put an all-weather track at Pinnaroo.

After all these esoteric projects we come to the basis of the Centre, the athletic season. In the post Commonwealth Games period registrations fell by 78 to 447. Glendale remained the largest club with 129 and Whitfords the next with 113. Sorrento was reduced to 77. Glendale continued to have a high level of registration and performance. They introduced a training roster for parental help and had parents attending the Level 0 and Level 1 Coaching Courses. The club won the Centre relay trophy and to the parents delight, the parents relay trophy. Perhaps this was more satisfying than beating Karrinyup at indoor cricket. Karrinyup continued with a new and enthusiastic Committee whilst North Beach enrolled 44 athletes and retained 36 of those post-Christmas, a very high level. A number of parents attended the Level 0 Coaching Course. Sorrento had a very large drop in numbers from the previous season but managed to retain the hard working parents and high performance athletes to have a very successful year. Whitfords again showed its strength with a large number of successful athletes and many medals won by them.

Social activities included a disco, fete day and a quiz night, all raising funds for the Centre. The drinks stall raised over \$1300. Cash in hand at the end of the year was \$3577 and total equipment valued at \$37731.

The programme was a full normal season in spite of an early Easter bringing forward State and Zone finals. The two weekly cycle programme was still proving effective with minimal fine tuning year by

year. This year the use of spikes and starting blocks was allowed for the first time. In spite of some concerns there were no problems and all athletes using them behaved in an exemplary manner.

The Interstate Championships for 1987 were held in Darwin during the southern winter. Five athletes were selected for the State Team which performed very well to be second to New South Wales. In addition two under 15 athletes were selected for the special events in this age group that were now added to the interstate carnival.

The City of Stirling this year was extended to cover the groups under 7 to under 15 with four athletes per event. Hamersley won the shield yet again. In the Quadrathon both boys and girls finished in third place. Other meetings contested included the Big Six meet, Southern Districts competition and Masters Day. An Association twilight meeting was not well organised and had problems throughout. The State Relay Championships were very close. The Centre won 11 gold, 9 silver and 2 bronze medals with the boys in second place and the girls taking first place to give Hamersley the overall shield by one point. The State Track and Field Championships saw the athletes determined to prove themselves. The Centre won 34 gold, 29 silver and 25 bronze medals and won the Stuart Dunne Memorial Trophy for another year. Five athletes were selected to compete for the State at the meeting in Sydney and sixteen competed in Singapore.

Twenty five athletes competed in the cross country runs with the State Championships being held in a well-received run at Millington Oval. Hamersley won 2 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals. The Road Walk Championship provided a medal bonanza for the seven competitors in the winter walks. The State finals at Rockingham saw 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal awarded to the Hamersley walkers. Glendale continued to hold onto the Champion Club trophy and Sorrento, though smaller in numbers, won the Parent Participation Trophy.

1988/89

This was another busy but satisfying year, with John Udall in the chair for the final time. Registrations rose again this year, no doubt in response to the Seoul Olympics. Total members revealed 524 with Whitfords rising to an all-time high of 156. Glendale (140) was relegated to the second largest club.

The executive was complete and again very busy twelve 'Track Chats' were issued, but noted that input from the Clubs had dropped away. Fundraising was again important and three major functions were held, a disco, a quiz night and a boat trip to Rottnest. The extent of the business side of the Centre can be given by the cash turnover of more than \$40000. Equipment was valued at \$39562. Extra costs for the year included the provision of all the Honour Boards for the Clubrooms and a new personal computer. An indication of the technical work required to run the Centre was that of the need to remark the track and field sites six times through the year, and a plea for help to do the clutch and valves on the Centre car.

This very full year for the Clubs saw Glendale again with a very active training programme and enjoying a fully marked out training ground resulting in excellent competition results. The growth of Whitfords mirrored the development of housing in the Northern coastal suburbs and showed that a new club was needed. As well as a very successful season by the athletes, the fathers beat Glendale in the parent relay. Karrinyup, once the Centre's largest club, now remains steady as a relatively small but very effective club, a sign of the relative ageing of the locality. Similarly North Beach remains small but active. Sorrento had an effective year with good numbers of athletes and good performances. There were some problems with parent participation.

