

## Queensland Race Walking Club Inc.

*Building on a fine tradition of race walking, 66 years in the making.*



### HEEL & TOE

November 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

#### **Where have all the sporting volunteers gone?**

**Peak Australian sporting body predicts 'disaster' if community volunteer numbers continue declining.**

A national survey has revealed Australia's 3 million-strong sporting volunteer workforce has declined by tens of thousands because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a 2 per cent drop-off, according to the national participation survey AusPlay, and is an extra headache for previously locked-down communities starting to play sport again.

"It's a big number ... a really serious thing," Sport Australia chief executive Rob Dalton said. "We have to recognise the unpaid economy that runs community sport. "Mr Dalton said losing volunteers threatened some city, suburban and regional sporting leagues. "If we don't have enough volunteers, the [playing] experience will be terrible and people will disappear from sport," he said. "If we start losing volunteers in the country, that's going to be a disaster."

Eight and a half million adults (40 per cent of Australia's population) and 3.4 million children (69 per cent) participate in organised sport. The AusPlay report highlighted parents made up "more than two-thirds of volunteers".

"It might be assumed that this is driven by children's participation — children start playing sport and parents help out," the report read. "Some of the time this will be the case, but the opposite can also occur.

"If parents are actively involved in sport, their children are also more likely to play, giving them the opportunity to reap the benefits of sport throughout their lives."

The most common non-playing community sporting roles are coaches, referees/umpires, and club officials.

Football has the most volunteers (467,000), followed by Australian rules (374,000) and netball (305,000).

AusPlay data revealed 774,000 volunteers took on multiple roles within the club system.

"There are 1.6 million men and 1.3 million women volunteering in sport in Australia," the report said.

"This reflects the profile of organised sport participants generally — women are less likely than men to participate or volunteer. "Volunteering is more common outside of the major cities where population density is lower, despite participation rates for organised sport being similar across regions. "This perhaps reflects the strong role sport clubs play in rural and regional social and community life."

### **Adopting a proactive approach**

COVID-19 restrictions on sport and multiple lockdowns are seen as the reasons for the drop-off, but it is unclear what those volunteers are doing now. "How are they filling their time? Will they come back?" Mr Dalton said.

Sport Australia is urging clubs from all sports to proactively search for volunteers.

"Don't let people walk out the door without asking them if there is something they can do," Mr Dalton said.

"We've got to try to attract people. Explain to them the benefits of volunteering. My life changed because I became a volunteer. You never know who you'll meet."

**Little Athletics Australia (LAA)** is one of the sports most reliant on volunteers to run Friday night and Saturday morning competitions throughout summer. LAA general manager of operations Andrew Johnson said registration numbers for participants — and therefore volunteers — was "slow" but "getting back up there". "We had a drop-off in registrations last year," he said. "We hope this year gets easier. I think [participants and officials] are really keen to get back into it."

Mr Johnson said COVID-19 restrictions and procedures were an ongoing "grey area" that coaches and zone managers had to navigate. "It's a day-to-day, week-to-week thing," he said. Mr Johnson encouraged all families to get back into competing and learning new skills. "It's getting outside, seeing kids being active," he said. "It's socializing again [after lockdowns]."

Sport Australia has a partnership with Volunteering Australia. Mr Dalton said club officials looking for "tips, tricks, and tools" to improve their volunteering workforce should go to the websites of both organisations.

## **National OneAthletics proposal**

South East Queensland Club representatives have been invited to hear more details on the National OneAthletics proposal, Queensland Athletics President Yvonne Papadimos and CEO David Gynther will be available this Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov from 1pm at QSAC, to give a briefing and answer questions on the current details and implications for the Club and Queensland Athletics.

Hopefully there will be some presentation material made available that we can share with our members next week.

## **RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS**

**QA All Schools**

**Girls 3,000 Metre Race Walk Under 14**

1 Sharpe, Milly 13 GLD 16:16.81  
2 Bray, Katie 13 ASR 18:19.80  
-- Presland, Skye 13 QRW DQ TR 54.7.  
**Girls 3,000 Metre Race Walk Under 15**  
1 Teahen, Rebecca 14 TWH 17:54.21  
2 Goulding, Lily 14 QRW 18:51.33  
-- Griffin, Danni 14 QA DQ TR 54.7.1  
**Boys 3,000 Metre Race Walk Under 14**  
1 Dale, Kai 13 QRW 16:01.64  
**Boys 3,000 Metre Race Walk Under 15**  
1 Housden, Bailey 14 QRW 15:10.91  
2 Wheeley, Roel 14 RED 23:17.41

