



Australian Wrestling Union Inc

**Australian Wrestling Union
Annual Report
2005**

2005 Presidents report

It has been an exciting and challenging time for the AWU.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their support during the last year. The Committee has brought various skills together and have provided support to each other to achieve a number of important milestones in the redevelopment of the sport within Australia.

Australia and New Zealand have formed strong bonds over the last twelve months, with both countries sending teams across the Tasman to participate in competitions. NZ formally requested Australia's assistance for team and officials support at the World Championships being held this weekend in Hungary. The continued development, participation and success of International events being held in Australia is providing overseas recognition that Australia is well and truly revamping itself.

Australia was represented by Mr Ali Abdo at the Athens Summer Olympics in August 2004. Australia qualified for entry via the 2003 World Championships, but unfortunately due to a previously undiagnosed medical condition Talgat Ilyasov withdrew from the event. I would like to thank both Ali for his efforts at the 2004 Summer Olympics, his preparedness to step into the void and especially to Talgat in his gracious stepping down from participation at Athens. In the lead up to the Games, the Australian Team was provided the opportunity for residence and specialist athlete assistance at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The AWU organised specialist sparring partners and assistance to be provided at the AIS. The ability to access this elite athlete, coaching, and ancillary sport services at the AIS is a major step forward as we move towards our strategic objectives of being one of the top medallists in the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Discussions have commenced with the CEO of the ASC on the potential opportunities to more fully access the facilities of the AIS. The AIS is recognized as a World Class athlete preparation and training facility. The redevelopment of the AIS now underway will provide further enhanced facilities to make it the 'premier athlete' training establishment in the world. In addition, the AIS has commenced the establishment of an Australian Overseas training base in Italy. The ability for Australian Wrestling athletes/officials/coaches to access both the Australian and European AIS facilities would be a significant boost to us as we forge our way forward into the growth phase of the sport.

In January, Wrestling participated in the 22nd Deaf Olympic Games held in Melbourne. Many thanks to all within the Australian & Victorian Wrestling Community who assisted in making this a very successful event. This event has assisted Australian Wrestling right through to the President of FILA (Mr Martinetti), by showing that we can organise such a large event. While there were many volunteers who gave their time to ensure the success of this event, I would particularly like to thank, Cheryl Bollard, Jack Thiessens, Brian Hodgson and the Victorian Wrestling Association,,,,, the event would not have been possible without this dedicated assistance. The introduction of an online bout notification system was well received, and has attracted international attention by FILA delegates who attended this event.

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) generously assisted Australia (by way of airfare) to the Oceania Congress held in Micronesia in May 2005. Australia is now represented at the Committee level of the Oceania Wrestling Federation. Active liaison and committee work is now progressing on the redevelopment of the sport within Oceania. FILA is assisting in this redevelopment by generously supporting athletes from Oceania (including Australia & New Zealand) to attend the 2005 World Championships being conducted this week in Hungary.

I am pleased to announce that the 2006 Oceania competition is to be hosted by Australia at the Gold Coast, Qld in late April 2006. This promises to be a significant step in the further development of the sport both within Australia and Oceania. During May/June 2005, a Marshall Islands athlete was 'in residence' at the AIS. Generous voluntary assistance was provided by athletes and coaches from VIC, ACT & NSW. This opportunity has been initiated under the Australian Government international sports assistance program.

In June 2005, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) announced a reduction/termination of funding to some twenty national sports. Unfortunately Wrestling is one of these sports. A terminating one year grant of \$20,000 was provided to allow the transition of activities. Your management committee supported an initiative for the President (Anthony Goonan) and National Administrative Officer (Cheryl Bollard) to approach the Federal Minister for Sport for reconsideration of this announcement. The AWU prepared a briefing paper on the background work that has taken place over the past three years on Governance, Administration, Development, Assistance and the Strategic forward planning now underway. At a subsequent meeting with the CEO of the ASC (Mark Peters), these views were put forward. I am pleased to announce this evening that funding of \$30,000 per annum has been reinstated for this year, with a promise of a review at the end of the 2005/2006 financial year. There will be a number of objectives and conditions to meet; however, I am sure that working together we can achieve the annual milestones.

During the past twelve months, some 1,700+ inwards/500 outwards email correspondence has been received/sent by me, in the capacity of President, the majority of in/out correspondence has been from/to Cheryl. Cheryl has provided an indication of some 3,000 in/2,000 emails passing through the AWU administrative office over the last twelve months. A special thank you goes to Cheryl Bollard, our National Operations Manager, who has worked non stop for our organisation Cheryl, has been employed part-time (15 hrs per week) for just under two years, however the workload has extended to 50+ hours per week over the last 12 months. This, Cheryl has done on a voluntary basis for our sport. I believe, Cheryl has gained the trust and confidence by everyone as a fair and unbiased administrative manager, and has provided every assistance to all levels of the sport within Australia. Unfortunately for Wrestling in Australia, Cheryl has accepted a position as the National Executive Officer for Australian Volleyball and will take up this position in early October. The AWU wishes Cheryl every success in her new role.. ... For us, Volleyball's gain is Wrestling's loss.