This year there were eleven competitions outside the Centre programme. This led to a tight programming schedule and it raised queries regarding excessive competition. A three hundred metre run was introduced for the under 7s and at the end of the year the first nine year membership award was made. The points programme was cut to eleven weeks when twelve was washed out.

Outside competitions included Quadrathon, Big Six meet, Melville invitation meet, Southern District Competition, Kingsway Invitation meet and the WALAA Best Performance Day (Gosnells). The Centre won the City of Stirling Competition. The State Relay Team won 16 gold, 8 silver and 3 bronze medals to gain the overall trophy. A high medal count at the State Track and Field Championships, 21 gold, 31 silver and 38 bronze, saw the Stuart Dunne Memorial trophy awarded once again to Hamersley. Four athletes were selected for the State Team to travel to Brisbane. Fifteen athletes competed in the Singapore competition.

The Cross Country Championships were held at Murdoch playing fields with the Centre winning 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. Six athletes competed in the road *walk* season and won 2 gold medals in the State Championships at Adventure World.

Glendale won the Centre Championships for the fifth successive year and completed the double winning the Parent Participation trophy. This very successful year, including the Centre Relay Championships was capped by their mothers winning the Ladies relay.

1989/90

A drop in the number of registrations this year saw continual problems with the lack of helpers. This did not prevent the Centre from maintaining its very high level of performance, retaining its position as the top Centre in the State Relays and State Championships.

The season started badly with the track at the Charles Riley oval badly worn, however prompt remedial work by the City of Stirling saw the grass rapidly renovated, but failing late due to the excessive wear on the inside lane, much due to training groups in the evenings.

John Udall and Frits Vanirsen were made Life Members for their long and dedicated work for the Centre.

Registrations were 100 less than the previous year, with 206 girls and 218 boys (total 424). There were five Clubs with Glendale still the largest with 122 athletes and Whitfords with 104. North Beach was still the smallest with 47. Discussions and plans were still being made for the creation of a new Club in the Northern suburbs. The enthusiasm at Glendale was reflected by its remaining Centre Club Champions, and again taking away the Parent Participation Trophy. The Sorrento equipment store was again broken into and ransacked. This time requests for a safe area saw the erection of a 2.5m fence (but no "minefield").

The reduced numbers saw a drop in registration fees, and income for the Centre, however reduced expenses saw a trading profit of \$1300 for the year, but with the warning that much of the equipment needed maintenance or replacing. The strength of the Centre was illustrated by the ability of each Club to have an appointed coach, and to have the services of Level 1 coaches. There were some accredited coaches within the Centre and a number of parents starting on the Level 0 courses.

Socially it was a quiet year with only the Spit Roast Night being held. It was noted that there were very few "new" parents. A Rottnest trip was cancelled through lack of support. 8 issues of "Track Chat" helped to keep the information flow through to the athletes and parents. This year a new

printer (Bluebird) was used. Athletes competed at the Kingsway Centre by invitation, and took part in the new Multi-event Championships introduced by WALAA. They also competed in the Best Performance Meeting at Rockingham. The boys won their section of the Twisties Quadrathon whilst the girls were 4th. The City of Stirling competition was again a Hamersley win. During the Inter-Club competition the girls broke 30 Centre records and the boys 16.

Hamersley showed its relay abilities at the State Championships with 17 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze medals and won both boys and girls cups. The State Track and Field Championships saw the now expected Hamersley dominance with 26 gold, 36 silver and 21 bronze medals. From these athletes 4 were selected for the Under 12 State team and 2 for the Under 15 team to compete in Hobart.

During the winter season 42 athletes competed in the Cross Country runs and won 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal at the Championship. Only 4 road walkers competed during the season and won 3 gold and 1 silver at the State Road Walking Championships, a remarkable achievement!

1990/91

The twentieth season of the Centre "was completed on a blue Ribbon high" with high performances by the athletes and well supported by the parents. Registrations were up from a low the previous year, but the strength of the Centre was seen in the quality of the Inter-Club competition.

