

HISTORY OF THE OAA COUNCIL

On 21st August 1969 delegates from Pacific Countries gathered at a meeting in Port Moresby. This meeting was the first Congress held for Oceania “A Congress of the delegates of Member Countries of the Australasian Area”. Six out of the nine Member Federations attended (Australia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, New Hebrides (now called Vanuatu) and Western Samoa). Fiji and New Zealand sent letters of support, while the Cooks Island were not represented. Observers from American Samoa, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, Guam and New Caledonia also attended.

From this Congress a Committee of four members (non-elected) was formed to set up a draft of rules for the a new Association, whose name today is Oceania Athletics Association. These members were:

Arthur Hodsdon – Chairman (Australia)
Clive Lee (Australia)
James Dunn (Papua New Guinea)
Yet to be named (New Zealand)

From that year onwards the Council of Oceania Athletics Association has been elected by Member Federations.

First OAAA Council - 1971 Papeete

The Second OAAA (Oceania Athletics Amateur Association) Congress was held in Papeete on the 16th September 1971 with delegates from 8 Member Federations and 5 observer nations. Only New Zealand was unrepresented. The Congress adopted a Council structure which has changed slightly over the years.

The First elected OAAA Council include:
Chairman: Arthur Hodsdon (Australia)
Australia: George Stringer
New Zealand: *to be named* (Cecil Blazey)
Island: James Dunn (Papua New Guinea)
Island: Osea Malamala (Fiji)
Hon Sec Treasurer: George Stringer

Second OAAA Council - 1974 Christchurch

The Third OAAA Congress was held in Christchurch in 1974. Eight countries were present for the Congress, along with honoured guests, Adrain Paulen - President of the European AAA, and Larry Houston – Co-Chairman of USA Track and Field Board.

The Second OAAA Council include:
Chairman: Arthur Hodsdon (Australia)
Australia: George Stringer
New Zealand: Cecil Blazey
Island: Peter Fanning (Papua New Guinea)
Island: Fr. D Mullens (Tonga)
Hon Sec Treasurer: George Stringer

Third OAAA Council -1978 Papeete

The Congress was held in Papeete on the 29th August to coincide with the Second South Pacific Games. Only five Member Federations were represented at the Congress.

The third OAAA Council consisted of:

Chairman: Lee Morrison (Australia)

Australia: Clive Lee

New Zealand: Arthur Eustace

Island: Sitiveni Finau (Tonga)

Island: Bernard Balastre (New Hebrides - now called Vanuatu)

Secretary and Treasurer: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)

Fourth OAAA Council - 1983 Apia

The Congress was held in Apia on the third of September 1983 with Solomon Island being represented for the first time. Changes occurred at the Congress in relation to the model of the Council. The new model consisted of a President, 1 representative nominated by each Australia and New Zealand, and three elected Island Members together with the IAAF Area Representative.

The fourth OAAA Council consisted of:

Chairman: Clive Lee (Australia)

Australia: Clive Lee

New Zealand: Arthur Eustace

Island: Sitiveni Finau (Tonga)

Island: Peter Anderson (Papua New Guinea)

Secretary and Treasurer: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)

Fifth OAAA Council - 1985 Rarotonga

The fifth OAAA Congress was held in Rarotonga in 1985 with nine countries being represented. These countries were Australia, Tonga, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

The new Council elected was:

Chairman: Clive Lee (Australia)

Australia: Margaret Mahony

Island: Tuamotu Matamaki (Cook Islands)

Island: Peter Anderson (Papua New Guinea)

Island: Jean Tranut (Vanuatu)

Secretary and Treasurer: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)

Sixth OAAA Council - 1987 Auckland

The first meeting of the OAAA Council for 1987 was held in Auckland. At this meeting a restructure of the Council was necessary due to the resignation of Tuamotu Matamaki (Cook Islands) and the decision to place the Secretary Treasurer free from all Federation responsibilities which created vacancy for a New Zealand Rep.

The new Council included:

Chairman: Clive Lee (Australia)

Australia: Margaret Mahony
New Zealand: Geoff Annear
Island: Paul Aingimea (Nauru)
Island: Peter Anderson (Papua New Guinea)
Island: Jean Tranut (Vanuatu)
Secretary and Treasurer: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)

Seventh OAAA Council - 1991 Port Moresby

The OAAA Congress was held in Port Moresby on 16th September 1991. It was the first time that the Northern Mariana Islands were represented. Fourteen Member Federations attended the congress.

