



HEEL & TOE Online

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The official organ of the Victorian Race Walking Club, Inc.

Editor: *Stu Cooper* stuwalks@yahoo.com.au



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Address: 598 High St, East Kew 3102 (Melways 45 G4)
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*H&T Notice Board – Page 15

- **Volunteers for LBG needed – also Volunteer Coordinator**
- **2026 Race Season summary**
- **Membership, Uniform & Race fees**
- **** VACANCY – Club Treasurer** (NOTE – The role does not require weekly attendance on Club race days, as most of the work is done online.

If you are interested but would like more information, Karyn O'Neill will be happy to advise you and, if you accept, help you settle into the job.)

WALKER OF THE WEEK



(Photo montages: AA)

No need to look far for this week's WOTW candidates. The *Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships*, just concluded in Brasilia, saw the Aussies step up in no uncertain fashion, reaping a medal harvest of one silver and two bronze medals, a top 5 and four other top 15 finishes (11th, 12th, 12th and 14th). Furthermore, by my count (and it's only a short one), Brasilia marks the third successive WA Teams championships in which Australia has had at least one podium appearance (the U20 women doing it in Muscat 2022 and the U20 men in Antalya 2024).

Isaac Beacroft (NSW) gave it everything he had in defence of his World U20 10km title, sharing the lead until 5km with Chinese powerhouse Pu Huajia before the latter got a break and scorched away to win, Isaac taking silver in **40:47**. **Owen Toyne (ACT)**, in his first international race, achieved a wonderful 12th in **42:24** to assure the Aussies the U20 team bronze.

Our best senior result came from **Bec Henderson (VIC)**, nailing her highest-ever placing in a major international with 5th in the Half-Marathon, clocking **1:37:05**. Next Aussie home was **Lizzy McMillen (NSW)**, who challenged the leaders and was 4th at one point before eventually finishing 11th in **1:38:29**. The team placing – bronze again – was settled by **Olivia Sandery (SA)** whose 14th place in **1:39:50** underlined the Australian women's class with only 5 points separating them from gold medalists Ukraine.

Congratulations, everyone! Through your efforts, the rest of the walking world knows (if they needed reminding) not to take the green and gold lightly.

*Honourable mentions

- **Allanah Pitcher (NSW)** – in her final international race, Allanah clocked **1:49:28** for a hard-earned 47th place in the Half-marathon, taking home her share of the bronze team winnings.
- They came so near, just 4 points away from the H-M team podium! **Will Thompson (VIC – 12th in 1:29:42)**, **Tim Fraser (ACT – 21st in 1:30:37)**, **Rhydian Cowley (VIC – 22nd in 1:31:09)**, **Declan Tingay (VIC – 27th in 1:31:56)** and **Kyle Swan (VIC – 54th in 1:40:49)** virtually brushed that team medal with their fingertips before China snatched it away. If it's any consolation, there were ten teams behind them who got nowhere near that close.
- **John Ronan (WA)** – another Aussie team debutant, John was unfortunate in receiving an unwelcome invitation to the cone castle followed by a fourth red. He will be aware, however, that other representative newcomers have suffered similar fates yet gone on to achieve success in later international campaigns. And he does get to take home a team bronze as a member of the U20 team.
- **Zoe Woods, Sophie Polkinghorne and Matilda Webb (NSW)** – conditions were brutal by the time the U20 women started their 10km race, and it showed in the times. Our girls, however, were competitive, and their placings (Zoe 22nd in **51:10**; Sophie 24th in **51:30**; Matilda 31st in **52:57**) were creditable returns at this stage of experience building.
- **Mitchell Baker (ACT)** and **Carl Gibbons (NSW)** – our only Marathon campaigners, Mitch (23rd in **3:17:06**) was a mere 6mins away from a top 10 placing, while Carl (34th in **3:22:53**) had what was probably his best international result to date.
- **Taylor Chapman (QLD, 12yo)**, **Nate Appleyard (NSW, 12yo)**, **LilyEve Everson (NSW, 11yo)** and **Oliver Crowl (VIC, 11yo)** – all set new championship records in winning gold at the Coles LAA T&F championships in Brisbane.



CLUB NEWS and RESULTS

***HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR 2026 YET?**

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/vrwc/registration>

***ADVANCE NOTICE ... AV 10,000m Track walk championship**

A reminder to all members that our Winter season opener takes place on **Saturday 25 April**, at Mentone track. The main events are the **AV 10,000m Male and Female Open Track championship**, with the male winner receiving the Bert Gardiner Medal.

Entries for this championship must be lodged through Athletics Victoria at <https://members.athsvic.org.au/events/353478>, by no later than **11.59am** on **Thursday 23 April**. This event is open only to current members of AV clubs.

Entry details for the associated VRWC Club championship races will be posted in the next issue.



- On Monday, the **Coles Little Athletics Australia T&F Championships** in Brisbane saw several of our young members and their fellow Vics compete as part of the LAVic squad. Conditions were warm with the thermometer climbing during the morning, yet most of our squad recorded PB times.
Well done to all our walkers who wore the big 'V' with pride against pretty tough opposition: **Oliver** (1st, U12 C'ship record), **Alaska** (2nd, U12), **Georgia** (4th, U12), **Logan** (4th, U12), **Ella** (4th, U13), **Cooper** (4th, U13), **Indigo** (6th, U13), **Ardan** (8th, U12), **Brodie** (8th, U13), **Charlie** (9th, U13), **Pippa** (11th, U13) and **Anna** (12th, U12).

See the full results (with PBs) on page 4.

A replay of the Monday action (containing all the walks) can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/nSwuOpz4eag>. Action starts with the U13 girls at 59:00.

- And a huge round of applause for our VRWC members who competed in the Half-marathon at the World Team Race Walking Championships in Brazil. In gruelling heat, **Bec Henderson** (5th), **Will Thompson** (12th), **Rhydian Cowley** (22nd), **Dec Tingay** (27th) and **Kyle Swan** (54th) found their stamina tested to the max yet prevailed over many of their rivals. A special nod to **Bec** on achieving her first top 5 finish in a major international, and to **Declan** who was up with the leaders in the first 10km. Now for Glasgow ...



AROUND THE COUNTRY

AUSTRALIA MEDAL RUSH AT THE WORLD ATHLETICS RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

By **Luke Dennehy** (reprinted from *Australian Athletics News* – 13 April)

In a successful morning of walking, Australia has won a silver and two bronze medals at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships held in Brasilia, Brazil.

Isaac Beacroft (NSW, David Beacroft), 18, won another major medal at an International walking event, winning the silver medal in the U20 Men’s 10km Race Walk, and a bronze in the team event with **Owen Toyne** (ACT, David Beacroft) and **John Ronan** (WA, Mike Reid).

Beacroft battled gallantly in the event as he always does, which was won by **Huajia Pu** from China

“Coming into this race I had set the standard to win a gold medal, so to miss that it’s pretty hard to take, however a World Championships silver medal is something I’m proud to take home,” he said.

“Today simply just wasn’t my day, but as disappointing as it is I can now set my focus on the Commonwealth Games and the World Athletics U20 Championships later this year. I’ll be gearing up and going real hard at those.”