## Track Race Walks Coming Up

### QMA Meets

#### Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>

8.00am 3,000m Walk

9.40am 1,500m Walk

#### Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>

8.00am 5,000m Walk

#### Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>

8.00am 3,000m Walk

9.45am 1 Mile Walk

#### Saturday 4 December 4<sup>th</sup>

8.00am 2,000m Walk

#### Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>

7.00pm 5,000m or 3,000m Walk

8.30pm 1,500m Walk

### Important Information for Masters athletes and Juniors wanting to compete as a Visitor at QMA meets.

*All members, visitors and accompanying persons MUST check in at the gate using the Queensland QR code.*

*QMA members are requested to register and pay ground fees on-line.*

*Visitors and members unable to register on-line will be able to enter and pay ground fees (\$10 cash) at the track on the morning.*

*Current singlet numbers must be worn. Visitors will receive a temporary number.*

*New numbers will be issued later in the season to members who have renewed and new members.*

### QA Dane Bird-Smith Shield SAC

#### December 4<sup>th</sup>

6.00pm 3,000 metres M/F

6.30pm 5,000 metres M/F

2021 Australian Winter Road Walk Championships – **Postponed**

2021 Australian Cross Country Championships – **Cancelled**



**Saturday August 6th**

Women's 10,000m Walk Final

**Sunday August 7th**

Men's 10,000m Walk Final

## **Have you Registered for the Track Season ?**



Qld Racewalking Club is excited to announce that we have opened up our registration portal to members who wish to register with QRWC with a view to representing QRWC at QA meets in the coming year.

Our membership year will now commence in October each year to align with Qld Athletics' (QA) membership year. This will allow athletes wishing to compete at QA events representing QRWC, to take out a combined QRWC/QA membership in or after October each year. Once registered, athletes can represent QRWC at the various QA competitions held throughout the year, including the QA Road Walking Championships, QA Shield Meets and Qld Athletics Championships. Please note that QA offers 3 levels of membership. More information can be found below or at

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/qqmoo3oyiea1blrd.pdf>

**Of course, for those athletes not wishing to compete at or represent QRWC at QA events, QRWC will retain the current membership options whereby only the QRWC club fee (ie. \$15 Student/\$25 Non-Student) will apply. This membership can be taken out at any time prior to the start of the QRWC winter season in April 2022.**

All QRWC memberships taken out from this point onwards, irrespective of whether a QA membership is also included, will remain valid until September 2022 and will cover the traditional QRWC winter racewalking season.

Please do not hesitate to contact QRWC Registrar Jenny Stuckey [qrwcregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:qrwcregistrar@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the membership options or registration/renewal process.

**QRWC is a Queensland Athletics - associated track and field club.**

*"Queensland Athletics has no intention of changing the recognition and registration of the Queensland Race Walking Club and any such rumours are completely unfounded."* QA CEO David Gynther

## **Racewalking Queensland Management Committee 2021/22**

**President:** P Bennett

**Secretary/Treasurer:** N. McKinven

**Vice President.** I Jimenez

**Committee:** J Stuckey, S McCure, J-R McRoberts, S Pearson, D Millard, K Martin

**Patrons:** Patrick & Maxine Sela

**Registrar:** J Stuckey / C Chadwick

**Equipment** J McRoberts

**Uniforms:** J Stuckey

**Publicity / Media** C Chadwick

**Newsletter Editor:** P. Bennett

**Club Captains:** Jasmine-Rose McRoberts / Ignacio Jimenez

## Race Walk Coaching

If you are looking for coach or would like to be part of a training squad here are the qualified coaches in the club:

Noela McKinven Walks Level 4

Robyn Wales Walks Level 3

Shane Pearson Walks Level 3

Steve Langley Walks Level 2

Jasmine-Rose McRoberts Level 2 Club coach

## Queensland Athletics Member Protection Policy

As a member of Athletics Australia, Queensland Athletics, an affiliated club or an individual member everyone is required to comply with the Queensland Athletics Member Protection Policy. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all of our members and will work to ensure that everyone associated with our organisation complies with this policy. We would encourage all who are involved in athletics to familiarise themselves and comply with this policy.

**You can read the full policy here**

<http://www.qldathletics.org.au/Portals/50/General/QA%20Member%20Protection%20Policy%20-%20July%202015.pdf>

### Contact emails:

[qrwc1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:qrwc1@optusnet.com.au) Membership, coaching or general enquiries about the club  
[racewalkqld@outlook.com](mailto:racewalkqld@outlook.com) Articles for the newsletter, to send in results, to join newsletter mailing list.

### About us ....

*Racewalking Queensland* conducts its own winter road walk programme from April until September. Thank you to all our contributors of results & reports to this newsletter. We value your input.

For news and information on the Australian Federation of Race Walking (Racewalking Australia) and the member clubs go to [www.rwa.org.au](http://www.rwa.org.au)

RWA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/racewalkingaustralia/>