

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1993 - 1996

This follows on from my previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1992.

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Our story continues from 1993.

The 1993 World Cup 50km trial had been held in mid December 1992 in Melbourne, with Simon Baker, Michael Harvey, Craig Brill and Mark Donahoo all recording good times. Now it was the time for the shorter distance trials.

1993 World Cup Trials

Canberra, Monday 25th January 1993

Track 20km world record holder **Stefan Johannsson** maintained his unbeaten record during his Australian summer sojourn, leading throughout and winning easily with 1:22:48. **Simon Baker** showed good judgement to come through for second place, ahead of **Nick A'Hern** and **Steve Beecroft**, all with times that put them well in contention for World Cup spots. Andrew Jachno had decided after the 1992 Olympics that it was time to 'get a real job' and had done a computing course, with a view to entering the Canberra IT bubble. Now working full time in the industry, he had finished back in 7th place.

World Cup Trial 20km Men, Canberra, Monday 25th Jan 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Stefan Johannsson | SWE | 1:22:48 |
| 2. | Simon Baker | VIC | 1:24:32 |
| 3. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 1:24:56 |
| 4. | Steve Beecroft | VIC | 1:25:41 |
| 5. | Allen James | USA | 1:26:47 |
| 6. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:28:44 |
| 7. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 1:29:07 |
| 8. | David Smith | QLD | 1:30:04 |
| 9. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:35:05 |
| 10. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:36:32 |
| 11. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:39:37 |
| 12. | Kevin Taylor | NZL | 1:40:30 |
| 13. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:44:02 |
| - | Anthony Miles | NSW | DNF |
| - | Dan Andrikis | ACT | DNF |
| - | Dariusz Wojcik | VIC | DNF |
| - | Jason Moore | QLD | DNF |
| - | Mark Thomas | VIC | DNF |

Kerry Saxby-Junna maintained her 8 year streak of wins in Australia with a comprehensive first place in the women's World Cup 10km trial. Her last loss on Australian soil had been in the 1985 track 5000m walk title which had been won by Sue Cook. There was a big battle for the minor places, with **Anne Manning** and **Jenny Jones** eventually getting away from **Gabrielle Blythe** and taking second and third. It was the first occasion when 8 Australian women had bettered the 48 minute qualifying standard and confirmed the depth in women's walking locally.

World Cup Trial 10km Women, Canberra, Mon 25th Jan 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | NSW | 43:46 |
| 2. | Anne Manning | NSW | 46:20 |
| 3. | Jenny Jones | QLD | 46:25 |
| 4. | Gabrielle Blythe | VIC | 46:45 |
| 5. | Jane Saville | NSW | 47:29 |
| 6. | Jantien Saltet | NSW | 47:40 |
| 7. | Therese Letherby | QLD | 47:52 |
| 8. | Lisa Paolini | NSW | 48:42 |
| 9. | Carolyn Vanstan | VIC | 49:13 |
| 10. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | 49:20 |
| 11. | Natalie Camplin | QLD | 49:26 |
| 12. | Jane Lewry | SA | 49:58 |
| 13. | Cheyl Webb | NSW | 51:17 |
| 14. | Jo Strangman | ACT | 52:17 |
| 15. | Ann Staunton | ACT | 54:31 |

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1992-93
QEII Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland, 5-9 March 1993**

Nick A'Hern showed superb speed, easily winning the 1993 National 5000m track title with 18:58.7. **David Smith**, now Queensland based, showed he still had plenty of speed in the legs, taking second with 20:09.9, ahead of **Simon Baker** with 20:33.2 and **Paul Kennedy** with 20:56.2.

Aust 5,000m Track Walk, Brisbane, Saturday 6th March 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 18:58.7 |
| 2. | David Smith | QLD | 20:09.9 |
| 3. | Simon Baker | VIC | 20:33.2 |
| 4. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 20:56.2 |
| 5. | Matthew O'Donnell | NSW | 21:13.6 |
| 6. | Greg Robertson | TAS | 21:38.5 |
| 7. | Ignacio Jimenez | QLD | 21:39.8 |
| 8. | Stephen Bourke | VIC | 21:51.7 |
| 9. | Frank Bertei | VIC | 21:54.5 |
| 10. | Shane Pearson | NSW | 22:09.9 |
| 11. | Ben Richardson | NSW | 22:35.3 |
| 12. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 23:03.9 |
| - | Anthony Miles | QLD | DNF |

**4th IAAF World Indoor Championships
Toronto, Canada, 12-14 March 1993**

The fourth World Indoor T&F Championships were the last ones to feature the 5000m and 3000m walks - I suspect the controversies of the 1991 Indoor Champs, where 8 of the 20 male walkers had been disqualified, had put paid to the event's ongoing credibility.

A total number of 537 athletes participated from 93 countries, but only 10 Australians (and 1 walker) made the cut. The walker was, of course, **Kerry Saxby-Junna** and she excelled as always, coming second in her heat (12:16.90) and then fighting out the final with Russian Yelena Nikolayeva, failing to take gold by 4 secs but setting a PB of 11:53.82 with her second placed finish.

World Indoor 3000m Walk Women, Toronto, March 1993

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|----------|
| 2. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 11:53.82 |
|----|-------------------|-----|----------|

**16th IAAF World Race Walking Cup
Monterrey, Mexico, 24-25 April 1993**

The 1993 Race Walking World Cup was a huge meet, with 107 walkers in the men's 20km, 99 in the men's 50km and 98 in the women's 10km. 11 Australian walkers made the trip, and all finished – no disqualifications at all!

Conditions were horrically hot and humid so times were not fast. Just to make it even tougher, the road surface included paving stones of uneven texture, oily and and slippery from traffic,with pot-holes and drain covers, gaping cracks and vents. It was a disgrace!

Kerry Saxby-Junna (5th with 45:55), **Simon Baker** (7th with 3:58:36), **Nick A'Hern** (13th with 1:27:11), **Gabrielle Blythe** (21st with 48:00) and **Michael Harvey** (27th with 4:10:54) led the strong Australian team home, all 5 of them doing well enough to earn berths for the 1993 IAAF World T&F Championships later in the year.

Overall, the men's team finished 7th (their best ever performance) and the women's team finished 4th. Australia was now starting to show the depth necessary to be considered one of the world's top walking nations.

World Cup 20km Men, Monterrey, Saturday 24th April 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 13. | Nicholas A'Hern | AUS | 1:27:11 |
| 34. | Steve Beecroft | AUS | 1:30:36 |
| 58. | Mark Donahoo | AUS | 1:35:08 |

World Cup 10km Women, Monterrey, Saturday 24th April 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 5. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 45:55 |
| 21. | Gabrielle Blythe | AUS | 48:00 |
| 26. | Jenny Jones | AUS | 48:36 |
| 30. | Anne Manning | AUS | 48:59 |
| 43. | Jane Saville | AUS | 50:15 |

World Cup 50km Men, Monterrey, Sunday 25th April 1993

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|---------|
| 7. | Simon Baker | AUS | 3:58:36 |
| 27. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:10:54 |
| 48. | Craig Brill | AUS | 4:24:23 |

27th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1993

Nick A'Hern had finished off his World Cup tour with a win in the Softland Grand Prix 20km in Norway (a PB 1:20:12.3) and was clearly back into top form after his throat operation the previous year. Back in Australia, he fronted for his second Canberra 20 Miler (the previous one was in 1989), easily winning in a time that made him the second fastest ever winner behind Willi Sawall. He was building nicely from his first Olympic appearance in 1992.