In the Women’s Half Marathon Race Walk Team event, Australia won a bronze medal, finishing behind Ukraine and Spain, who won the gold medal. **Rebecca Henderson** (VIC, Simon Baker) was the highest placed Australian coming fifth, with **Elizabeth McMillen** (NSW, Jared Tallent) finishing 11th and **Olivia Sandery** (SA, Jared Tallent) coming in at 14th and **Allanah Pitcher** (NSW, Frank Overton) finishing 47th.

Henderson, 24, said while the conditions were tough she was very happy with her race in the end.

“I think I was sitting in around 10th or 11th at 14kms and I managed to work my way up to fifth, so I’m pretty happy with that,” she said.

Henderson said the best thing about winning the Bronze Medal was winning it with her teammates. “The team did amazing,” she said. “The girls have all been training really well, we have done a few camps together and we are all really good friends and pushing each other.

“It’s so exciting to be involved in walking in Australia, and we can’t wait until the Commonwealth Games, then the LA Olympics in 2028 and hopefully the Brisbane Olympics in 2032.”

Australia finished eighth in the medal table, which was topped by China who won three golds, one silver and two bronze medals.

**** A.C.T. LBG’s name will change as of 2027 ... your ideas ??**

Carnival name change

As many of you would be aware, the LBG Carnival was named after the Lake Burley Griffin location where the event was held for ~50 years. Due to difficulties in security government approval for the event, the carnival moved to the Stromlo Forest Park location where it continues today.

The RWA Committee in conjunction with the states has decided that 2026 will be the last year the carnival is called LBG, and we will introduce a new name from 2027 onwards. That will also mark the carnivals 60th anniversary which we think is fitting.

We are looking to the broader walking community to come up with the new name, and are running a competition. Name can be submitted at [this website](#) and there is no limit to the number of submissions that anyone can provide.

Submissions close on the 31 May 2026, and the new name will be announced during the final presentation session at this years carnival. The person or people that propose the name will be recognised during the presentation, and forever have bragging rights.

Kai Ryan
President, ACTRFWC

***AA JUNIOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 15-20 APRIL – BRISBANE**

Australia’s best senior walkers having put it all out there in Brasilia, it’s now time for our dedicated younger brigade to do the same in Brisbane. Many of the walkers who competed in the just-concluded ALAC championships will have stayed on in QLD for the AA Juniors titles, which have just begun and with walks scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Sunday. The racing schedule is as follows:

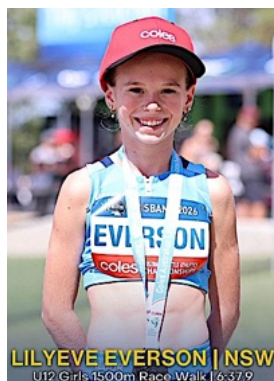
DATE	Time (local)	Event	Likely medal contenders
Thursday 16 April	10.40am	U14 Boys 3000m	Nate Appleyard, Leo Hyde, Liam Meale
	11.10am	U14 Girls 3000m	Avia Luketic, Taylor Chapman, Amelia Chisholm
	5.25pm	U17 Women 5000m	Matilda Read, Bethany Moore-Kirkland, Eliza Kelly
		U18 Women 5000m	Ela Uzun, Matilda Webb*, Jessica Loring, Olivia Boulton
			(*May not start having just competed in Brasilia)
Friday 17 April	10.00am	U17 Men 5000m	Noah Cooke, Koby Irvine, Keenan Munro
		U18 Men 5000m	Callum Martin, Angus Shuttleworth, Liam Freundt
Sunday 19 April	3.15pm	U15 Women 3000m	Ashleigh Mansell, Audrey Russell, Isabella Welch
		U16 Women 3000m	Mya McClure, MiaRose Everson, Havana Ali
	4.05pm	U15 Men 3000m	Lincoln Moore, Tate McQueen, Charlton Maxwell
		U16 Men 3000m	Callum Martin, Angus Shuttleworth, Lachlan Moore, Tyler Cousins

*Live streaming: For live TV coverage, go to <https://7plus.com.au/athletics>

2026 Coles Little Athletics Championships (ALAC), 13/14 April – QSAC, Brisbane

This year’s national ALAC championships saw blisteringly fast winning times and some good contests. There was a generally high degree of technically efficient walking – not always easy for children to maintain in the adrenaline rush of a major championship – and the large number of personal bests attested to the athletes’ fitness and commitment.

Indicative of the standard on show was all four gold medallists achieving ALAC Championship records. I’d welcome anyone who could advise as to whether this has ever been done before at a national LAA championship, and if so, how frequently. Congratulations to record setters **LilyEve Everson, Oliver Crowl, Taylor Chapman** and **Nate Appleyard**. Oliver’s gold and record was the hardest earned, locked as he was in an arm wrestle with Darcy Dennis (NSW) throughout the race. Well done to all on representing their states to the best of their abilities.



LILYEVE EVERSON | NSW
U12 Girls 1500m Race Walk | 6:37.9



OLIVER CROWL | VIC
U12 Boys 1500m Race Walk | 6:42.45



TAYLOR CHAPMAN | QLD
U13 Girls 1500m Race Walk | 6:32.82



NATE APPELYARD | NSW
U13 Boys 1500m Race Walk | 6:24.01

(Photos: LAA)

Girls U12 1500mW

1 LilyEve Everson	NSW	6:58.85*
2 Alaska Bremner	VIC	7:13.10*
3 Stella Wade	NSW	7:24.40*
4 Georgia Walters	VIC	7:45.88
5 Harper Winterford	SA	7:53.08*
6 Beth Cochrane	NSW	7:53.98*
7 Ella Dowdell	WA	8:03.32*
8 Savannah Nunn	WA	8:05.02*
9 Indianna Keightley	QLD	8:07.35*
10 Rahni Fowler	WA	8:09.94*
11 Zoe Frost	QLD	8:31.44
12 Anna Dubar	VIC	8:38.68
13 Nina Trickey	QLD	8:44.71

Boys U12 1500mW

1 Oliver Crowl	VIC	6:42.45*
2 Darcy Dennis	NSW	6:43.53*
3 Oliver Masik	NSW	7:09.87*
4 Logan Allison	VIC	7:27.87*
5 Lachlan Miers	QLD	7:35.55*
6 Hudson Conwell	WA	7:49.41
7 Paxton Newman	SA	7:53.09*
8 Ardan Magaharan	VIC	8:00.81*
9 Oliver Bennett	WA	8:27.84
10 Jett Irvine	QLD	8:32.33*
11 Jackson Millar	QLD	8:39.41*
12 Jett Kozak	SA	9:11.02

DQs - 3

14 Amaya Cowling	SA	9:29.40*
15 Sophia Sperring	ACT	11:01.31F

DQs - 3

**PBs – Ella 0:59; Paxton 0:38; Jackson 0:32; Darcy 0:31; Lachlan 0:26; Oliver C 0:25; LilyEve 0:20; Indianna 0:17; Jett 0:15; Alaska 0:12; Harper 0:12; Oliver M 0:12; Savannah 0:10; Rahni 0:06; Ardan 0:06; Amaya 0:05; Logan 0:04; Beth 0:01; Stella eq.*