The new elected OAAA Council was:

Chairman: Peter Anderson (Papua New Guinea)
Australia: Margaret Mahony
New Zealand: Geoff Annear
Island: Paul Aingimea (Nauru)
Island: Anne Tierney (Cook Islands)
Island: Jean Tranut (Vanuatu)
Secretary Treasurer: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)
Assistant Secretary Treasurer: Atma Maharaji (Fiji)

Eighth OAAA Council - 1995 Goteborg

The OAAA Congress of 1995 was held in conjunction with the IAAF World Championships in Goteborg. Island representation was enhanced by the additional of a fourth Island Member across all sub-regions.

The Council consisted of:

President: Viliame S Tunidau (Fiji)
Australia: Margaret Mahony
New Zealand: Geoff Annear
Island: Sitiveni Finau (Tonga)
Island: Anne Tierney (Cook Islands)
Island: Carina Castro (Guam)
IAAF Area Rep: Arthur Eustace (New Zealand)
Secretary General: Bill Bailey (Australia)

Ninth OAAA Council - 1999 Sydney

The fifteenth Congress of the OAAA which was held in Sydney in February 1999 saw a major reshuffle of leadership positions. The elections resulted in Anne Tierney (COK) being appointed as the new president. Anne became the first woman to head one of the six Area groups of the IAAF.

The new Council members included:

President: Anne Tierney (Cook Islands)
Australian: Margaret Mahony
New Zealand: Geoff Annear
Island: Carina Castro (Guam)
Island: Willie Fong (Samoa)
Island: Filimoni Vuli Waqa (Fiji)

Island: Tony Green (Papua New Guinea)
Secretary General and IAAF Area Rep: Bill Bailey

Tenth OAA Council – 2003 Suva

The new Council members included:
President: Anne Tierney (Cook Islands)
Vice President: Geoff Annear (New Zealand)
Australian: Janelle Eldridge
Micronesia: Laura Mangham (Palau)
Polynesia: Willie Fong (Samoa)
Melanesia: Vuli Waqa (Fiji)
General Islands: Geoff Gardner (Norfolk Island)
IAAF Area Rep: Bill Bailey (Australia)

Eleventh OAA Council - 2007 Gold Coast

The Eleventh OAA Council election was held at the Gold Coast, Australia in February 2007. All 20 Member Federations and 2 Associate Member Federations were present for the Congress, along with honoured guests, Lamine Diack – IAAF President.

The 2007 -2011 Council included:
President: Geoffrey Gardner (Norfolk Island)
Vice President: Vuli Wawa (Fiji)
Australia: Danny Corcoran
New Zealand: Trevor Spittle
Micronesia: Robin Sapong Eugenio (Northern Marina Islands)
Polynesia: Titaua Juventin (French Polynesia)
General Islands: Willie Fong (Samoa)
IAAF Area Rep: Bill Bailey (Australia)
Executive Director: Yvonne Mullins

Twelfth OAA Council - 2011

The 2011 -2015 Council included:
President: Geoffrey Gardner (Norfolk Island)
Vice President:
Australia: Dallas O'Brien
New Zealand: Trevor Spittle
Micronesia: Robin Sapong Eugenio (Northern Marina Islands)
Polynesia: Titaua Juventin (French Polynesia)
Melanesia: Albert Miller (Fiji)
General Islands: Jim Tobin (Federated States of Micronesia)

Executive Director: Yvonne Mullins

Thirteenth OAA Council - 2015 Tweed Heads

The Election Congress was conducted at Tweed Heads on Australia's Gold Coast on 6th of February 2015. President Geoffrey Gardner (NFI) was unanimously re-elected unopposed to the president's position for a third term.

The Council for the period 2015-2019 is:

President: Geoff Gardner (Norfolk Island)

Vice President: Trevor Spittle (New Zealand)

Treasurer: Titaua Juventin (French Polynesia)

Council Member: Jay Antonio (Guam)

Council Member: Robin Sapong Eugenio (Northern Marina Islands)

Council Member: Peoria Koshiba (Palau)

Council Member: Matthew Mahon (Australia)

Executive Director: Yvonne Mullins

Fourteenth OAA Council – 2019 Tweed Heads:

The latest Election Congress was conducted at Tweed Heads on Australia's Gold Coast. President Geoffrey Gardner (NFI) was unanimously re-elected unopposed to the president's position for a fourth term.

President: Geoff Gardner (Norfolk Island)

Vice President: Trevor Spittle (New Zealand)

Treasurer: Titaua Juventin (French Polynesia)

Council Member: Joseph Rodan Junior (Fiji)

Council Member: Robin Sapong Eugenio (Northern Marina Islands)

Council Member: Tony Green (Papua New Guinea)

Council Member: Matthew Mahon (Australia)

Executive Director: Yvonne Mullins