Behind Nick, a great teams battle was unfolding between the two Victorian clubs. Proclamation Park, spearheaded by **Paul Copeland** and **Michael Harvey**, got up by the smallest of margins to beat VRWC 44 points to 42 points. VRWC had won the previous 17 Teams Events and it took another Victorian team to finally dethrone them.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1993

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 2:24:35 |
| 2. | Paul Copeland | PP | 2:29:13 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | PP | 2:31:18 |
| 4. | Simon Baker | VRWC | 2:33:59 |
| 5. | Mark Donahoo | VRWC | 2:39:36 |
| 6. | Mark Thomas | VRWC | 2:42:52 |
| 7. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 2:44:07 |
| 8. | Ignazio Jiminez | QRWC | 2:45:09 |
| 9. | Dominic McGrath | VRWC | 2:46:27 |
| 10. | Frank Bertei | PP | 2:48:39 |
| 11. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:49:16 |
| 12. | Shane Pearson | QRWC | 2:57:18 |
| 13. | Dan Andrikis | ACT | 2:57:33 |
| 14. | John Leydon | NSW | 3:01:55 |
| 15. | Andrew Ludwig | QRWC | 3:02:19 |
| 16. | Keith Law | NSW | 3:02:39 |
| 17. | Harry Summers | VRWC | 3:03:16 |
| 18. | Mick Mulligan | NSW | 3:04:48 |
| 19. | Manfred Kuppler | PP | 3:09:36 |

| | | | |
|-------|------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|
| 20. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:10:09 |
| 21. | Craig Webb | NSW | 3:10:47 |
| 22. | Paul Thompson | NSW | 3:14:47 |
| 23. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:20:59 |
| 24. | John Jardine | PP | 3:26:13 |
| 25. | Ann Staunton (F) | ACT | 3:26:26 |
| 26. | Hugh Geyteman | NSW | 3:30:21 |
| 27. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:32:00 |
| 28. | Caleb Maybir | QRWC | 3:44:05 |
| 29. | Brendan Hyde | NSW | 3:50:41 |
| 30. | Tim Thompson | SA | 3:53:32 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | PP | 44 | Harvey, Copeland, Bertei, Kuppler, Jardine |
| 2. | VRWC | 42 | Baker, Donahoo, Thomas |
| 3. | QRWC | 31 | Jiminez, Bennett, Pearson |
| 4. | NSW1 | 30 | A'Hern, law, Mulligan |
| 5. | ACT | 13 | Andrikis, Whyte, Staunton |
| 6. | NSW2 | 12 | Leydon, Thompson, Overton |

Australian 50km Championship Richmond, NSW, Sunday 10th July 1993

Michael Harvey's win in the 1993 Australian 50km championship in Sydney saw him become only the fourth Australian to better 4 hours, his time an excellent 3:57:20. **Dariusz Wojcik** also walked well, finishing just outside his best with 4:01:46, while **Mark Donahoo** also PB'd to take third with 4:13:48.

| Aust 50km Championship, Richmond, NSW, Sun 10 th July 1993 | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 3:57:20 |
| 2. | Dariusz Wojcik | VIC | 4:01:46 |
| 3. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 4:13:48 |
| 4. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 4:29:33 |
| 5. | Peter Bennett | QLD | 4:43:52 |
| 6. | Harry Summers | VIC | 4:57:21 |
| 7. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 4:58:53 |
| 8. | Keith Law | NSW | 5:10:11 |
| 9. | Frank Overton | NSW | 5:15:37 |
| 10. | Stephen Beveridge | NSW | 5:30:55 |
| 11. | Tim Thompson | SA | 5:36:00 |
| Teams 1. VIC 6 2. NSW 15 | | | |

17th World University Games (Summer Universiade) Buffalo, USA, 14-18 July 1993

For completeness, I note the performance of **Jantien Saltet** in the 1993 World University Games, held in Buffalo, USA, in July. She was the only Australian representative. Obviously, not many Australian walkers were studying at that time!

| 17 th Summer Universiade 10km Walk Women, USA, July 1993 | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 12. | Jantien Saltet | AUS 49:17.56 |

4th IAAF World Championships Stuttgart, Germany, 13-22 August 1993

The IAAF World Championships was growing with each staging, and 1993 saw 1689 athletes participated from 187 countries. There had been no trials as such to select Australian walkers for the 1993 IAAF World Championships, but walkers had been advised that a top 20 finish in the IAAF Race Walking World Cup would guarantee a spot. That gave ticks of approval to **Nick A'Hern** (13th in the 10km), **Kerry Saxby-Junna** (5th in the 10km) and **Simon Baker** (7th in the 50km). **Gabrielle Blythe** (21st in the 10km) was also deemed to be close enough, while **Michael Harvey** had been

selected, compliments of his Australian 50km championship win. So a team of 5 ended up wearing the Green and Gold in Stuttgart.

Simon Baker was the standout, 14th in the 50km with 3:57:11. **Nick A'Hern** also walked well for 24th in the 20km. The shock of the meet, from an Australian perspective, was the DNF of **Kerry Saxby-Junna** in the 10km.

| IAAF World Champs 20km Men, Germany, August 1993 | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 24. | Nick A'Hern | AUS | 1:28:47 |
| IAAF World Champs 50km Men, Germany, August 1993 | | | |
| 14. | Simon Baker | AUS | 3:57:11 |
| 33. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:23:40 |
| IAAF World Champs 10km Women, Germany, August 1993 | | | |
| 33. | Gabrielle Blythe | AUS | 48:23 |
| - | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | DNF |

Australian 20km Championship, including Glover Shield Commonwealth Park Gardens, Canberra, Sunday 29th August 1993

With most of the top walkers still overseas after the World T&F Championships, the 1993 Australian 20km Championship was a relatively open affair. Held on a 2km circuit through the Commonwealth Park Gardens in Canberra, the meet, which combined the annual Australian Roadwalk Championships with the Second Federation Carnival, attracted an impressive 208 entries.

Michael Harvey had returned from Stuttgart and fronted for the 20km title race, a little over a week after his 50km in Germany. He featured in an early battle for the lead, before fading slightly and ceding the win to **Paul Copeland**, 1:29:42 to 1:30:35. **Mark Donahoo** had also fought out the lead early but eventually faded to finish third with 1:32:03.

| Australian 20km Walk, Canberra, Sunday 29th August 1993 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Paul Copeland | VIC | 1:29:42 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:30:35 |
| 3 | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:32:03 |
| 4 | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:33:08 |
| 5 | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:33:16 |
| 6 | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 1:34:51 |
| 7 | Gary Little | NZL | 1:34:52 |
| 8 | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:34:52 |
| 9 | Gary Jones | NZL | 1:36:33 |
| 10 | Mark Dossetor | ACT | 1:37:12 |
| 11 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:38:00 |
| 12 | Kevin Lowden | PP | 1:39:12 |
| 13 | John Leydon | NSW | 1:40:59 |
| 14 | Frank Bertei | VIC | 1:41:00 |
| 15 | Peter Bennett | QLD | 1:41:13 |
| 16 | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:41:45 |
| 17 | John Stenhouse | ACT | 1:44:42 |
| 18 | Keith Law | NSW | 1:49:25 |
| 19 | Robin Whyte | ACT | 1:51:40 |
| 20 | Brian Chapman | ACT | 1:55:18 |
| 21 | Paul Thomson | NSW | 1:57:54 |
| 22 | Frank Overton | NSW | 1:59:57 |
| 23 | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 2:01:05 |
| 24 | Robin Hall | NSW | 2:01:39 |
| 25 | B White | NSW | 2:01:40 |
| 26 | Hugh Geyteman | NSW | 2:04:19 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | Copeland, Harvey, Donahoo, McGrath, Cousins | |
| 2. | QLD | Ludwig, Pearson, Bennett, Maybir | |
| 3. | ACT | Dossetor, Stenhouse, Whyte, Chapman | |