Girls U13 1500mW

1 Taylor Chapman	QLD	6:32.82CBP*
2 Amelia Chisholm	QLD	7:12.38*
3 Hannah Clausnitzer	WA	7:14.50*
4 Ella Harris	VIC	7:19.57*
5 Kira Ekers	NSW	7:23.36F
6 Indigo Marshall-Moodie	VIC	7:36.76
7 Makenzie Sillito	WA	7:40.57
8 Isla Banks	NSW	7:44.59*
9 Gabriella John	WA	8:01.77F
10 Clare Rice	ACT	8:05.02*
11 Pippa Read	VIC	8:21.21
12 Violet Conway	QLD	8:24.80
13 Tindra Helgstedt	ACT	8:28.38*
14 Keira Gill	NSW	8:38.05
15 Ruby Grieve	SA	8:46.17*
16 Kailyn Jones	TAS	8:50.70
17 Charlotte Dix	TAS	9:00.94*
18 Charlotte Turley	TAS	9:22.83F
19 Emmi Tunn	SA	9:56.90
20 Anya Saeedi	ACT	12:17.66F

Boys U13 1500mW

1 Nate Appleyard	NSW	6:24.01*
2 Leo Hyde	QLD	6:53.68*
3 Liam Meale	NSW	6:56.45
4 Cooper Clark	VIC	7:08.98*
5 Levi Martin	NSW	7:19.47*
6 Caleb Lee	QLD	7:35.91*
7 Lachlan Nichols	WA	8:01.73
8 Brodie Welsh	VIC	8:23.78
9 Charlie Wright	VIC	8:30.65*
10 Tayte Moore	WA	8:40.69
11 Caleb Camilleri	SA	9:05.61

DQs - 1

**PBs – Levi 1:07; Caleb 0:45; Charlotte 0:43; Leo 0:41; Makenzie 0:40; Liam 0:31; Hannah 0:29; Amelia 0:16; Nate 0:16; Ella 0:15; Ruby 0:14; Charlie 0:11; Tindra 0:10; Clare 0:08; Cooper 0:07; Taylor 0:04; Isla eq.*

QUEENSLAND QRWC Handicap #1 results, 12 April – Aurora Park, North Lakes

Thanks to **Robyn Wales** for these results from the QRWC's first winter road races.

A Grade 10km

Men:

1. Ignacio Jimenez	1.01.40
2. Peter Bennett	1.09.07
3. David Rapaport	1.09.17.

Women:

1 Phoebe Chadwick	1.01.21
2. 1 Eliza Kelly	1.02.36
3. Joy Dale	1.25.32
4. Noela McKinven	1.35.14

C Grade 3km

Men:

1. Leo Ramsay	18.42.
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Women:

Violet Conway	DNS
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B Grade 5km

Women:

1. Trish Hibbs	35.05.
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D Grade 2km

Women:

1. Clara Hermus	11.42
2. Bella Sansom	12.08
3. Lilli Chu	13.33
4. Nina Trickey	13.36
5. Eliza Park	14.06

SOUTH AUSTRALIA SARWC results, 11 April – South Parklands

Cooper Rech reports on the SARWC's first Winter competition for 2026. Perfect conditions for walking after some light rain pre race. While not many notable results were posted, **Saxon King** posted a good PB over the 1.5km, while **Mattias Chin** raced with the club for the first time.

5km

Sam Findlay	24:03
Cooper Rech	25:27
Greg Metha	33:18
Marie Maxted	34:36

1.5km

Saxon King	8:38	PB 0:28
Rachel Pemberton	10:01	
Anthony Crabb	11:35	

Alex McEwan	38:02	1km	
Kristy Templer	48:21	Robert Crabb	7:07
		Mathias Chin	7:21
2km		Martin Crabb	8:41
Liliana Templer	11:10		



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRAZIL: Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Championships, 12 April – Brasilia

Japan's Katsuki dominates to secure individual and team marathon titles in Brasilia

by Annika Saunus (reprinted from *World Athletics news* – 13 April)

Japan's **Hayato Katsuki** delivered a commanding performance to win the marathon race walk at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Championships Brasilia 26 on Sunday (12), claiming the inaugural title over the newly introduced distance in **3:04:58**.

Ecuador's Pan American Games champion **David Hurtado** produced a strong finish to take the silver medal in **3:05:57**, securing his first podium place at a senior global event. Japan's **Kazuya Iwai** followed closely behind to claim bronze.

Japan comfortably secured top spot in the team standings, with **Subaru Ishida** as the third to score coming in ninth place. Italy finished second thanks to a consistent team performance, led by 35km world record-holder **Massimo Stano** in fifth, followed by **Riccardo Orsoni** in seventh and **Andrea Agrusti** in eighth.

Spain, winners of the team title in 2024, claimed bronze, with **Manuel Bermudez**, **Daniel Chamosa** and **Jose Manuel Perez** all finishing in the top 16.

From the outset, it was clear that Katsuki was in a class of his own, marching away from the field soon after the starting gun sounded. The world bronze medallist covered the opening kilometre in 4:20 and quickly established a decisive gap. By the 50-minute mark, he had built a lead of more than 90 seconds – a margin that grew even further as the race progressed. Italy's Orsoni briefly emerged as the closest pursuer, but he was later overtaken by Hurtado and Iwai.

Katsuki had employed similarly bold tactics at last year's World Championships before he was caught in the closing stages of the 35km. Here in Brasilia, though, his tactics paid off and he eventually crossed the line almost a minute ahead of the rest of the field.

"My strategy for this race was to give it all in order to have a head start over the other competitors from the beginning," said Katsuki. "I started hard and then I just kept managing my pace. I am very happy with our collective effort and the team gold."

Sweden's **Perseus Karlström**, winner of the 20km at these championships in 2024 and the 35km in 2022, fell ill after arriving in Brasilia and did not make it to the start line.

1.	Hayato KATSUKI	28 NOV 1990	JPN	3:04:58
2.	David HURTADO	21 APR 1999	ECU	3:05:57
3.	Kazuya IWAI	24 MAR 2002	JPN	3:06:03
4.	César HERRERA	28 JAN 1999	COL	3:06:59
5.	Massimo STANO	27 FEB 1992	ITA	3:07:38
6.	Aurélien QUINION	27 JAN 1993	FRA	3:07:53
7.	Riccardo ORSONI	20 JAN 2000	ITA	3:08:09
8.	Andrea AGRUSTI	30 AUG 1995	ITA	3:08:26
9.	Subaru ISHIDA	04 JUN 1999	JPN	3:10:34
10.	Bernardo Uriel BARRONDO	05 JUN 1993	GUA	3:11:17
11.	Karl JUNGHANNB	06 APR 1996	GER	3:12:10
12.	Manuel BERMÚDEZ	12 DEC 1997	ESP	3:13:10
13.	Daniel CHAMOSA	04 MAY 1997	ESP	3:13:10
14.	Samuel Kireri GATHIMBA	26 OCT 1987	KEN	3:13:20
15.	José Luis DOCTOR	14 JUN 1996	MEX	3:13:39
16.	José Manuel PÉREZ	10 SEP 1999	ESP	3:13:39
17.	Ram BABOO	20 MAR 1999	IND	3:13:55
18.	Erick Bernabé BARRONDO	14 JUN 1991	GUA	3:14:15
19.	Andres Eduardo OLIVAS NÚÑEZ	27 MAY 1998	MEX	3:15:30
20.	Sandeep KUMAR	01 MAY 1986	IND	3:15:41
21.	Xianghong HE	01 JUL 1998	CHN	3:15:52
22.	Xavier MENA	18 MAY 1998	ECU	3:16:21
23.	Mitchell BAKER	06 JUL 2001	AUS	3:17:06
24.	Aldo ANDREI	15 JUL 2001	ITA	3:17:35

