

“Athletics Coaching from the 1970s to Now.”

Presented by The Victorian and Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Track and Field Coaches' Association.

9th August 2026. 5p.m. AEST.

Presenters: Bruce Shaw and Peter Fitzgerald. (see CVs below)

Link:

Topic: ATFCA Sunday Zoom Sessions

Time: Aug 9, 2026 05:00 PM Australia/Melbourne

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82912425362?pwd=YLaG8LkqabaA3OS2yEbbUQn6qRd3nD.1>

Meeting ID: 829 1242 5362

Passcode: ATFCA

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/82912425362/invitations?signature=zHYQynCFVodC8VBFglcxXcUDXNx3sAc4gnBaFGsKBPs>

The session will encompass:

- the Evolution of Coaching during the period 1970s to the current day;
- the Transition from Athlete to Athletics Coach;
and if time permits,
- Peter Fitzgerald will discuss The Process and Pitfalls of National Selection.

No fee for both ATFCA members and non-members.

But please register with me at jkrane@optusnet.com.au

John Crane.

President ATFCA Vic Tas



Empowering Coaches through Education

AUSTRALIAN TRACK AND FIELD COACHES ASSOCIATION

VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN BRANCH



Bruce Shaw:

Bruce was the Sprint Coach of Peter Fitzgerald (Olympic Semi Finalist) and Max Binnington (Multiple Commonwealth Games Medallist) and a number of nationally ranked sprinters in the 1970s and 1980s.

He wrote articles for Australasian Track and Field News and Modern Athlete and Coach.

He co-invented Sprinters' Club which ran in Winter and Summer and was a forerunner to High Velocity Club.

Bruce has a Law Degree from Melbourne University. Initially he worked as an industrial officer for The Master Builders' Association and later was admitted to the Victorian Bar. His activities as a Barrister included work in employment and industrial law.

Bruce applied his skills in law to his Athletics coaching and was a fervent advocate for provision of athlete friendly conditions and safety in terms of track surfaces, track orientation and application of Athletic administration. He often acted as an advocate for his athletes and in at least one case represented his athletes in a legal capacity.

Bruce was a keen photographer and was instrumental in the introduction of the photo finish and timing systems in both Victoria and Nationally. He was the first to operate the photo finish "system" in Victoria which he continued post his coaching career, and he trained his successor at the National level, Ian Boswell.

Bruce was a mover and shaker of his era and was an ATFCA original.



I think this photo of Peter Fitzgerald and myself (John Crane) taken during the 1970s was taken by Bruce.



Peter Fitzgerald.

Peter was Australian 200m Champion in 1975 and held the Australian National Record for 200m. (That is the fastest time by an Australian in Australia)

He represented Australia at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 where he was a semi-finalist in the 200m.

Peter's coaching experience spans 1979 to 2025, but was not continuous. Initially he coached Gary Minihan, 1982 Commonwealth Games 400 metres Bronze Medallist and 4X400m Relay Silver Medallist. During the period 2016 to 2022 Peter coached Morgan Mitchell (Olympic Semi-Finalist 2016) and Aidan Murphy (World Champs Rep, Oceania Champion and the youngest ever Australian 200 Champion (18 years) in 2022).

Peter was Chairman of Selectors for both Athletics Australia (2006-2012) and Triathlon Australia (2003 -2011).

He was admitted as a Barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1978. From 1980, his principal areas of practise were Criminal Law (as a defence advocate) and in the 1990's he added Sports Law and Sports Management as areas of practise.

During the years 2001 until 2012, Peter was engaged as a consultant to the High Performance Programs conducted by Triathlon Australian (Legal consultant 2001 – 2011) and Athletics Australia (Legal consultant 2006-2012). He also had a consultancy with The Australian Commonwealth Games Association during which he was (Legal consultant 2009-2015) and Honorary Counsel at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Peter's work with Sports Federations included preparing Draft Selection Policies and Drug Policies.

He has extensive experience in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) representing both Federations and individual athletes.

Peter was an Agent/Manager to Elite Sportsmen and Sports Women (1996 – 2000) including Kyle Van Der Kuyp (Olympian 1996 and 2000).

Finally, if there is anyone in Australia who knows more facts about Athletics than Bruce McAvaney, that would be Peter, with Paul Jeans also in the mix. Peter reads American Track and Field News before he reads the daily newspaper!