1994

Australian Track & Field Championships 1993-94

Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, Sydney, NSW, 10-13 March 1994

Nick A'Hern was too fast for his rivals in the annual Australian 5000m Track championship, with a swift 19:11.99. **Steve Beecroft**, second with 19:46.91, and **Simon Baker**, third with 19:57.43, also bettered the 20 minute standard.

| Aust 5,000m Track Walk, Sydney, Saturday 12 th March 1994 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 19:11.99 |
| 2. | Steve Beecroft | VIC | 19:46.91 |
| 3. | Simon Baker | VIC | 19:57.43 |
| 4. | Matt O'Donnell | NSW | 20:30.87 |
| 5. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 20:45.92 |
| 6. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 20:53.90 |
| 7. | Klaus Jensen | DEN | 20:53.98 |
| 8. | Jason Moore | QLD | 21:43.13 |
| 9. | Dan Andrikis | ACT | 22:34.28 |
| 10. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 22:48.28 |
| 11. | Ross Reid | VIC | 23:38.60 |
| - | Duane Cousins | VIC | DQ |
| - | Ignacio Jimenez | QLD | DQ |
| - | Anthony Miles | QLD | DNF |

1994 Commonwealth Games Trials and Australian Roadwalk Championships

Runaway Bay, Queensland, Sunday 24rd April 1994

The 1994 Commonwealth Games trials were held in conjunction with the Australian roadwalking Championships on a 2.5km course at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast in Queensland on 24th April 1994. The men's championship distance was changed from 20km to 30km just for this particular year.

There were no surprises in the women's event when **Kerry Junna-Saxby**, **Anne Manning** and **Jane Saville** took the first three places and confirmed their Commonwealth Games selections. Nineteen year old Saville, following on from her silver medal at the 1992 World Junior championships and her 1993 World Cup representation, took another major step forward with a fine 46:04. This was Kerry's 23rd Australian Championship medal, 20 of them golds.

| Comm Games Trial 10km Women, Queensland, 24 th April 1994 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Kerry Junna-Saxby | NSW | 45:08 |
| 2. | Anne Manning | NSW | 45:56 |
| 3. | Jane Saville | NSW | 46:04 |
| 4. | Teresa Letherby | QLD | 46:31 |
| 5. | Gabrielle Blythe | VIC | 47:05 |
| 6. | Jenny Jones | QLD | 47:24 |
| 7. | Jane Barbour | SA | 47:38 |
| 8. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | 48:27 |
| 9. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | ? |
| 10. | Natalie Camplin | QLD | 52:07 |
| 11. | Allana Rogers | TAS | 52:55 |

The men's trial also produced the expected result. With Andrew Jachno now retired, **Nick A'Hern** had assumed the mantle as the top Australian walker and won comfortably in a PB time of 2:12:13. **Simon Baker** was keen for one last Commonwealth Games but had to battle hard to hold out fellow Victorian **Mark Donahoo**. Baker recorded 2:15:50 for 2nd and Donahoo was 3rd with 2:15:52, a big PB. In an effort to improve his Commonwealth Games selection case, Donahoo won the Victorian 20km title in May in 1:26:33, another PB and well ahead of second placed AIS walker Dion Russell. He even went overseas in an attempt to sway the selectors but to no avail – only 2 male walkers went to Victoria in Canada. It was an unjust decision – Mark Donahoo had done more than enough to earn his place in the team.

| Comm Games 20km Trial Men, Queensland, 24 th April 1994 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 2:12:23 |
| 2. | Simon Baker | VIC | 2:15:50 |
| 3. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 2:15:52 (PB) |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 4. | Craig Barrett | NZ | 2:17:46 |
| 5. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:25:25 |
| 6. | Dominc McGrath | VIC | 2:27:01 |
| 7. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 2:29:13 |
| 8. | Ignacio Jimenez | QLD | 2:32:15 |
| 9. | Mark Coleman | VIC | 2:37:01 |
| 10. | Frank Bertei | VIC | 2:37:22 |
| 11. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 2:41:48 |
| 12. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 2:42:12 |
| 13. | Peter Bennett | QLD | 2:45:16 |
| 14. | Klaus Maurer | QLD | 3:01:44 |
| 15. | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 3:26:37 |

28th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 12th June 1994

The 1994 LBG Carnival saw over 250 entries, slightly down on the 300+ of recent years, but still ensuring it remained the mantle as Australia's largest racewalking carnival. **Michael Harvey** recorded his third win in the 20 Miler with a 2 minute PB and a time that ranked him as the third fastest Canberra walker ever. It was yet another year in which nearly all of the stars (except for Michael) were absent and hence it was an opportunity for the next rank of walkers to try for fame.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 12th June 1994

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|---------|
| 1. | Michael Harvey | VRWC | 2:25:55 |
| 2. | Mark Dossetor | ACT | 2:43:14 |
| 3. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 2:45:59 |
| 4. | Ignacio Jimenez | QRWC | 2:47:26 |
| 5. | Frank Bertei | PP | 2:49:36 |
| 6. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:53:07 |
| 7. | Andrew Ludwig | QRWC | 2:54:47 |
| 8. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:55:16 |
| 9. | Craig Webb | NSW | 2:56:24 |
| 10. | John Leydon | NSW | 2:57:53 |
| 11. | Keith Law | NSW | 2:59:28 |
| 12. | Daniel Andrikis | ACT | 3:03:59 |
| 13. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:09:51 |
| 14. | Mick Mulligan | NSW | 3:12:53 |
| 15. | Celia Bertei (F) | PP | 3:13:00 |
| 16. | David Bryson | SA | 3:16:37 |
| 17. | John Jardine | PP | 3:22:49 |
| 18. | Mark Coleman | VRWC | 3:24:28 |
| 19. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:50:09 |
| 20. | Tim Thompson | SA | 3:58:06 |
| - | Anthony Miles | QRWC | DNF |
| - | Kevin Lowden | PP | DNF |
| - | Alex Crawford | NSW | DNF |
| - | Travis Harbour | PP | DNF |

Teams

| | | | |
|----|------|----|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. | VRWC | 50 | Michael Harvey, Duncan Knox, Mark Coleman |
| 2. | QRWC | 49 | Ignacio Jimenez, Andrew Ludwig, Peter Bennett |
| 3. | NSW | 44 | Keith Knox, Craig Webb, Keith Law |
| 4. | ACT | 43 | Mark Dossetor, Daniel Andrikis, Robin Whyte |
| 5. | SA | 25 | David Bryson, Bill Starr, Tim Thompson |

1994 Australian 50km Championship
Victoria Park Racecourse, Adelaide, Sunday 10th July 1994

Michael Harvey seemed to have a limitless capacity for racing, put on show once again in July 1994, when he won the Australian 50km championship in Adelaide (4:08:48). Somewhat surprisingly, there were only 3 starters. That made the medals easy – Harvey first, **Mark Thomas** second and 59 year old **Harry Summers** third.

| Australian 50km Championships, Adelaide, Sun 10th July 1994 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1 | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4.08.48 |
| 2 | Mark Thomas | VIC | 4.41.49 |
| 3 | Harry Summers | VIC | 5.24.05 |