25.	Heristone Wanyonyi WAFULA	30 JUN 2003	KEN	3:17:47
26.	Josafat SÁNCHEZ PEÑA	20 MAR 2000	MEX	3:18:32
27.	Christopher LINKE	24 OCT 1988	GER	3:18:59
28.	Xiaoqiang ZHU	21 APR 2000	CHN	3:19:14
29.	Johannes FRENZL	22 SEP 2001	GER	3:19:23
30.	Jinson Octavio CALDERÓN	02 JUL 2000	ECU	3:19:40
31.	Paulo Henrique RIBEIRO	19 FEB 2001	BRA	3:21:26
32.	Cameron CORBISHLEY	31 MAR 1997	GBR	3:21:38
33.	Stefano CHIESA	25 MAY 1996	ITA	3:21:53
34.	Carl GIBBONS	19 JUL 1996	AUS	3:22:53
35.	Carlos MERCENARIO	26 JUL 2000	MEX	3:23:10
36.	Oscar PATÍN	01 FEB 2001	ECU	3:24:36
37.	Roberto Carlos MARROQUÍN	13 AUG 2001	GUA	3:28:22
38.	Yanlong GAO	17 APR 2004	CHN	3:28:56
39.	Jinxi WANG	30 NOV 2004	CHN	3:32:25
40.	Felix KIPKEMOI	10 DEC 1996	KEN	3:35:01
41.	Tao QU	31 OCT 1999	CHN	3:35:37
42.	Stephen Ndingiri KIHU	14 DEC 2005	KEN	3:36:04
43.	Diego PEREIRA LIMA	04 OCT 1987	BRA	3:39:34
44.	Edson Erico ALVES DE AGUIAR	04 JUN 2003	BRA	3:39:45
45.	Peter Theuri MUIGAI	10 SEP 1992	KEN	3:46:29
46.	Bricyn HEALEY	04 JUL 1998	USA	3:48:15
47.	Klaubert Emanuel FERREIRA	20 JUN 2005	BRA	3:51:01
48.	Rudney DIAS NOGUEIRA	01 FEB 1990	BRA	3:51:57
49.	Michael Giuseppe MANNOZZI	15 APR 1986	USA	4:06:59
	Perseus KARLSTRÖM	02 MAY 1990	SWE	DNS
	Harun BILIR	15 DEC 2004	TUR	DNF
	Ozan BAYRAM	18 SEP 2004	TUR	DNF
	Julio César SALAZAR	08 JUL 1993	MEX	DNF
	Diyar BAYRAM	18 SEP 2004	TUR	DQ

***Team results**

1.	Japan	13	6.	Guatemala	65
2.	Italy	20	7.	Germany	67
3.	Spain	41	8.	Kenya	79
4.	Ecuador	54	9.	China	87
5.	Mexico	60	10.	Brazil	118

Marathon winner Torres leads Ecuador to gold in Brasilia

By **Jon Mulkeen** (reprinted from *World Athletics news* – 13 April)

Ecuador's **Paula Torres** achieved the biggest victory of her career so far when winning the women's marathon – and the team title – at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Brasilia 26 on Sunday (12).

Much like men's marathon winner **Hayato Katsuki**, Torres made an early break from the rest of the field and built up an insurmountable leading margin. The world bronze medallist finished in **3:24:37** – the second-fastest time ever recorded for the new race-walking distance.

With four finishers in the top nine – including third-place finisher **Nathaly Leon** – Ecuador also took gold in the team standings. Italy's 21-year-old **Sofia Fiorini** took individual and team silver.

Torres came into the championships as one of the favourites, though the 25-year-old was making her debut at the distance and contesting the longest race of her career so far, so was venturing into the unknown.

She showed no fear, though, as she broke away in the first kilometre. No one in the rest of the field had any interest in going with the Ecuadorian so early into the race, and they allowed her to pull away with each lap.

At one point, Torres' lead over the rest of the field was up to three minutes. In the second half, the chase pack realised they had their work cut out to catch Torres and so started to ramp up the pace. At about 24km, home favourite **Viviane Lyra** had formed a chase trio alongside Fiorini and her Italian teammate **Eleonora Giorgi**. But just moments later, with about two hours on the clock, the Italian duo managed to drop Lyra as the Brazilian started to show signs of fatigue.

After another 10 kilometres of racing, Torres' lead was still huge. Fiorini, meanwhile, had managed to break away from Giorgi. With each lap, Torres' victory became more and more certain. Giorgi's hopes of a podium finish faded when she had to spend a four-minute stint in the penalty zone after picking up her third red card.

Fiorini pushed hard in the closing kilometres and made up a bit of ground on the long-time leader, but there was no catching Torres, who won in **3:24:37** – just 18 seconds shy of the fastest performance on record so far for the distance.

Fiorini held on to second place in a PB of **3:25:42** while Nathaly Leon made it two Ecuadorians on the podium, finishing third in **3:31:47**. Italy's **Federica Curiazzi** was fourth and Lyra placed fifth. Giorgi came through for seventh, giving Italy three scorers in the top seven, but **Karla Jaramillo's** eighth place finish gave Ecuador just enough points to triumph ahead of Italy. Much to the delight of the home fans, Brazil claimed bronze – their first ever team medal at these championships.

Four years ago, when the 35km made its debut – and, indeed, only appearance – at the World Race Walking Team Championships, the individual and team titles also went to Ecuador as Glenda Morejon triumphed. Today in Brasilia, history repeated itself as Ecuador secured the individual and team crowns at a new distance, this time thanks to Paula Torres. She becomes just the third Ecuadorian athlete to win at the World Race Walking Team Championships, after three-time winner Jefferson Perez – who was holding the finish-line ribbon here in Brasilia – and 2022 35km winner Morejon.

"The race started very slow and I did not want to take risks," said Torres. "I knew I was in shape to increase the pace so I made a move after the second lap. I had to stay patient and focused on the athletes behind me.

"I'm excited to keep the South American winning streak for women in this race. I felt the support from Ecuadorian and Latin American fans throughout the course. I felt very motivated. We are characterised by a spirit of struggle and sacrifice and I demonstrated that today."

