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ATHLETICS BALLARAT APPOINTS LAUREN WRIGHT AS INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*Senior Victorian executive and lifelong athlete to lead the organisation into its new era at the Howitt Street facility.***BALLARAT, VICTORIA — 18 September 2026**

Athletics Ballarat is pleased to announce the appointment of Lauren Wright to the newly created position of Executive Officer, effective October 2026. Lauren becomes the organisation's first Executive Officer, a role established to provide dedicated strategic leadership as Athletics Ballarat grows participation across the region and prepares for the opening of its new home at Howitt Street, Wendouree.

The Executive Officer role will drive revenue generation, program delivery and stakeholder partnerships for Athletics Ballarat, while providing governance support to the Board as the organisation transitions into a state-of-the-art regional athletics precinct — one expected to attract major events and lift participation across the Ballarat community for years to come.

APPOINTEE	Lauren Wright
POSITION	Executive Officer, Athletics Ballarat
START DATE	October 2026
REPORTS TO	Athletics Ballarat Board
BASED AT	Howitt Street, Wendouree

A CAREER BUILT ON LEADING PEOPLE AND SYSTEMS

Lauren joins Athletics Ballarat with more than two decades of executive leadership experience across some of Victoria's largest public and private sector organisations, spanning finance, human resources, payroll and operations. Most recently, she has served as Manager, Agency Performance and Systems Support at the Department of

Families, Fairness and Housing, overseeing the service agreements and funding of \$100 million across 37 community service agencies in the Central Highlands region.

Her prior roles include Director – HR People Services at Victoria Police, where she led a division of six direct and 95 indirect reports and a \$25 million budget; Director – HR Systems and Services at Fire Rescue Victoria, where she helped deliver the state's Fire Reform on time and on budget; and more than 10 years across senior HR, payroll and systems roles at Crown Melbourne, including delivery of Crown Sydney's HR and workforce systems, and the largest employer to go live with Single Touch Payroll implementation in Australia. Earlier in her career, Lauren was Payroll Services Manager at Ballarat Health Services and held finance and payroll roles at Moorabool Shire Council.

Lauren holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Deakin University and has completed the Business Leadership Program through the Institute for Strategic Leadership.

A LIFELONG CONNECTION TO ATHLETICS

Beyond her executive career, Lauren brings a genuine, lifelong connection to the sport she will now help lead in Ballarat. Competing from 1991 to 2000, she represented Australia at the ISF World Schools Cross Country Championships in Latvia in 1998 and represented Victoria on five occasions.

Since returning to the sport in 2024, Lauren has become a World Athletics National Athletics Referee, officiating across the Athletics Victoria Shield League, Victorian and National All Schools Championships, Victorian Country Championships, the Zatopek and Maurie Plant meets, and Little Athletics regional carnivals. She has also volunteered with Ballarat Little Athletics Club in a range of roles, including team manager, official, treasurer and bookkeeper.

DEEP ROOTS IN THE BALLARAT COMMUNITY

Lauren's community involvement extends well beyond athletics. She has held leadership roles with the North Ballarat Cricket Club – including President and Treasurer – where she led a financial turnaround and a five-year operational strategy for the club, and served as a parent representative on the Lucas Primary School Council through a period of significant growth for the school.

"This appointment is a landmark moment for Athletics Ballarat, and continues our evolution as a progressive, highly professional local sporting organisation. As a board we are delighted to have a person of Lauren's calibre lead our organisation through this exciting time. We were obviously already aware of Lauren's deep passion and connection to the sport, but what really shone through was her exceptional business savvy and executive leadership experience. Qualities we are confident will allow our organisation to capture the vast opportunities in front of us"

Matt Jenkins, Chair, Athletics Ballarat

"I am thrilled by the opportunity to lead Athletics Ballarat as the inaugural Executive Officer, as we step into our brand-new, state-of-the-art facility. Having experienced first-hand the profound, positive impact athletics can have during a person's formative years, I am eager to leverage my executive background to expand our user base and strengthen our sporting community. I look forward to forging strategic partnerships with the wider community to drive local economic growth and create lasting opportunities for the region."

Lauren Wright, Executive Officer, Athletics Ballarat

ABOUT ATHLETICS BALLARAT

Athletics Ballarat (formerly the Ballarat Regional Athletic Centre since 1988) is a key community sporting organisation with a strategic, skills-based Board and deep historical roots. It promotes participation across all ages and skill levels, supports athlete development, and partners with regional schools and clubs to deliver athletic and social programs, hosting thousands of individual facility entries each year through clubs, state events, training, schools and community programs. Athletics Ballarat is currently preparing for the opening of a new state-of-the-art athletics facility on Howitt Street, Wendouree, supported by Development Victoria, which will serve as a regional sporting hub for major events and community participation.

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