1994 Goodwill Games
Saint Petersburg, Russia, 23rd July - 7th August

The 1994 Goodwill Games was the third edition of the multi-sport event created by Ted Turner. After previous editions in 1986 (Moscow) and 1990 (Seattle), this edition was held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, between 23rd July and 7th August 1994. Entries were by invitation only, with only the elite of each discipline invited. **Kerry Saxby-Junna** was one of 5 Australians on the list, and our only walker. She had won in 1986 and been second in 1990, and she was expected to fight out the medals once again. Alas, she was disqualified 50m from the finish line, while fighting out the medals. Gasping for breath because of sinus troubles, she had panicked. Back home, she was distraught. “*I was crying after training. Totally stressed out. There are times when you just wonder 'Why am I doing this?'*”.

| 1994 Goodwill Games 10,000m Walk, Russia, July 1994 | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. | Olimpiada Ivanova | RUS | 42:30.31 |
| | ... | | |
| - | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | DQ |

XV Commonwealth Games
Victoria, Canada, 18 - 28 August 1994

Kerry Saxby-Junna defended her Commonwealth Games title with a Games record time of 44:25. It was nice, she said, that the contest finished in a picturesque seaside setting rather than the main stadium. “*I get scared in stadiums full of people. They frighten the daylight out of me,*” she said.

But it was no walk in the park for the 33 year old who had endured a rough time lately, failing (according to her own high standard) at the Barcelona Olympics, finishing fifth in the 1993 World Cup, a DNF at the 1993 World Championships and plunging to a nadir with a DQ at the Goodwill Games. Saxby-Junna had gone back to the AIS and worked under her coach Craig Hilliard to refine her technique to the point where Hilliard believed it was better than ever. And she had temporarily sorted out any doubts about her breathing – a sinus operation was scheduled for straight after the Games.

Her second Commonwealth Gold was the culmination of that effort. She dominated the race from the first lap, although second placed **Anne Manning**, her training partner in Canberra, eventually finished just 12 seconds behind. Further back, a young **Jane Saville** finished 8th in a high quality race.

Saxby-Junna had slept restlessly on race-eve, waking at 3AM, ready to go, and she admitted to some nerves. “*Usually in international competitions, I'm happy with a medal but this time I really wanted the gold,*” she said. “*I had some tough competition and I knew it wasn't going to be as easy as 4 years ago.*” She said the proposal to extend the women's road races to 20km would prolong the careers of her and the 34 year old Manning. “*Sydney 2000 is looking good for us*”, she said.

| Comm Games 10km Walk Women, Canada, Wed 25th Aug 1994 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | Australia | 44:25 |
| 2. | Anne Manning | Australia | 44:37 |
| 3. | Janice McCaffrey | Canada | 44:54 |
| 4. | Holly Gerke | Canada | 45:43 |
| 5. | Victoria Lupton | England | 45:48 |
| 6. | Lisa Kehler | England | 46:01 |
| 7. | Verity Larby-Snook | Scotland | 46:06 |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 8. | Jane Saville | Australia | 47:14 |
| 9. | Carolyn Partington | Isle of Man | 47:21 |
| 10. | Grace Karimi | Kenya | 48:20 |
| 11. | Karen Smith | England | 48:45 |
| 12. | Alison Baker | Canada | 51:28 |
| - | Agnetha Chelimo | Kenya | DNF |
| - | Linda Murphy | New Zealand | DQ |

Nick A'Hern fulfilled his promise when he won the gold medal in the men's 30km road walk, a day when Kerry Saxby made it a golden double by winning the women's 10km roadwalk. For the previous four years, the 25 year old had worn the label of walking's "next big thing", the Australian to replace Simon Baker at the highest level. But despite some flashy performances in lesser competitions, he had yet to make a real mark on the world stage. There had been extenuating circumstances – a foot operation, another to remove a benign tumour from his neck – but A'Hern had gone to every major championship in reasonable form and was yet to make the big breakthrough.

This was that race. He kept his cool through an early breakaway by silver medallist **Tim Berrett** of Canada and bronze medallist **Scott Nelson** of New Zealand and walked strongly over the last 10 km to win in 2:07:53. *"I've been knocking at the door for a while,"* A'Hern said after the race. *"The time was world class, good enough to win some of the major races in Europe. I'm stoked. That's great."*

He missed **Simon Baker's** Games record by just six seconds but most definitely assumed his mantle. Baker was in the main bunch early on but when the pace increased, he dropped, finishing in 6th place in 2:14:02. The writing was on the wall and later that same year, he resigned his AIS scholarship as an athlete and took up an assistant coaching position there. He was still racing well but not with the same fire as previously.

| Comm Games 30km Walk Men, Canada, Wed 25th August 1994 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Nicholas A'Hern | Australia | 2:07:53 |
| 2. | Timothy Berrett | Canada | 2:08:22 |
| 3. | Scott Nelson | New Zealand | 2:09:10 |
| 4. | Darrell Stone | England | 2:11:30 |
| 5. | Martin St.Pierre | Canada | 2:11:51 |
| 6. | Simon Baker | Australia | 2:14:02 |
| 7. | Stephen Partington | Isle of Man | 2:14:15 |
| 8. | Craig Barrett | New Zealand | 2:14:19 |
| 9. | Chris Britz | South Africa | 2:14:28 |
| 10. | Justus Kavulanya | Kenya | 2:14:37 |
| 11. | Stephen Akol | Kenya | 2:14:37 |
| 12. | Christopher Maddocks | England | 2:18:14 |
| 13. | Mark Easton | England | 2:20:10 |
| 14. | Stephen Taylor | Isle of Man | 2:21:34 |
| - | Martin Bell | Scotland | DNF |

1994 Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 20km Walk Davies Park, Brisbane, Sunday 28th August

With A'Hern and Baker at the Commonwealth Games, the 1994 Glover Shield 20km saw a good field numbers wise but it was a field that lacked quality. **David Smith** was an easy winner with 1:30:43, ahead of a young NSW walker named **Brent Vallance** (Brent would go on to become our greatest ever walks coach).

| Glover Shield 20km, Brisbane, Sunday 28th August 1994 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1 | David Smith | QLD | 1.30.43 |
| 2 | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1.32.51 |
| 3 | Ignacio Jiminez | QLD | 1.34.55 |
| 4 | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1.37.15 |
| 5 | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 1.38.49 |
| 6 | Luke Collis | NSW | 1.38.57 |
| 7 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1.42.27 |
| 8 | Peter Bennett | QLD | 1.42.44 |
| 9 | Keith Law | NSW | 1.47.46 |
| 10 | Klaus Maurer | QLD | 1.50.20 |
| 11 | Michael Grogan | NSW | 1.53.50 |

| | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 12 | Stephen Iselin | QLD | 1.54.58 |
| 13 | John Griggs | ACT | 1.55.34 |
| 14 | Darren Law | NSW | 1.57.49 |
| 15 | Noel Wooler | QLD | 1.58.10 |
| 16 | Justin Carter | NSW | 2.00.39 |
| 17 | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 2.03.18 |
| 18 | Michael Hurley | NSW | 2.33.50 |
| | Michael Mulligan | NSW | DNF |
| | Keith Heness | QLD | DNF |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | QLD1 32 | 2. NSW1 26 | 3. QLD2 12 4. NSW2 9 |