1.	Paula Milena TORRES	17 OCT 2000	ECU	3:24:37	AR
2.	Sofia FIORINI	19 AUG 2004	ITA	3:25:42	
3.	Nathaly LEON	03 JUN 1998	ECU	3:31:47	
4.	Federica CURIAZZI	14 AUG 1992	ITA	3:32:21	
5.	Viviane LYRA	29 JUL 1993	BRA	3:34:53	
6.	Jiahui ZHANG	28 APR 2005	CHN	3:35:23	
7.	Eleonora Anna GIORGI	14 SEP 1989	ITA	3:35:46	
8.	Karla JARAMILLO	21 JAN 1997	ECU	3:40:42	
9.	Magaly Beatriz BONILLA	08 FEB 1992	ECU	3:42:25	
10.	PRIYANKA	10 MAR 1996	IND	3:43:01	
11.	Gabriela DE SOUSA	12 JUN 2002	BRA	3:46:07	
12.	Mayara Luize VICENTAINER	03 FEB 1991	BRA	3:47:09	
13.	Ayşe ASLAN	28 OCT 1999	TUR	3:48:48	
14.	Johana ORDÓÑEZ	12 DEC 1987	ECU	3:48:56	
15.	Quzhen SANGDAN	14 SEP 2004	CHN	3:50:41	
16.	Maria MICHTA-COFFEY	23 JUN 1986	USA	3:52:38	
17.	Joana PONTES	22 MAR 2000	POR	3:52:43	
18.	Kader GÜVENÇ	27 NOV 2001	TUR	3:53:45	
19.	Renata CORTES	12 MAR 2005	MEX	3:53:59	
20.	Yanhong LI	16 MAR 2003	CHN	3:54:15	
21.	Arisay CRUZ SALINAS	26 JAN 1992	MEX	3:54:52	
22.	Katie BURNETT	07 OCT 1988	USA	3:55:14	
23.	Naomi GARCIA	30 MAR 1998	PUR	3:55:30	
24.	Lydia MCGRANAHAN	26 OCT 1976	USA	3:57:39	
25.	Estrella ROJAS RAMOS	28 OCT 2006	PER	3:59:02	
26.	Ricuo XI	09 AUG 2001	CHN	3:59:28	
27.	. PAYAL	05 MAY 1999	IND	3:59:50	
28.	Xinyu LI	24 OCT 2004	CHN	3:59:56	
29.	Brigitte COAQUIRA ALBARRACIN	28 AUG 1999	PER	4:01:08	
30.	Lidia BARCELLA	21 APR 1997	ITA	4:01:58	
31.	Manju RANI	22 MAR 1999	IND	4:05:22	
32.	Milángela Francesca ROSALES	21 FEB 1987	VEN	4:07:16	
33.	Mariela SÁNCHEZ TERÁN	23 AUG 1991	MEX	NT	
34.	Stephanie CASEY	01 AUG 1983	USA	NT	
35.	Katherine MIALE	05 JAN 1997	USA	NT	
	Elianay PEREIRA	11 MAY 1984	BRA	DNF	
	Thaissa Gabrielle SANTOS	23 MAY 1999	BRA	DNF	
	Sofia RAMOS RODRÍGUEZ	25 AUG 2002	MEX	DNF	
	Esma ÖZTEKİN	01 APR 2005	TUR	DNF	
	Olivia LUNDMAN	03 JAN 2003	CAN	DQ	

***Team results**

1.	Ecuador	12	5.	USA	62
2.	Italy	13	6.	India	68
3.	Brazil	28	7.	Mexico	73
4.	China	41			

Fortunato triumphs in gripping men's half marathon in Brasília

By Jon Mulkeen (reprinted from World Athletics news – 13 April)

Francesco Fortunato produced a decisive late surge to win the men's half marathon at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Brasilia 26 on Sunday (12), clocking **1:27:25** in one of the most competitive and unpredictable races of the weekend. The race was anticipated to be one of the highlights of the programme and it more than delivered. A large lead pack remained intact deep into the latter stages with the lead changing hands repeatedly throughout before Fortunato made his move with less than a kilometre to go.

Fortunato's victory carries added historical significance. The last Italian man to win at the World Race Walking Team Championships was **Abdon Pamich**, who won the very first race – the 50km – at the inaugural edition back in 1961. More than six decades on, Fortunato becomes just the second Italian man to win as the championships usher in a new era with revised standard distances.

The early stages set the tone for what would become a fiercely contested race. Brazil's home favourite **Caio Bonfim** – the world 20km champion – led a sizeable pack through 5km in 21:13, with two-time world champion and world record-holder **Toshikazu Yamanishi** among those tracking closely. By 10km, reached in 42:20, more than 20 athletes were still in contention at the front. That number had reduced only slightly to 17 by 12km (50:33), with Bonfim continuing to dictate the pace.

The tempo began to lift as the race progressed, with splits of 58:48 at 14km, 1:02:55 at 15km and 1:07:03 at 16km, by which point the lead group had thinned to 10. Among those still in contention were Japan's Yamanishi and **Tomohiro Noda**, Spain's **Diego García Carrera** and Japan's **Kento Yoshikawa**, while Australia's **Declan Tingay** began to lose contact. A decisive phase unfolded over the next few kilometres. At 17km (1:11:14), Fortunato moved to the front and increased the pace, stretching the field. By 18km (1:15:21), the lead pack had reduced to seven, with Ethiopia's **Misgana Wakuma** positioning himself between Bonfim and Yamanishi.

The race broke apart definitively at 19km (1:19:23), when Bonfim, Wakuma and Fortunato surged clear to form a lead trio. Bonfim continued to lead through 20km in 1:23:21, but the decisive move came shortly after. With the clock approaching 1:25, Fortunato unleashed a powerful burst, immediately opening a gap on his two remaining rivals. The European bronze medallist covered the final kilometre in 3:42 – the fastest of the race – and crossed the line a clear winner in **1:27:25**.

"I felt good from the beginning, but I received two red cards early on in the race," said Fortunato, who set a world 5000m race walk record during the indoor season earlier this year. "I tried to stay calm and relaxed. As we approached the final lap, I told myself I needed to push very fast. I am a speed boy. Beating Caio (Bonfim) at home, I cannot ask for more.

"I had two goals this season: this event and the European Championships," he added. "I want to improve on my bronze medal from two years ago."

Wakuma held on strongly to secure second place in **1:27:33**, the highest finish ever by an African athlete at these championships, while Bonfim completed the podium in **1:27:36** to the delight of the home crowd.

Germany's **Leo Kopp** finished strongly to take fourth in **1:27:50**, with Yoshikawa the leading Japanese finisher in fifth. Yamanishi and Noda placed seventh and eighth respectively, ensuring Japan regained the team title they last won in 2018. Spain, led by García Carrera, claimed team silver, while China returned to the podium with bronze after missing out in 2024.