As a result of Cheryl's departure significant urgent changes to the Administration role are required.

Significant progress has been made on the accreditation of officials within our sport. FILA have introduced more stringent rules on Referee accreditation. I am pleased to

announce that several referees have received FILA upgrades over the past twelve months. Due to limited funding, the AWU has been severely restricted in the financial assistance to persons who are interested in progressing in the referee area of our sport. The individuals have generously given their time and personal finances in the effort to revamp this aspect of our sport.

I have attached the 2005 Australian report to the Oceania Wrestling Federation for your information. This report summarises other activities that have been undertaken over the last twelve months. This report was well received by Oceania and the President of FILA (Mr Martinetti).

As part of the Governance changes enacted by the implementation of the revised AWU Constitution, there will be elections held for various positions. I am proud of the members (the six States) for their full support in approving these historic and wide ranging amendments to our Constitution and Governance arrangements.

Wrestling in Australia has a potentially great and exciting future. In discussions with the CEO of the ASC, the potential to move Australia to an Olympic medal prospect is there. However, this will not be achieved without enormous support from the various parts of the wrestling community of Australia. I would urge you individually to consider what role you can play in achieving this to medium to long term goal (2012), set our strategies and tactics in place, support our individuals, athletes, coaches, referees, clubs, State Organisations and the AWU executive. There are different roles to play by individuals in all of these aspects of the sport.

Sponsorship for our National competitions is starting to come through. This has required a great deal of work in the background by your committee.

In closing, I make a personal request..... Please respect our different points of view. It is healthy to discuss, debate our personal points of view, and put them forward. Overarching this, please consider our future for the sport of Wrestling in this country. Step back occasionally, and think it through! Is my view in the overall best interests for the sport in this country, or is my view coming from my personal interests??

- After all, the future of our sport is in the ultimate hands of the athletes, the Juniors/School Age.... They are the future!!!

Anthony Goonan
President – Australian Wrestling Union

Australian Wrestling Union – FILA Delegate Report

We have worked closely with FILA over the past 12 months, an important period with the Athens Olympics and the FILA Congress.

The FILA Congress held at the Greece Olympic Committee auditorium saw President Martinetti, Secretary General Dusson elected and returned to their offices and a half election for the FILA Bureau Members.

FILA has pushed a number of changes to improve the sport. And with the development of their Internet site for the Wrestling Community and the Intranet for its member National Federations the flow of information on changes and what is happening in the sport has never been better. We can all now access the latest up to date calendar of international events and results and the complete rules for our sport direct from the net, similarly the forms and stationery to run a tournament are there. The IOC has met and approved the proposal of FILA for inclusion of Wrestling in the 2012 London Olympics and is recognition of the importance and universality of our sport

The introduction of Beach Wrestling has come to raise the profile of the sport and to open it to a new and growing audience.

Further innovative moves by FILA have included the support of an athlete from each member National Federation to compete at the 2005 Senior World Championships. Australia is also committed to FILA's objective growing the sport in the Oceania Region, Anthony Goonan has been elected to the FILA Oceania Committee, and FILA has requested Australia to host the 2006 Oceania Championships, and have made a number of concessions to ensure the viability of the event.

Australian Coaches and Referees have attended the FILA Clinics during the past year. FILA is demonstrating its support for the reform of Wrestling in Australia, as it provides a Technical Expert Coach for the forthcoming Solidarity Coaching Clinic and has recognised the improved standards of our officials with the upgrade of Referees Papadopoulos and Zaslavsky to Level 2.

We can look forward to another big year as FILA closely watches the re-development of Wrestling in Australia.

We have maintained our good working relationship with the Australian Olympic Committee through an Olympic year, the Athens Games were a great success for the Australian Team and with one representative in Wrestling our sport was a part of that success.

AOC have also had their AGM and Election of Executive and Committee following the Games for the next Olympiad, and President Coates and his executive have been returned and continues to build the strength of the AOC. It was sad to see the retirement of Bob Elphinstone as Secretary General, Bob has been a great friend and supporter of Wrestling for many years, however with the movement of Craig Phillips into the role we are assured of a continued strong relationship.

The AOC will continue its programme of financial assistance over the next four years with International Competition Grants and additional support to medallists in the International Benchmark Events.

AOC fully supported the AWU campaign for our nominee within the election for FILA Oceania President

AOC has awarded the AWU with IOC Solidarity support for a Coaching Clinic to be held in Australia under Canadian coach Dave MacKay in the coming December.