1995 World Cup 50km Trial Melbourne, Sunday 18th December 1994

The 50km trial for the 1995 IAAF Race Walking World Cup was held in Melbourne in December 1994, in conjunction with the Victorian 50km championship. **Michael Harvey** made no mistakes, winning with 4:02:17. This would be his 8th World Cup trip in a row! A standard of 4:20:00 had been set, so **Duane Cousins** (2nd with 4:12:37) and **Dominic McGrath** (3rd with 4:16:41) also put themselves in contention. But it was disappointment for **Mark Thomas** who was 4th across the line in 4:17:38 but then informed he had received a third red card at the 49.5km mark so was now disqualified. Luckily he was still selected for the World Cup team along with Harvey, Cousins, McGrath and Mark Donahoo (who had not contested the trial).

| 1995 World Cup 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sunday 18 th Dec 1994 | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:02:17 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 4:12:37 |
| 3. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 4:16:53 |
| 4. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 4:25:56 |
| - | Mark Thomas | VIC | DQ |
| - | Mark Dossetor | ACT | DNF |
| - | Shane Pearson | QLD | DNF |
| - | Duncan Knox | VIC | DNF |
| - | Ian Waters | VIC | DNF |
| - | Frank Bertei | VIC | DNF |
| - | Brian Trower | VIC | DNF |
| - | Dariusz Wojcik | VIC | DNF |

1995

IAAF World Cup Trials New Parliament House, Canberra, Sunday 29th January 1995

The 1995 IAAF Race Walking World Cup 20km and 10km trials were contested on a course around the new Parliament House in Canberra on Sunday 29th January, with a 7AM start for the men and an 8AM start for the women to beat the summer heat. Qualifying standards of 1:28:00 and 48:00 had been set by Athletics Australia.

Peter Waddell reported in his Race Walkers Newsletter that the drought broke the day before the trials and some officials were concerned whether the flooded road would be suitable for the races. But the Sunday morning was perfect, with a cool day, and the Mundaring Drive course at Kingston was excellent.

New Zealander **Scott Nelson** and Canadian **Tim Berrett** took the first two places in the men's 20km trial, with **Mark Donahoo** leading the Australians home in third place, although his time of 1:30:22 was well outside the 1:28:00 standard.

| World Cup Trial 20km Men, Canberra, Sunday 29 th Jan 1995 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Scott Nelson | NZL | 1:25:07 |
| 2. | Tim Berrett | CAN | 1:29:36 |
| 3. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:30:22 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 4. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:30:43 |
| 5. | Ian Waters | VIC | 1:30:54 |
| 6. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1:31:04 |
| 7. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 1:33:31 |
| 8. | Mark Dossetor | ACT | 1:35:34 |
| 9. | Darren Bown | SA | 1:36:35 |
| 10. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:38:36 |
| 11. | Ignatio Jimenez | QLD | 1:41:54 |
| 12. | Graham Watt | VIC | 1:47:52 |
| 13. | Caleb Maybir | FIJ | ? |
| - | Dan Andrikis | ACT | DNF |
| - | David Smith | QLD | DNF |

If the men's trial had been lacklustre, the women's was impressive, with the first 5 all under the 48:00 qualifying standard, including 19 year old Canberra walker **Jo Strangman**, fifth in 47:28. Sadly, while the first 4 all made the World Cup team, Strangman missed out to 7th placed finished **Jane Barbour** of SA. I am not sure what happened there. Of course, **Kerry Saxby-Junna** won!

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| World Cup Trial 10km Women, Canberra, Sun 29th Jan 1995 | | | |
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | NSW | 44:09 |
| 2. | Anne Manning | NSW | 45:50 |
| 3. | Thesese Letherby | QLD | 47:15 |
| 4. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | 47:25 |
| 5. | Jo Strangman | ACT | 47:28 |
| 6. | Alison Baker | CAN | 48:04 |
| 7. | Jane Barbour | SA | 48:13 |
| 8. | Linda Coffee | NSW | 48:17 |
| 9. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | 48:21 |
| 10. | Jane Saville | NSW | 48:44 |
| 11. | Alanna Rogers | TAS | 51:43 |

Australian Track & Field Championships 1994-95 **Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, Sydney, NSW, 2-5 March 1995**

Nick A'Hern won his fourth National Track title (after wins in 1991, 1993 and 1994). He was the only walker to better 20 minutes, with **Dion Russell** 20:07:28 and **Brent Vallance** 20:40:45 taking the minor medals.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|----------|
| Aust 5000m Track Walk, Sydney, Friday 3rd March 1995 | | | |
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 19:36.72 |
| 2. | Dion Russell | VIC | 20:07.28 |
| 3. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 20:40.45 |
| 4. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 21:21.72 |
| 5. | Dan Andrikis | ACT | 21:29.05 |
| 6. | Damien O'Mara | NSW | 22:02.36 |
| 7. | Simon Robards | NSW | 22:32.97 |
| 8. | Luke Collis | NSW | 22:39.26 |
| 9. | Ross Reid | VIC | 23:10.88 |
| 10. | Peter Blood | VIC | 23:13.41 |
| 11. | Mark Coleman | VIC | 23:46.28 |

Australian 20km Championship **Bruce Stadium, AIS, Canberra, Saturday 18th March 1995**

The Australian men's 20km championship, the women's 10km championship and the U20 10km championships were held in Canberra on Saturday 18th March, 2 weeks after the National T&F Championships. The meet ended up with its share of controversy, with Athletics Australia insisting on holding the walks on the AIS/Bruce Stadium course even though the Brisbane Raiders Rugby Team were listed to play that night. Nine days before the races, AA changed the start time from 2:45PM to 8AM (for men) and 9AM (for women), but forgot to tell their chief judge Jill Huxley, who arrived from Bellina at 12 noon! The ACT Walkers Club had suggested the Mandaring Drive course but their suggestion had fallen on deaf ears.

The races started and finished at the AIS track, with walkers doing laps around the outside of the old Bruce Stadium. **Nick A'Hern** was untroubled in retaining his Australian 20km title. After covering the first half in 41:08, he cleared away to win as he liked with 1:22:35. National 50km champion **Michael Harvey** was second with 1:27:05, ahead of **Dion Russell** with 1:27:19.

| Australian 20km Men, Canberra, Sunday 18th March 1995 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 1:22:35 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:27:05 |
| 3. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:27:19 |
| 4. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:30:59 |
| 5. | Ian Waters | VIC | 1:32:03 |
| 6. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:34:10 |
| 7. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 1:34:28 |
| 8. | Dan Andrikis | ACT | 1:42:19 |
| 9. | Peter Bennett | QLD | 1:43:48 |
| 10. | John Stenhoue | ACT | 1:44:35 |
| 11. | John Leydon | NSW | 1:48:11 |
| 12. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 1:51:53 |
| 13. | Michael Grogan | NSW | 1:54:23 |
| 14. | John Griggs | ACT | 1:55:50 |
| 15. | John Smith | NSW | 1:56:42 |
| 16. | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 2:01:15 |
| 17. | Justin Carter | NSW | 2:06:15 |
| - | Mark Donahoo | VIC | DNF |
| - | Brent Vallance | NSW | DNF |

Kerry Saxby-Junna won her seventh 10km Australian title and her 23rd Australian title with a time of 44:53. She was in stunning form, leading from the start and crossing the finish line over 2 minutes ahead of **Terese Letherby** and **Anne Manning**.

| Australian 10km Women, Canberra, Sun 18th March 1995 | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | NSW | 44:53 |
| 2. | Terese Letherby | QLD | 47:08 |
| 3. | Anne Manning | NSW | 47:19 |
| 4. | Gabrielle Blythe | VIC | 47:40 |
| 5. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | 47:50 |
| 6. | Jane Barbour | SA | 48:26 |
| 7. | Jo Strangman | ACT | 49:08 |
| 8. | Alison Baker | CAN | 49:45 |
| 9. | Cheryl Webb | NSW | 52:05 |
| 10. | Jenny Crooks | SA | 50:05 |
| 11. | Sandra Cramer | SA | 55:18 |
| 12. | Nicole Mitchell | NSW | 1:02:10 |

17th IAAF Race Walking World Cup Beijing, China, 29/30 April 1995

The 1995 IAAF Race Walking World Cup, held in Beijing in late April, was the usual high quality meet, with 36 countries participating in the teams competitions. All 3 races saw big fields: 124 in the men's 20km, 102 in the men's 50km and 104 in the women's 10km.