1.	Francesco FORTUNATO	13 DEC 1994	ITA	1:27:25
2.	Misgana WAKUMA	05 JUL 2004	ETH	1:27:33
3.	Caio BONFIM	19 MAR 1991	BRA	1:27:36
4.	Leo KÖPP	23 MAY 1998	GER	1:27:50
5.	Kento YOSHIKAWA	09 AUG 2001	JPN	1:28:00
6.	Jordy Rafael JIMÉNEZ ARROBO	11 FEB 1994	ECU	1:28:00
7.	Toshikazu YAMANISHI	15 FEB 1996	JPN	1:28:18
8.	Tomohiro NODA	24 JAN 1996	JPN	1:28:42
9.	Diego GARCÍA CARRERA	19 JAN 1996	ESP	1:28:55
10.	Álvaro LÓPEZ	24 MAR 1999	ESP	1:29:08
11.	Ricardo ORTIZ	07 FEB 1995	MEX	1:29:18
12.	Will THOMPSON	18 NOV 2002	AUS	1:29:42
13.	Xinrui ZHANG	30 DEC 2004	CHN	1:29:44
14.	Saul WAMPUTSRIK	12 OCT 2004	ECU	1:29:44
15.	Shuo DING	21 DEC 2002	CHN	1:29:45
16.	Kazuki TAKAHASHI	17 JUN 1996	JPN	1:29:48
17.	Satoshi MARUO	28 NOV 1991	JPN	1:29:54
18.	Eider ARÉVALO	09 MAR 1993	COL	1:30:16
19.	Servin SEBASTHIYAN	26 NOV 1999	IND	1:30:28
20.	Paul MCGRATH	07 MAR 2002	ESP	1:30:34
21.	Tim FRASER	22 FEB 2000	AUS	1:30:37
22.	Rhydian COWLEY	04 JAN 1991	AUS	1:31:09
23.	Congshan BI	09 OCT 2007	CHN	1:31:19
24.	Maher BEN HLIMA	24 JUL 1989	POL	1:31:24
25.	Serhii SVITLYCHNYI	13 JUL 1994	UKR	1:31:46
26.	Max Batista GONCALVES DOS SANTOS	09 OCT 1994	BRA	1:31:51
27.	Declan TINGAY	06 FEB 1999	AUS	1:31:56
28.	Mazlum DEMIR	19 DEC 2003	TUR	1:31:58
29.	Salih KORKMAZ	01 JAN 1997	TUR	1:32:15
30.	Andrea COSI	30 APR 2001	ITA	1:32:27
31.	Gianluca PICCHIOTTINO	22 AUG 1996	ITA	1:33:21
32.	Xiangfei ZHAO	27 SEP 2002	CHN	1:33:50
33.	João VIEIRA	20 FEB 1976	POR	1:33:56
34.	Mukola RUSHCHAK	30 OCT 2003	UKR	1:34:17
35.	Jaime CCANTO	05 DEC 2004	PER	1:34:25
36.	Lihong CUI	13 MAY 1999	CHN	1:34:51
37.	Noel CHAMA	15 SEP 1997	MEX	1:34:53
38.	Giuseppe DISABATO	01 NOV 2006	ITA	1:35:19
39.	Nick CHRISTIE	29 SEP 1991	USA	1:35:36

40.	Evan DUNFEE	28 SEP 1990	CAN	1:35:36
41.	Miguel Arcangel PEÑA	07 AUG 2004	COL	1:35:49
42.	Mateusz NOWAK	06 MAY 1996	POL	1:35:49
43.	Kevin CAHUANA	27 NOV 2001	PER	1:36:05
44.	Daniel MONFORT	25 JAN 2006	ESP	1:36:18
45.	José Eduardo ORTIZ	08 MAR 2000	GUA	1:36:21
46.	Michal MORVAY	19 AUG 1996	SVK	1:37:03
47.	Jhon Sebastian CHAMBA SARANGO	27 SEP 2005	ECU	1:37:26
48.	Luis Henry CAMPOS	11 OCT 1995	PER	1:38:00
49.	Emmanuel CORVERA	25 MAR 1993	USA	1:38:03
50.	Akshdeep SINGH	22 NOV 1999	IND	1:38:19
51.	Isaac PALMA	26 OCT 1990	MEX	1:38:23
52.	Jordan CRAWFORD	04 JAN 2000	USA	1:39:39
53.	Jesus Leonardo RAMIREZ	15 MAY 2005	COL	1:39:40
54.	Kyle SWAN	28 MAR 1999	AUS	1:40:49
55.	Hendro HENDRO	25 JAN 1990	INA	1:42:00
56.	Tumisang PULE	03 JUL 1997	RSA	1:42:04
57.	. HARDEEP	22 SEP 1998	IND	1:42:28
58.	Jason Jya Hsin CHERNG	04 JAN 2000	USA	1:43:01
59.	. SAHIL	09 APR 2002	IND	1:43:11
60.	Eduardo CAMARATE	17 NOV 2006	POR	1:43:44
61.	Jefferson Jesús CHACÓN GARCÍA	11 JAN 1997	VEN	1:45:10
62.	Lowell SOLMES	03 JUL 2006	CAN	1:45:13
63.	Lucas MARTIN	02 JUN 2004	NZL	1:46:10
64.	Jonah CROPP	08 JUN 2005	NZL	1:47:34
65.	Antonio FARMER	21 DEC 2000	RSA	1:47:51
66.	Pedro MARQUEZ PEREIRA	07 JUN 2006	VEN	1:49:07
67.	Joao Paulo NOBRE	26 SEP 2005	BRA	1:50:40
68.	Sebastian QUINONES	26 OCT 2004	PUR	1:50:46
69.	Jerome CAPRICE	18 JAN 1983	MRI	1:51:11
70.	Toby Paul O'RORKE	19 MAY 2006	NZL	1:52:17
71.	Nathan LIMAS	31 JAN 2004	USA	1:53:08
72.	Tyler WILSON	23 JAN 2002	CAN	NT
73.	Jan RAMIREZ	29 NOV 1994	PUR	NT
74.	Ihor HLAVAN	25 SEP 1990	UKR	NT
75.	Edmund Chye SOON	24 SEP 1983	SGP	NT
	Matheus CORREA	22 AUG 1999	BRA	DNS
	Abood Khaled JOUDAH	21 NOV 2001	JOR	DNF
	Brandon SEGURA	30 APR 1996	MEX	DNF
	Rivers WILLIAMS	17 OCT 2004	RSA	DNF
	José Alejandro BARRONDO	16 SEP 1996	GUA	DQ
	Michele ANTONELLI	23 MAY 1994	ITA	DQ
	Ismael BERNAL	06 MAR 1999	MEX	DQ
	Miguel Ángel QUISPE	05 DEC 2004	PER	DQ
	Rasulbek DILMURODOV	22 SEP 2000	UZB	DQ
	Lucas MAZZO	19 MAY 1994	BRA	DQ

Team results:

1.	Japan	20	9	Colombia	112
2.	Spain	39	10	Peru	126
3.	China	51	11	India	126
4.	Australia	55	13	USA	140
5.	Italy	62	14	Canada	174
6.	Ecuador	67	15	New Zealand	197
7.	Brazil	96			
8.	Mexico	99			

García wins half marathon as Ukraine edge closest team battle

by Jon Mulkeen (reprinted from World Athletics news – 13 April)

Peru's **Kimberly García** produced a decisive mid-race break to take the women's half marathon title at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Brasilia 26, winning in **1:35:00** after a prolonged head-to-head battle with Mexico's **Alejandra Ortega**. In what proved to be one of the most compelling contests of the weekend – both individually and in the team standings – García and Ortega were locked together for much of the race before the Peruvian pulled clear just before 15km and maintained her advantage to the finish. García, the double world champion in 2022, adds this title to her victory over 20km at the 2024 edition as the championships transition to the new standard race-walking distances.