Registrations included 226 girls and 256 boys (482). Glendale maintained its strength with 116 and North Beach at a steady 45. A new Club, Oceanside, was opened to serve the Ocean Reef and Mullaloo areas, with an initial membership of 85. Most Clubs noted the high retention rate of athletes from 1989-90 and the large number of younger competitors. Glendale retained the Club Championship and the Parent Participation Trophy with over 40 parents per week.

A break-in at the *storerooms* saw the loss of most of the Centre's stopwatches, starting pistols, the first aid box, two-way radios, tool box and some javelins. They were quickly replaced, long before any insurance settlement. Glendale Club also had problems with stolen equipment. Their gear was in temporary storage at the Carine open space and very vulnerable. The final insult with robberies was the loss of the President's briefcase containing the next issue of "Track Chat" and other irreplaceable material.

Whitfords had many administrative problems with a rapid committee turn-over and problems with the Council about the marking of their training oval.

At Charles Riley oval the inside lane was still much worn. A large area at the south end of the oval dried out when work on the cricket nets affected the watering of the area. Plans were drawn up to replace the throwing rings during the winter season and to mark a ghost lane on the inside of the track to be used for training. Changes to the programme of events were also devised to try to prevent the post-Christmas drop-off of numbers. A wet October saw several days lost through rain, and a Club Relay Night became a disaster after a delayed start, when there were no lights.

New equipment included more shade tents and the introduction of a multiphase recorder watch. Hamersley hats were another innovation.

The in-depth strength of the Centre was again demonstrated by the depth of coaching, with now 33 accredited coaches and each Club with at least one Level I coach or better. A 20th Birthday Spit Roast in conjunction with the Karrinyup Club was very successful, however a junior disco was not well attended. It was noted however that all of the Clubs were running their own, diverse and very successful socials varying from barbecues to visits to Adventure World.

The performances of the athletes were again outstanding with 16 girls and 26 boys new Centre records. A new Australian record was claimed for the Under 9 girls 700m walk. The Centre continued its successes with the City of Stirling Meeting, the Twisties Quadrathon and remained the top Centre at the State Relay and Track and Field Championships. The Centre won 20 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals at the State Relays and 33 gold, 33 silver and 42 bronze at the State Track and Field Championships. Three athletes were selected for the State Team to compete in Canberra and 18 in a team that competed in Singapore.

The winter season was well supported with 21 girls and 34 boys competing in the Cross Country events and winning 3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze *medals* in the State Championships. A small number of walkers, 8 this year, gained a remarkable achievement with 3 *gold*, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals in the Road Walking Championships.

1991/92

The Chairman noted the successes of the Centre and the strength of the administration. He also noted with pride the "elite" athletes, but stressed the need to encourage and support all of the athletes in their own personal endeavours. This year Hamersley retained its position as the top Centre. Parental support was demonstrated by the assistance given at Inter-Centre Meetings, "there was not one call for help from Hamersley over any events held at Perry Lakes".

A Club Managers' Meeting was held at the start of the season. There were also two meetings of the Athletes Council which recommended a number of changes and innovations, including the training of the Under 14 and Under 15 with the Karrinyup Senior Club. They also initiated an Under 14 and Under 15 Social which was very successful. The need to treat the different age groups in different, but appropriate manners being clearly demonstrated.

217 girls and 281 boys registered, Glendale with 125 and North Beach stronger than previous years with 59. The Chairman noted that North Beach set an enviable standard for the larger clubs with its parent involvement. Karrinyup was also down to 59 athletes, but remained a strong club, particularly in the throws. Glendale won the Centre Championship for the eighth successive year. The club was also awarded the Inaugural Community Club Management Award by the City of Stirling. The Whitfords Club received a grant from the Whitfords Recreation Association at the MacDonald Reserve. The Parent Participation Trophy was awarded to the youngest club - Oceanside.

Problems with the oval persisted through the season due to repairs, leaving up-grades to the jump and throwing site outstanding. Club relays reverted to a Saturday and the Decathlon was held over one weekend. Coaching was still well supported particularly as a Level 0 Course was held at Hamersley. There were many volunteers to coach the relay teams, especially from ex little athletes with most teams winning medals.