Nick A'Hern walked excellently to take 15th place in the men's 20km with a time of 1:23:05. **Dion Russell**, the current Australian junior champion, was 53rd with 1:28:45, while **Brent Vallance** finished 81st with 1:34:44 in his first international race.

| World Cup 20km Men, Beijing, Saturday 29th August 1995 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 15. | Nicholas A'Hern | AUS | 1:23:05 |
| 53. | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:28:25 |
| 81. | Brent Vallance | AUS | 1:34:44 |

Kerry Saxby-Junna produced her fastest 10km walk time for some years, her time of 42:58 giving her fifth spot overall in the World Cup women's 10km. Only 36 secs separated the first 5 women, with the race won by China's Hongmiao Gau (42:19). With strong finishers by the other four girls, the Australian women's team finished 5th overall, an excellent performance.

| World Cup 20km Women, Beijing, Saturday 29th August 1995 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 5. | Kerry Saxby | AUS | 42:58 |
| 24. | Anne Manning | AUS | 45:26 |
| 40. | Teresa Letherby | AUS | 46:23 |
| 53. | Wendy Muldoon | AUS | 47:56 |
| 54. | Jane Barbour | AUS | 47:58 |

Michael Harvey confirmed his spot as our best 50km walker, finishing in 41st place with 4:05:58. This was his 8th World Cup appearance and he was walking as well as ever. While **Mark Donahoo** was forced to retire from the race, the other 3 walkers all finished mid field. Overall, the men's team finished 15th, with points accumulated from both the 20km and the 50km races.

| World Cup 50km Men, Beijing, Sunday 30th August 1995 | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 41. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:05:58 |
| 68. | Mark Thomas | AUS | 4:22:38 |
| 73. | Duane Cousins | AUS | 4:31:29 |
| 77. | Dominic McGrath | AUS | 4:36:29 |
| - | Mark Donahoo | AUS | DNF |

29th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1995

The carnival showed no signs of losing its popularity and once again total entries ran at around the 300 mark. Barwon Walkers Club (based in Geelong) joined the Federation as a second Victorian club. Proclamation Park seemed to have run its course and had effectively ceased to exist after only a few years of activity.

Finally a New Zealander took the race honours in the 20 Mile event as 1992 Olympian **Scott Nelson** held off 21 year old Victorian **Duane Cousins** for a popular win. Later that year, Duane would catapult to national attention with a fantastic 50km time of 3:54:38. This Canberra walk was an indication of things to come. Another new face in the LBG field was **Brent Vallance** who finished a fine fourth behind the ever consistent **Michael Harvey**.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1995 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|
| 1. | Scott Nelson | NZL | 2:28:45 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | VRWC | 2:29:29 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VRWC | 2:36:41 |
| 4. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 2:38:47 |
| 5. | Mark Thomas | VRWC | 2:39:53 |
| 6. | Dominic McGrath | VRWC | 2:42:36 |
| 7. | Shane Pearson | QRWC | 2:46:00 |
| 8. | Ignacio Jiminez | QRWC | 2:48:48 |
| 9. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 2:49:21 |
| 10. | Frank Bertei | VRWC | 2:49:26 |
| 11. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:52:50 |
| 12. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:54:21 |
| 13. | Richard Illingworth | VRWC | 2:59:15 |
| 14. | John Stenhouse | ACT | 3:01:18 |
| 15. | Peter Vysma | VRWC | 3:03:08 |
| 16. | Mark Coleman | BARWON | 3:03:40 |
| 17. | Darren Bown | SA | 3:05:45 |
| 18. | Keith Law | NSW | 3:06:30 |
| 19. | Simon Robards | NSW | 3:08:18 |
| 20. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:08:39 |
| 21. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:17:43 |
| 22. | John Griggs | ACT | 3:20:01 |
| 23. | Harry Summers | VRWC | 3:22:38 |
| 24. | Brian Murphy | SA | 3:29:17 |

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|---------|
| 25. | Hugh Geyteman | NSW | 3:32:56 |
| 26. | Ron Hall | NSW | 3:38:14 |
| 27. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:44:02 |
| 28. | Caleb Maybir | QRWC | 3:46:35 |
| 29. | Albert Cuschieri | NSW | 3:50:35 |

Teams

| | | |
|----|-------|-----------|
| 1. | VRWC1 | 60 points |
| 2. | QRWC | 47 points |
| 3. | NSW1 | 40 points |
| 4. | VRWC2 | 37 points |
| 5. | ACT | 22 points |
| 6. | SA | 14 points |
| 7. | NSW2 | 12 points |

**5th IAAF World Championships
Göteborg, Sweden, 4-13 August 1995**

Four Australian walkers did well enough in the IAAF World Cup in April to be selected for the 1995 IAAF World T&F Championships. This had now grown into a huge event, with this edition featuring 1804 athletes from 191 countries. Australian walk performances were solid, with all four athletes equiting themselves well. As expected, **Kerry Saxby-Junna** finished the best with 9th in the women's 10km but **Nick A'Hern** also continued his rise with 11th in the men's 20km.

IAAF World Champs 20km Men, Sweden, August 1995

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 11. | Nicholas A'Hern | AUS | 1:23:45 |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|

IAAF World Champs 50km Men, Sweden, August 1995

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|---------|
| 26. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:16:41 |
|-----|----------------|-----|---------|

IAAF World Champs 10km Women, Sweden, August 1995

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 9. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 43:06 |
| 34. | Anne Manning | AUS | 46:04 |

**18th World Student Games (Summer Universiade)
Fukuoka, Japan, 29 August - 3 September 1995**

ACT youngster **Jo Strangman** had some consolation after missing out on a World Cup spot, being selected to represent Australia in the 1995 World Student Games. **Dion Russell** was also selected and both did well, Dion finishing 9th and Jo 14th.

World Student Games 20km Men, Japan, Sept 1995

| | | | |
|----|--------------|-----|---------|
| 9. | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:27:21 |
|----|--------------|-----|---------|

World Student Games 20km Women, Japan, Sept 1995

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|-------|
| 14. | Josephine Strangman | AUS | 48:59 |
|-----|---------------------|-----|-------|

**1995 Australian 50km Championship
Adelaide, Sunday 11th September 1995**

22 year old **Duane Cousins** capped off a great year with victory in the 1995 Australian 50km championship in Adelaide, clearing away from Michael Harvey in the second half to win with 4:15:14.

Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 11th Sep 1995

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 4:15:14 |
| 2. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 4:34:03 |
| 3. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:35:45 |
| 4. | Ignacio Jimenez | QLD | 4:40:36 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 5 | Peter Bennett | QLD | 4:42:47 |
| 6 | Keith Knox | NSW | 4:43:21 |
| 7 | Mark Coleman | VIC | 5:01:26 |
| 8 | Steel Beveridge | NSW | 5:56:19 |
| - | Michael Harvey | VIC | DNF |

The 1995 year finished with one final performance of note, when **Duane Cousins** won the VRWC 50km Championship on Sunday 17th December 1995, his time an astonishing 3:54:38. This ranked him number 1 Australian and 3rd in the Commonwealth. Duane had seemingly come from nowhere to produce a world ranking 50km performance. 1995 had certainly been a breakthrough year. He was immediately offered an AIS scholarship and relocated to Canberra in early 1996. He continued on his merry way with further great performances in 1996, winning the Victorian 50km championship in Melbourne in 3:56:17 (this was the Olympic trial so gained him an Olympic berth) and repeating his 2nd place in the Canberra 20 Mile with an improved 2:24:24. But more of that below.