The early stages quickly developed into a two-athlete contest. By 4km (17:50), García and Ortega had forged a gap on Peru's **Evelyn Inga**, and by 5km (22:16) their advantage had extended to 13 seconds. Despite receiving a second red card at 6km, Ortega held firm alongside García as the pair steadily increased their lead. The lead duo's advantage grew to 43 seconds at 8km while the chase group, led by Inga, Italy's **Nicole Colombi** and Ukraine's **Lyudmila Olyanovska**, began to fragment behind them. By 10km (44:35), Colombi had moved into third on her own, with Australia's **Elizabeth McMillen** advancing into fourth, but the leading duo remained almost 50 seconds clear. García and Ortega continued to dictate the pace through 14km (1:02:39), their margin stretching beyond one minute.

Further back, the race for the minor medals began to take shape. Spain's **Aldara Meilán** and **Sofía Santacreu** – the U20 silver and bronze medallists from 2024 – started to close on the leaders. The decisive moment came shortly before 15km, when García injected a surge that Ortega could not match and she continued to pull ahead over the following kilometres. At 16km (1:11:34), Ortega trailed by 31 seconds, while Santacreu had moved into third, just four seconds ahead of Meilán, with Inga and Colombi slipping to fifth and sixth. At that stage, Spain had moved into pole position in the team standings. García's lead reached its maximum at 18km (1:20:44), where she was 42 seconds clear, but the closing stages saw the dynamics shift behind her. Ortega remained secure in second, while Meilán and Santacreu produced the fastest closing kilometres of the leading group to reel in the gap ahead.

While the Spanish duo continued to close on Ortega, Ukraine were also packing well and regained the lead in the team standings with just two kilometres to go. García, meanwhile, maintained control through to the finish, crossing the line in **1:35:00**. Ortega held on for silver in **1:35:21**, by far her best ever performance on the global stage, while Meilán secured bronze in **1:35:58** after moving clear of Santacreu, who finished fourth in **1:36:02**. Further back, Ukraine's **Hanna Shevchuk** placed seventh in **1:37:39**, and with three athletes finishing inside the top 10, Ukraine claimed the team title with 25 points. Spain took silver with 28, while Australia secured bronze with 30. With just five points separating the top three nations, it was the closest team competition of the weekend.

"I want to dedicate this win to all Peruvians," said García, who trains with Paula Torres, winner of the marathon at these championships. "We have a strong tradition of race walking in South America, from Érica Sena, Glenda Morejón and Daniel Pintado to athletes like Paula coming through now. It's encouraging to see the discipline growing across the region.

"An athlete's trajectory is never straightforward," added García, who owns three World Championship medals but is yet to reach an Olympic podium. "I've had my ups and downs, but I'm here again. I have the same drive and I'm looking forward to my next goals. This is a stepping stone towards the Olympic Games. My childhood Olympic dream is still alive."

1.	Kimberly GARCÍA LEÓN	19 OCT 1993	PER	1:35:00
2.	Alejandra ORTEGA	08 JUL 1994	MEX	1:35:21
3.	Aldara MEILÁN	02 SEP 2006	ESP	1:35:38
4.	Sofía SANTACREU	07 FEB 2006	ESP	1:36:02
5.	Rebecca HENDERSON	04 JUL 2001	AUS	1:37:05
6.	Evelyn INGA	16 APR 1998	PER	1:37:08
7.	Hanna SHEVCHUK	18 JUL 1996	UKR	1:37:39
8.	Lyudmila OLYANOVSKA	20 FEB 1993	UKR	1:37:54
9.	Nicole COLOMBI	29 DEC 1995	ITA	1:38:00
10.	Mariia SAKHARUK	14 OCT 1995	UKR	1:38:15
11.	Elizabeth MCMILLEN	10 APR 2004	AUS	1:38:29
12.	Clémence BERETTA	22 DEC 1997	FRA	1:38:48
13.	Lauren HARRIS	23 JUL 1999	USA	1:39:28
14.	Olivia SANDERY	22 JAN 2003	AUS	1:39:50
15.	Haiying JI	25 FEB 2000	CHN	1:39:55
16.	Pauline STEY	09 SEP 2001	FRA	1:39:59
17.	Katarzyna ZDZIEBŁO	28 NOV 1996	POL	1:40:16
18.	Maocuo DOU	29 FEB 2004	CHN	1:40:17
19.	Karla Ximena SERRANO	14 APR 2004	MEX	1:40:22
20.	Camille MOUTARD	11 JUL 2001	FRA	1:40:39
21.	Lidia SANCHEZ-PUEBLA	17 JUL 1996	ESP	1:41:09
22.	Meryem BEKMEZ	31 JUL 2000	TUR	1:41:30
23.	Antia CHAMOSA	07 OCT 1999	ESP	1:41:38
24.	Rubi Dayana SEGURA GARCIA	27 FEB 2006	COL	1:41:55
25.	Michelle CANTÒ	14 JUL 2005	ITA	1:42:16
26.	Hana ČERNÁ	03 NOV 2000	SVK	1:42:45
27.	Griselda SERRET	09 JUL 2005	ESP	1:42:52
28.	Jinlin NING	26 MAR 2004	CHN	1:42:57
29.	Ai OYAMA	28 OCT 2005	JPN	1:43:15
30.	Yadira ORIHUELA POMA	05 FEB 2005	PER	1:43:29
31.	Na GUO	22 JUN 1999	CHN	1:43:46
32.	Laura Cristina MOJICA CHALARCA	20 JUN 2000	COL	1:43:49
33.	Ayane YANAI	24 DEC 2003	JPN	1:44:14
34.	Nadia Lizeth GONZALEZ MANJARREZ	21 MAR 1997	MEX	1:44:18
35.	Emá KLIMENTOVÁ	06 JAN 2005	CZE	1:44:44
36.	Mary Luz ANDIA	09 NOV 2000	PER	1:44:46
37.	Xiaofan LA	19 AUG 2005	CHN	1:44:49
38.	Valeria ORTUÑO	27 MAY 1998	MEX	1:45:29

