

Anne Miller

1982	IWF Championship for Women	Bergen	5 km	21 st	26:10
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Anne Miller was one of a walking family along with her mother Shiela and her younger sister Sarah. She started walking in Little Athletics when she was 9, with immediate success.

But what really made people sit up and take notice was her Under 15 1500m time of **6:32.6** set on 5 February 1978 at the Aberfeldie track in Melbourne. This in fact set new Victorian and Australian Under 15 and Under 16 records. The Victorian records still stand today, some 24 years later. These are the oldest Victorian walking records in the book and indicate the outstanding talent of this Knox Sherbrooke walker.



Anne Miller walking in the 1982 IAAF 5 km walk in Bergen.

But she was unfortunate to be in the same age group as Sally Pierson who was even more of a walking prodigy. A week after Anne set her 1500m records, Sally set new Victorian and Australian Under 15 and Under 16 3000m records of 14:13.2 (11 February 1978, also at the Aberfeldie track). From then on, Anne was in Sally's shadow and it was Sally who broke the subsequent records as they progressed through the age groups towards Open competition.

Anne did bounce back to win the 1979 Australian Schools Under 17 1500m title in **6:56** and was named along with NSW walker Mike Woods in the Australian Schools Team. Anne then inflicted a rare defeat on Sally Pierson to win the 1980 National Junior Track title in **14:21**. But Sally bounced back quickly and Anne was relegated to 2nd in the subsequent National Junior road title in **14:26**.

Anne and Sue Cook were the inaugural walkers who took up AIS scholarships when the Australian Institute of Sport was opened in 1981.

She was selected along with Sue Cook and Lorraine Young to represent Australia at the IWF World Walking Championship for Women in Bergen in Norway. In this race she came a promising 21st in **26:10**.

Unfortunately there were no further real highlights in Anne's brief career. She was 5th in the 1983 National track title in **25:24** but was really unable to really make a successful transition from being a top junior to being a competitive senior. She had a series of injuries that set her back and after spending about 2 years in Canberra, she handed back her AIS scholarship in 1983 and retired.