1996

One race of note to start the 1996 year. At the Sydney Grand Prix track meet in early February, **Kerry Saxby-Junna** won the women's 5000m walk in a new World Record of 20:03 in front of a huge home crowd.

1996 Australian Roadwalk Championships and Olympic Walk Trials Sydney, Thursday 7th March 1996

The 1996 Australian Men's 20km and Women's 10km Olympic walk trials were contested in conjunction with the Australian T&F Championships in Sydney and were granted official Australian Championship status. Both walks were held on the morning of Thursday 7th March 1996.

The Australian 20km Walk title went to **Nick A'Hern** (no surprises there) with 1:23:55, ahead of **Dion Russell** who was just outside the Olympic standard of 1:24:00 with his time of 1:24:18. Young **Brent Vallance** did a huge PB to take third place with 1:26:50, ahead of New Zealander **Scott Nelson**, with 1:27:48.

| 1996 Olympic Trial 20km Men, Sydney, Thurs 7th March 1996 | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 1:23:55 |
| 2. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:24:18 |
| 3. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1:26:50 |
| 4. | Scott Nelson | NZL | 1:27:48 |
| 5. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:28:05 |
| 6. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:32:20 |
| 7. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:34:37 |
| 8. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:36:26 |
| 9. | Noel Wooler | QLD | 1:37:19 |
| 10. | Mark Coleman | VIC | 1:44:11 |
| 11. | John Leydon | NSW | 1:44:35 |
| 12. | Peter Bennett | QLD | 1:44:38 |
| 13. | John Stenhouse | ACT | 1:48:59 |
| 14. | Bob Chapman | ACT | 1:50:09 |
| 15. | Damien O'Mara | NSW | 1:51:58 |
| 16. | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 2:01:15 |
| 17. | Justin Carter | NSW | 2:01:02 |
| - | Robin Whyte | ACT | DQ |

Kerry Saxby-Junna had been copping a bit of flack from the local Australia newspaper press with photos of her off the ground in her recent world record breaking 5000m walks in Hobart and Sydney, but she did not let it get to her, walking her own race and winning the Australian Championship and Olympic trial with 42:39. **Anne Manning**, in second place, was also under the Australian Olympic qualifying time with 45:37, ahead of **Jane Saville** with 46:24.

| 1996 Olympic Trial 10km Women, Sydney, Thu 7th March 1996 | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | NSW | 42:39 |
| 2. | Anne Manning | NSW | 45:37 |
| 3. | Jane Saville | NSW | 46:19 |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|-------|
| 4. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | 46:24 |
| 5. | Jill Barrett-Maybir | QLD | 46:28 |
| 6. | Jane Barbour | SA | 46:48 |
| 7. | Therese Letherby | QLD | 47:21 |
| 8. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | 48:18 |
| 9. | Justine tonti-Filipine | WA | 51:03 |
| - | Gabrielle Blythe | VIC | DNF |
| - | Alison Baker | CAn | DNF |

For their efforts, A'Hern, Saxby-Junna and Manning were all named in the Olympic team.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1995-96 Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, Sydney, NSW, 7 - 10 March 1996

Two days later, the walkers were back in action in the Australian T%F 5000m walk championship, with **Nick A'Hern** winning the title for the fifth time, but having to work hard to beat second placed **Brent Vallance**, 19:23:18 to 19:30.63.

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 19:23.18 |
| 2. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 19:30.63 |
| 3. | Scott Nelson | NZL | 19:42.28 |
| 4. | Dion Russell | VIC | 20:04.76 |
| 5. | Simon Robards | NSW | 21:29.11 |
| 6. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 21:32.67 |
| 7. | Peter Blood | VIC | 21:32.74 |
| 8. | Mark Coleman | VIC | 21:57.29 |
| 9. | Andrew Bradley | NT | 24:08.25 |
| - | Luke Collis | NSW | DNF |
| - | Damien O'Mara | NSW | DQ |
| - | Noel Wooler | QLD | DQ |
| - | David Smith | QLD | DQ |

1996 Olympic 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sunday 31st March 1996

The Olympic 50km trial was held in conjunction with the 1996 Victorian 50km Championship in Melbourne in late March. The Australian qualifying standard was set at 4 hours and the first two finishers bettered it – **Simon Baker** first with 3:55:46 and **Duane Cousins** second with 3:56:21. This cemented a spot for Baker in his fourth Olympics. Cousins also secured his team spot, compliments of his fourth 50km in 11 months. He recorded 4:31:06 at the 1995 World Cup, recorded 4:15:14 in the 1995 Australian 50km and did a brilliant 3:54:38 in winning the Victorian 50km in December. As an interesting aside, Baker was coaching Cousins at the time so it was a case of coach vs athlete!

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Simon Baker | VIC | 3:55:46 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 3:56:21 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:05:41 |
| 4. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 4:06:29 |
| 5. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:13:24 |
| 6. | Frank Bertei | VIC | 4:30:39 |

30th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 9th June 1996

For the second year in a row, a New Zealander took the race but this year it was **Craig Barrett**. His time was second only to the great Willi Sawall and he was some 3 minutes clear of **Duane Cousins** whose time of 2:24:39 was a 5 minute PB. This race saw a large number of high profile retirements – **Nick A'Hern**, **Brent Vallance**, **Darren Bown** and a much older **Willi Sawall**, now making an appearance for Barwon Walkers. The day was very very cold - -6°C in the morning and still below zero as the race started.

The DNF of Nick A'Hern has a story behind it. The race was actually a pre-departure trial and the 20km mark had been measured on the course. Nick recorded around 1:23:00 and then retired. His 10 mile split was almost certainly the fastest ever recorded. He was in great form, as we were soon to see at the Olympics.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 9th June 1996 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Craig Barrett | NZ | 2:21:22 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | VRWC | 2:24:39 |
| 3. | Simon Baker | VRWC | 2:31:10 |
| 4. | Shane Pearson | QRWC | 2:32:34 |
| 5. | Dominic McGrath | VRWC | 2:33:27 |
| 6. | Noel Wooler | QRWC | 2:46:38 |
| 7. | Mark Donahoo | VRWC | 2:48:01 |
| 8. | John Stenhouse | ACT | 2:51:08 |
| 9. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:51:42 |
| 10. | Keith Knox | REGAL | 2:53:42 |
| 11. | Mark Coleman | BARWON | 2:57:46 |
| 12. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 3:02:48 |
| 13. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:25:46 |
| 14. | John Griggs | ACT | 3:44:19 |
| 15. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:50:33 |
| - | Simon Robards | REGAL | DNF |
| - | Willi Sawall | BARWON | DNF |
| - | David Bryson | SA | DNF |
| - | Nick A'Hern | REGAL | DNF |
| - | Darren Bown | SA | DNF |
| - | Brent Vallance | REGAL | DNF |
| - | Peter Vysma | VRWC | DQ |
| Teams | 1. VRWC | 2. QRWC | 3. ACT |

Games of the XXVI Olympiad Atlanta, USA, 19th July - 4th August 1996

Australia was building up for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and a huge team of athletes and officials was assembled and sent to Atlanta. Seven Australian walkers were selected - the most ever. The trials had produced 5 names - **Nick A'Hern, Kerry Saxby-Junna, Anne Manning, Simon Baker** and **Duane Cousins**. **Dion Russell** and **Jane Saville** had been added to the team after some great performances in Europe.

