

VALE BEV HAYMAN (NEE WILKINS): 1951 - 2020

Sad news this week with the passing of former Australian international walker **Bev Hayman (nee Wilkins)**. Born 9th May 1961, Bev has died aged 59 years.

She was a child prodigy, winning the 1972 Australian Junior 3km Walk at 11 years of age. That same year, she finished third in the Australian Open 5km Walk, held in Melbourne. The photo below shows Bev in that Open 5km race – her diminutive size belied her racing prowess.

1972 Aust. Junior Walking	3 km Walk	1	15:15.2
1972 Aust. Walking	5 km Walk	3	28:08.2



1972 Australian 5km Roadwalk Championship: J Tully, Lillian Harpur, Bev Wilkins, Jenny Mills, Gay Wooley and Alison Nicholls

From then on, she was rarely out of the medals nationally, as she progressed through the junior ranks.

1972-73 Aust. Junior T & F	1,500 metres Walk	1	7:15.8
1972-73 Aust. T & F	3,000 metres Walk	3	15:24.4
1973 Aust. Junior Walking	3 km Walk	1	14:09.0
1973 Aust. Walking	5 km Walk	3	25:42.0
1973-74 Aust. Junior T & F	1,500 metres Walk	2	7:13.3
1973-74 Aust. T & F	3,000 metres Walk	3	15:41.6
1974 Aust. Junior Walking	3 km Walk	2	15:10.0
1974 Aust. Walking	5 km Walk	2	26:42.6
1974-75 Aust. Junior T & F	1,500 metres Walk	1	7:08.2
1974-75 Aust. T & F	3,000 metres Walk	2	15:23.8
1975 Aust. Junior Walking	3 km Walk	1	15:23.4
1975 Aust. Walking	5 km Walk	2	27:19.2

She retired at the end of 1975, and it was another 10 years before she returned, aged 24. She quickly reasserted her place at the top of the Australian ranking lists, adjusting to the longer distances now in vogue, and honing her skills as a 10km and 20km walker.

1985-86 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	2	22:42.8
1986 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	3	48:16.0
1987 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	2	49:49.0
	20 km Walk	2	1:41:22.0
1987-88 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	2	23:36.5
1988 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	3	49:28.0
	20 km Walk	1	1:43:35.0
1988-89 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	3	23:22.4

After 3 years she was rewarded with a berth in the 1989 World Indoor Champs. She then went on to represent Australia in the 1989 Race Walking World Cup and the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

1989 World Indoor	3,000 metres Walk	12	13:06.6
1989 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	55	49:31.0

1990 Commonwealth Games 10 km Walk 6 48:50.0

We remember a fine athlete who did herself proud as one of our best female walkers.

Tim Erickson
Monday 10th August 2020