"Track Chat" was still issued regularly but it was noted that a number of parents missed vital information by failing to pick up their copies from the Clubs. A proposal to mail out was not possible due to the cost. Running costs for the Centre were now over \$33000 per annum. Hamersley hosted the Personal Best day, but as it was held directly after Christmas, attendances were only moderate. Centre athletes also competed in the Masters Fun Run and the Multi-events and won the Quadrathon. The format of the City of Stirling was changed with Hamersley submitting two teams, they came first and second only 90 points apart. At the State Relay Championships 13 gold, 11 silver and 3 bronze medals resulted in Hamersley retaining its leadership. The Stuart Dunne Trophy was again won by Hamersley at the State Track and Field Championship with 32 first, 32 second and 30 third places. Alison Smith of North Beach Club was WALAA Athlete of the Year. There were 5 selections for the State Team and 2 for the State Multi-event Team. A "large contingent" of Hamersley athletes were selected for the Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

A record number of participants, 30 girls and 48 boys entered the Cross Country season and won 2 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze medals at the Championships. The road walkers, though small in number (9), won 4 gold and 2 silver medals.

The final triumph of the year was the receipt of payment for the insurance claim for the equipment lost in the burglary in 1990!!!

1992-93

This year was another with great achievements by the athletes and the Centre Administration functioning well. There were lots of new members assisting on sites and the Clubs were well organised and did not request any assistance from the Centre. There were several Athletes' Council meetings. The only adverse note was a caution that "the ugly parent syndrome was starting to make an appearance at Hamersley".

Registrations were 494 for the year, 273 boys and 221 girls. Glendale (112) was again the biggest club and Karrinyup (58) the smallest. Oceanside managed 90 enrolments in spite of the new Centre opening at Joondalup. The Club committee see this as an optimum figure for the good running of the Club. Sorrento Club lost a major part of its equipment through a break-in to the rooms on Robin Oval. A Ministry of Sport and Recreation grant was most helpful in the replacement of the lost stock.

The Charles Riley Oval was in good condition, but had acquired a Bindi-Bindi problem. The new throwing circles had been located and a metal deck top placed on the sprint time-keeper stand. A new word processor was purchased. The Saturday morning roster seemed to be relying a lot on the same people, but a draw for a bottle of champagne amongst the helpers did give some reward for their efforts. It was noted that setting up of the oval was working very well, however there was a shortage of hands to help put away.

Though some clubs were well supplied with coaches - Sorrento had 5 Level 1 coaches, attendance at coaching courses was low. The Level 0 course at Hamersley was not well attended by Centre parents. There was also a plea for more coaches especially Level 1 to replace the annual losses. On the practical side new procedures were proposed for the selection of the relay coaches.

Centre socials had mixed fortunes, the Key Officials Night and Electronic Quiz Night were well attended, however only a few stayed for the barbecue after the Club Relay Day, the Car Rally attracted 9 entrants and on visits to Time Zone only 34 attended both sessions. Again there appears to be a different perception by parents of Club and Centre socials.

Track Chat was issued regularly and distribution through clubs and the canteen seemed to reach most parents and athletes. The Centre participated in the Rockingham PB day and the Big 6 Meet. Both girls and boys won their sections of the Twisties Quadrathlon. Over 3000 athletes competed in 2 teams for the City of Stirling and finished first and second. The boys were first in the State Relay Championships and the girls second by only 4 points. Fourteen gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals were won by the Centre. The Multi-event meeting saw a number of personal best and one State record. Hamersley again emerged as the top Centre in the State at the Track and Field Championships winning 106 medals, 35 gold, 27 silver and 44 bronze. Three athletes were selected for the State Team in Melbourne and one for the National Multi-events. A number of UI4 and UI5 athletes *also* competed at the meeting in Singapore.

An active winter season saw 38 compete in the cross country season, winning 2 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals in the State Championships. The nine road walkers achieved 1 gold, 3 silver and 1

bronze medal. Once again Glendale were Champion Club and *also* retained the Parent Participation Trophy.