Leading the walking team was Simon Baker who at 38 years of age, was competing at his fourth Olympics. Alongside Simon was Kerry Saxby-Junna who, although in only her second Olympics, was just as experienced and just as well known on the world scene.

Nick A'Hern had assumed the mantle of our top male walker and he was contesting his second Olympics. Anne Manning, Jane Saville, Dion Russell and Duane Cousins were all first time Olympians. For the first time, the Victorian stranglehold on walking looked broken. Of the 7 walkers, 4 were from NSW and only 3 were from Victoria.

Of the 3 walking events on offer, the men's 20km was the event which promised the most. Chinese walker Bo Linglang had set a new 20km World Record with a time of 1:18:04 in Beijing in April 1994, an indication of the rapidly improving Chinese mens team. Then Bernardo Segura of Mexico had lowered the mark to 1:17:25.6 in the Bergen Walking Festival in Norway a month later. New walkers were popping up everywhere in an ever widening arc of excellence. Massana of Italy won the 1993 World Championships, edging out De Benedictis of Italy and Plaza of Spain. Mexico won the 1993 World Cup Teams competition with great performances from Garcia, Cruz, Mercenario and Sanchez. Segura and Garcia of Mexico edged out Perez of Equador in the 1994 Pan American Cup. Didoni of Italy won the 1995 World Championships ahead of Massana. Mexico again won the overall teams competition in the 1995 World Cup with Segura third behind Zewen of China and Schennikov of Russia. And finally in the 1995 Pan American Games, Perez had beaten Garcia to claim his first international victory. Overall, any of a dozen walkers could win.

In one of the most exciting Olympic walks yet held, the lead group sped through the kilometres, with little separating them. Perez, who had failed to finish in the 1992 Olympics, made no mistakes this time, finding the necessary strength to make the decisive break and becoming a national hero in Equador by winning their first ever Olympic Gold. He con-

tinued on to win the 1997 Racewalking World Cup and was 2nd in the 1999 World Championships, showing that this win was no fluke. A new champion had been born.

Nick A'Hern produced the walk of his life to take fourth, only 8 seconds outside the medals. It was the highest place finish since Noel Freeman in 1964 and was definitely Nick's best ever international result. **Dion Russell** came 47th in 1:30:04 but was only 21 years of age and would come back much stronger in four years time.

| Olympic 20km Walk Men, Atlanta, Friday 26th July 1996 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Jefferson Perez | ECU | 1:20:07 |
| 2. | Ilya Markov | RUS | 1:20:16 |
| 3. | Bernardo Segura | MEX | 1:20:23 |
| 4. | Nick A'Hern | AUS | 1:20:31 |
| | ... | | |
| 47 | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:30:04 |

The women's 10km saw all 3 Australians do well. **Kerry Saxby-Junna** was the best, with a 12th placed 43:49 (not bad at 36 years of age), **Anne Manning** was 19th with 45:27 and **Jane Saville** was 26th with 45:56.

| Olympic 20km Walk Women, Atlanta, Monday 29th July 1996 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Yelena Nikolayeva | RUS | 41:49 |
| 2. | Elisabetta Perrone | ITA | 42:12 |
| 3. | Wang Yan | CHN | 42:19 |
| | ... | | |
| 12. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 43:59 |
| 19. | Anne Manning | AUS | 45:27 |
| 26. | Jane Saville | AUS | 45:56 |

The men's 50km was a disaster for Australia. **Duane Cousins** was directed back into the stadium one lap too early, finishing in 4:06 but then being told he was 2km short. His finish was amended to DNF with an *. He had argued with the officials at the time but they insisted he had done the full number of laps and had to now return to the stadium. He subsequently received an official letter of apology from the IOC but it probably felt like a hollow gesture. Then to cap things off, **Simon Baker** was disqualified at the 36km mark.

| Olympic 50km Walk Men, Atlanta, Friday 2nd August 1996 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. | Robert Korzeniowski | POL | 3:43:30 |
| 2. | Mikhail Shchennikov | RUS | 3:43:46 |
| 3. | Valentí Massana | ESP | 3:44:19 |
| | --- | | |
| - | Duane Cousins | AUS | DNF |
| - | Simon Baker | AUS | DQ |

Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 20km Walk Chipping Norton, Sydney, Sunday 3rd August 1996

With all the top walkers at the Olympics, the Glover Shield 20km was up for grabs, with the win going to NSW youngster **Luke Adams**, with 1:37:53. At the other end of the age spectrum, second place went to NSW veteran **Keith Knox**, with the other Knox (**Duncan Knox** of Victoria) taking third.

| Glover Shield 20km, Sydney, Sunday 3rd August 1996 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1 | Luke Adams | NSW | 1.37.53 |
| 2 | Keith Knox | NSW | 1.43.29 |
| 3 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1.45.12 |
| 4 | John Stenhouse | ACT | 1.46.33 |
| 5 | John Griggs | ACT | 2.03.10 |
| 6 | Mark Ransome | | 2.06.20 |
| 7 | Robin Whyte | ACT | DQ |
| 8 | Ron Hall | NSW | DQ |
| 9 | Andrew Mitchell | NSW | DNF |
| 10 | Luke Collis | | DNF |
| 11 | Damian O'Mara | NSW | DNF |
| 12 | Mark Donahoo | VIC | DNF |

Australian 50km Championship
Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 1st September 1996

The Australian Roadwalk Championships were held in Melbourne on Sunday 1st September, with the 50km the main event for the senior men. **Michael Harvey** had chased **Shane Pearson** early, but had then cleared away in the second half to win his fifth national title with a time of 4:11:35. 55 year old **Willi Sawall** defied the years, taking second with 4:30:57, while Shane Pearson endured a horror second half before taking third place with 4:34:25. Sawall's status was changed to DQ, when he was retrospectively ruled ineligible for three months arising out of a positive test for a stimulant recorded at these championships.

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:11:35 |
| 2. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:34:25 |
| - | Peter Blood | VIC | DNF |
| - | Willi Sawall | VIC | DQ |

1997 IAAF Race Walking World Cup 50 km Trial
Melbourne Sunday 15th December 1996

Conditions were dreadful for the 1997 World Cup 50km trial, held in Melbourne on Sunday 15th December 1996. The temperature rose to 30°C as the race progressed and winner **Dominic McGrath**'s winning time of 4:16:34 was good in the stifling conditions. **Michael Harvey** was just over a minute behind with 4:17:41, while **Shane Pearson** took third with 4:19:21. **Mark Thomas**, who was fourth with 4:23:01, was probably going to be in line for a World Cup spot as well, but fifth placed **Ian Waters** was perhaps too far back to be in contention. Duane Cousins, the main Olympic 50km contender, opted to bypass the 50km trial and concentrate on the 20km event instead.

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 4:16:05 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:17:41 |
| 3. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:19:21 |
| 4. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 4:23:01 |
| 5. | Ian Waters | VIC | 4:27:26 |

The final significant event for 1996 was the retirement of Simon Baker. Simon had been at the AIS since 1985 and was now calling it quits after 4 Olympic Games and 3 Commonwealth Games, and with Commonwealth Games and World Cup golds to his credit. He now moved back to Melbourne to start his post-athletics career.