AWU has also been invited to submit an Expression of Interest to include the sport of Wrestling in the 2007 Australian Youth Olympic Festival, and we eagerly await an answer on this event.

With three years out from Beijing 2008 AOC is already working on the preparation of this team and we can expect our work with the AOC to again ramp up in the coming year.

With the absence of Wrestling in the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, we have had only at length dealings with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association over the past year, mainly through discussions with the President and Chief Executive and through the various State sub branches.

At the conclusion of Melbourne 2006, AWU will return to membership of the Association in preparation for competition in New Delhi 2010.

This will be an exciting time as preparation for the next Games commence, including a major Junior Commonwealth event in India as part of the lead-up to the Games, and discussions with the ACGA President have already been raised on the event.

John Saul
Vice President
FILA Delegate

Australian Wrestling Union - Junior Development Committee – Annual Report

The last year has been busy and in many cases rewarding for all people involved in the Junior Development.

It is clear that the majority of our young athletes have had numerous opportunities to compete at International level with no need for expensive overseas trips. This has been possible due to ongoing commitment, dedication and successful collaboration of AWU committee members and state officials with other National Federations and Wrestling Bodies.

Some of the notable achievements include successful participation of our junior athletes in the following events:

ISSI Down Under in Gold Coast

Youth Friendship Games in Sydney

National Championships in NZ

Annual Training Camp in SA with top class International coach from Japan

Of the 74 sports that are overseen by the Australian Sports Commission, Wrestling is one of the 11 sports selected to trial the new ASC initiative aimed to set the National framework for Youth Sport in Australia.

In September, 2004 the Steering Committee for the National Junior Development Policy committee met in Melbourne. Since then, members of the Steering Committee and JDC (established at the beginning of 2005) conducted a number of collaborative workshops and extensive research which culminated in the introduction of three new initiatives:

The AWU Youth Training Framework, The Grapplers Youth Sport Program and the National Youth Award

The contents of these initiatives are already available on the AWU website and it can be seen that one of the main goals is to provide a sports experience that will get young people involved in wrestling for a life-time.

Other issues facing young wrestlers in Australia are already addressed in existing AWU policy documents, such as the Safer Clubs Program, AWU Anti-doping Policy, AWU Competition Guidelines and the AWU Member protection Policy.

It is our firm belief that all initiatives mentioned above will assist in the provision of quality sport experiences for young people. It will encourage the provision of safe, enjoyable and accountable environments for everyone involved and inspire our athletes to stay involved long term and reach their full potential.

On behalf of JDC

Arek Olczak

AUSTRALIAN WRESTLING UNION INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2004 TO 30TH JUNE 2005**

INCOME	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Grants Received	56190.00	101,000.00
Affiliations	3975.00	3,210.00
Coaching Fees & Accreditation	2319.50	-
Sponsorship & Expense Subsidies	10987.60	-
Insurance Recoveries	14284.10	17,998.00
Referees Fees (FILA)	2619.00	-
Bank Interest	222.88	196.37
Sundry Items	1484.00	1,865.00
Total Income	<u>92082.08</u>	<u>124,269.37</u>
EXPENSES		
Advertising	940.00	-
Athletes Subsidies	-	33,738.80
Audit Fee	1000.00	150.00
Bank Charges	117.69	82.25
Coaching Accreditation	237.73	-
Entry / Competition Fees	7968.64	7,697.08
FILA	5823.96	-
Insurance	13800.47	21,041.31
Office, Photocopy & Computer Expenses	2147.70	5,062.15
Postage	235.41	201.80
Salaries & On Costs	19176.37	18,438.98
Telephone	3905.90	3,710.58
Training Camps & Ancillary Costs	6089.49	-
Travel & Accomodation - Athletes	18969.95	10,273.65
Travel & Accomodation - Committee	10391.35	21,205.96
Uniforms & Sports Equipment	253.64	3,738.73
Total Expenses	<u>91058.30</u>	<u>125,341.29</u>
NET SURPLUS / (LOSS)	<u>1023.78</u>	<u>(17,068.77)</u>

AUSTRALIAN WRESTLING UNION INCORPORATED

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2005**

	\$
Total Equity	<u>22,460.13</u>
Represented by:	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cheque Account	9,755.73
Petty Cash	200.00
Trade Debtors	6,197.00
Total Current Assets	<u>16,152.73</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Property, Plant and Equipment	14,176.58
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(8,247.00)
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>5,929.58</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>22,082.31</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Trade Creditors	
Sundry Creditors	-
GST Collected	-
GST Paid	-377.82
Income Received In Advance	-
Payroll Liabilities	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>- 377.82</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>- 377.82</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>22,460.13</u>