1993-94

This year saw a State-wide decline in registrations with Hamersley reduced by over 100. It was described as "a difficult season" with low registrations and a very heavy workload on parents. The athletic performance was still first class, but Hamersley's number one position was seen as "tenuous" with a great effort needed to stay on top. Registrations were only 380 with Glendale still the largest on 93 and North Beach the smallest with 35. Karrinyup had problems in electing a Committee, later in the season low numbers resulted in Karrinyup and North Beach combining for training.

Social functions were still under subscribed though the Car Rally and Quiz Night were successful. An athletes' disco organised by the Glendale Club was cancelled through lack of support. All Clubs reported active, well supported social and good parent support in spite of the low numbers of registrations.

Coaching remained a problem, the Level 0 course was moved to Kingsway and was poorly attended by Hamersley parents. Athletic performances however remained high. Thirteen Centre records were broken. Both boys and girls won their sections of the Quadrathon. The low numbers of athletes meant that only one team could be entered for the City of Stirling Competition. This was won for the eighteenth time. In the State Relay Championships Hamersley won twelve events, second in seven and third in four and remained the leading Centre. At the State Track and Field Championships the Stuart Dunne Trophy was retained by winning 31 gold, 24 silver and 23 bronze medals. Four athletes were selected for the State team.

Forty four athletes competed in the Cross Country season and collected 1 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals in the State Championships. The eleven road walkers gained 5 silver and 1 bronze medal. Glendale again achieved the double of Champion Club and holders of the Parent Participation Trophy.

1994-95

This was another difficult year for the Centre, with registrations still low. A sub-Committee was set up to organise the 25 year celebrations in 1995 and 1996. Plans were made for jump pit renovations after the track and field season, with assistance from the City of Stirling. Equipment was in good order, with a suggested 20% per annum replacement to maintain the standard. The car, though *old* and having survived dental surgery, needed a major overhaul or even replacement.

Registrations were up to 424, evenly split between boys and girls. Glendale was still the largest with 130, whilst Karrinyup declined to 31. The Karrinyup Committee questioned "the need to look at the future of the Karrinyup *Club*". Once again combined training sessions with Karrinyup and North Beach were organised. Oceanside remained in a strong position highlighting the difference between younger areas and the now older areas around Karrinyup and North Beach.

There was a pleas for more parents to take coaching courses as numbers were likely to become very low in the coming season. The Officials Night was noted by its "lack of interest". On the positive side the Car Rally and Quiz Night were again successful. A Cable Water Ski Park visit saw only four athletes attend on a dark and grey day.

A number of inaugural records were set, after changes to a number of events. A major achievement was the breaking of a 20 year old record in the U 10 girl's javelin. In spite of problems, the athletes

performed as well as ever winning the Quadrathon and City of Stirling meetings. The boys won their part of the State Relay Championships with the girls tying for first place with Melville. Hamersley won 9 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze medals. Though Hamersley retained the Stuart Dunne Trophy at the State Track and Field Championships a warning was given that "competition is now very tough and Hamersley's win depended upon good performances by Country Centres taking medals from other metropolitan Centres". The medal count was 19 gold, 31 silver and 27 bronze. Four athletes were selected for the State team and two for the Multi-event team. Leon Fulton of Sorrento was WALAA Athlete of the Year and Laura Graham was presented with the Doug Haney Award.

Glendale retained the Club Championship, but lost the Parent Participation Trophy to Whitfords.

This was the twenty fourth year for the Hamersley Centre, the greater part of which the Centre has been the top performing Little Athletics Centre in Western Australia. It also showed that the Centre was also going through a critical period. Many of the experienced members of the Executive had left, some going to Board positions with WALAA. There was no natural progression to the Chairman's post so Lindsay Glass offered to come out of "retirement" to fill the position at this difficult time. Problems were seen with assistance, allied to a drop in registrations, and there were increasing cries for more qualified coaches. There are problems with the "ageing" of suburbs such as Karrinyup and the now limited opportunity for the Centre to expand into new "young" areas.

The second twenty five years of the Centre will start by calling upon the new Executive to resolve a number of difficult problems. The Centre is well established, well equipped and with a marvellous home base, and given the enthusiasm of the membership and the history and experience of the Centre a continuing success can be the only foreseeable outcome.