39.	RAVINA	21 MAY 1997	IND	1:45:44
40.	Vitória OLIVEIRA	30 AUG 1992	POR	1:46:40
41.	Ana DELAHAIE	13 MAY 2004	FRA	1:46:47
42.	Austėja KAVALIAUSKAITĖ	25 MAY 2000	LTU	1:46:59
43.	Munita PRAJAPATI	15 JAN 2002	IND	1:47:15
44.	Ayumi SUGIBAYASHI	24 DEC 2000	JPN	1:47:40
45.	Giulia MICONI	25 DEC 2000	ITA	1:48:06
46.	Sharon Lisseth HERRERA SOTO	27 MAY 2004	CRC	1:49:16
47.	Allanah PITCHER	19 SEP 2003	AUS	1:49:28
48.	Elisa MARINI	03 MAR 2006	ITA	1:50:07
49.	Vivian CASTILLO	10 JUN 1998	MEX	1:53:27
50.	Angela CASTRO	21 FEB 1993	BOL	1:53:54
51.	María DE LOS ÁNGELES RODRÍGUEZ JARA	18 MAY 1996	ECU	1:53:56
52.	Mansi NEGI	03 MAY 2003	IND	1:54:12
53.	Silvia Jerono KEMBOI	11 DEC 1988	KEN	1:54:36
54.	Izabelle TREFTS	14 DEC 2003	USA	1:54:42
55.	María Fernanda PEINADO	12 NOV 2001	GUA	1:55:07
56.	Bruna BATISTA DE OLIVEIRA	05 MAR 2002	BRA	1:56:19
57.	Maritza Rafaela PONCIO TZUL	03 DEC 1994	GUA	1:57:19
58.	Zelda Aletta BOTHA	15 FEB 1992	RSA	1:57:29
59.	Violine Intan PUSPITA	22 SEP 2000	INA	1:58:27
60.	Miranda MELVILLE	20 MAR 1989	USA	1:58:39
61.	Thaliane Janaina MIRANDA	12 MAY 2005	BRA	2:00:14
62.	Angelica HARRIS	01 AUG 2005	USA	2:01:03
63.	Caren Naliaka SIMIYU	01 JAN 2003	KEN	2:01:52
64.	Maria Luiza JAIME	27 MAR 2006	BRA	2:04:30
65.	Laryssa Fernanda FROIS	05 AUG 2000	BRA	NT
	Kader DOST	01 JAN 2000	TUR	DNF
	Rachelle DE ORBETA	27 MAR 2000	PUR	DNF
	Naum JEPKIRUI	20 SEP 1996	KEN	DNF
	Giulia GABRIELE	11 NOV 2005	ITA	DNF
	Natalia PULIDO	15 SEP 2004	COL	DNF
	Abebu AYALEW	13 FEB 2006	ETH	DNS
	Halida ULFAH	04 OCT 1999	INA	DNF
	Pietra Fernanda FERREIRA VALÉRIO	01 DEC 1998	BRA	DNF
	Yaquelin Mishell TELETOR JERÓNIMO	19 NOV 2004	GUA	DQ

***Team results**

1.	Ukraine	25	7.	China	61
2.	Spain	28	8.	Italy	79
3.	Australia	30	9.	Japan	106
4.	Peru	37	10.	USA	127
5.	France	48	11.	India	134
6.	Mexico	55	12.	Brazil	181

Pu dominates U20 men's race in Brasilia

by **Jon Mulkeen** (reprinted from *World Athletics news* – 13 April)

Pu Huajia brought the U20 men's 10km title back to Chinese ownership at the Caixa World Race Walking Team Championships Brasilia 26 on Sunday (12). The 18-year-old delivered a dominant performance to win by 49 seconds, crossing the line in a PB of **39:58**.

Australia's defending champion **Isaac Beacroft**, who won in Antalya two years ago at the age of 16, had to settle for the runner-up spot with **40:47**. **Alessio Coppola** placed third (**41:16**) and led Italy to the team title.

The race got off to a conservative start with Beacroft at the head of a large lead pack through the first kilometre. As the group approached the two-kilometre mark, Beacroft started to increase the pace slightly, but Pu went with him. With 14 minutes on the clock, Pu and Beacroft had a five-second lead over the rest of the field and they continued to race alongside one another for most of the first half.

In the second half, though, Pu managed to break free from Beacroft, opening up a significant lead on the Australian who had set a world U20 10,000m record at the end of last year. Pu, contesting his first race outside China, powered ahead and crossed the line in **39:58**, the fourth-fastest winning time at these championships. It's the fifth time in the six most recent editions that China has won the U20 men's title at the World Race Walking Team Championships. Beacroft followed in **40:47** while Coppola placed third in **41:16**.

"I think my strategy for the race was good, especially towards the end of the race," said Pu. "I was feeling good, which was encouraging. The goal for my next race is to break 39 minutes."

Coppola's teammate **Nicolo Vidal** finished fourth, while **Shi Chengxi** of China was sixth, meaning Italy and China both notched up seven points in the team standings. But Italy claimed the victory – their first team triumph in the U20 race – by virtue of a higher-placed second counter.

Australia, with **Owen Toyne** placing 12th, claimed team bronze.

1.	Huajia PU	31 MAY 2007	CHN	39:58
2.	Isaac BEACROFT	18 JUL 2007	AUS	40:47
3.	Alessio COPPOLA	25 JAN 2007	ITA	41:16
4.	Nicolo' VIDAL	03 MAY 2008	ITA	41:25
5.	Emiliano BARBA	23 MAR 2007	MEX	41:47
6.	Chengxi SHI	11 APR 2007	CHN	41:51
7.	Haoze ZHANG	06 APR 2010	CHN	42:07
8.	Pablo ZÁRATE	11 APR 2007	ESP	42:11
9.	Ryuta TAINAKA	14 JAN 2007	JPN	42:16
10.	Eloi ANTON	27 SEP 2007	ESP	42:21
11.	Yasin ABDUSELAM ABDULWAHAB	26 APR 2007	ETH	42:21
12.	Owen TOYNE	19 JUN 2007	AUS	42:24
13.	José Duvan CCOSCCO SUELDO	31 JAN 2007	PER	42:46
14.	Cesar HIDALGO	11 FEB 2007	ESP	42:57
15.	Derian Jair ROBALINO CORDONA	03 SEP 2008	ECU	42:58
16.	Oswaldo MIRAMONTES	13 AUG 2008	MEX	43:35
17.	Toshiya INOUE	04 MAR 2008	JPN	43:39
18.	Cristian CECCHETTO	05 FEB 2010	ITA	43:53
19.	Daichi YAMADA	23 APR 2007	JPN	43:55
20.	Sebastia Vinicio BARRERA QUINDE	08 NOV 2007	ECU	44:05
21.	Matthew NEWELL	07 MAY 2008	IRL	44:08
22.	Azadullah BEĞÇE	11 JUN 2007	TUR	44:51
23.	Przemysław JASIŃSKI	31 OCT 2007	POL	44:52
24.	Séamus CLARKE	27 FEB 2007	IRL	44:54
25.	John GLENNON	29 NOV 2007	IRL	45:09
26.	Sergio Santiago NIETO MORENO	19 FEB 2008	COL	45:17
27.	Gael PLASENCIA	16 SEP 2008	USA	45:42
28.	Davi Gabriel BASTOS	12 APR 2008	BRA	45:43
29.	Lukáš ROSENBAUM	25 JUL 2007	SVK	46:15
30.	Jakub MAŽGÚT	06 AUG 2007	SVK	46:45
31.	Vinicius DA SILVA	08 MAR 2007	BRA	47:04
32.	Mateus Ribeiro PEREIRA DOS SANTOS	20 SEP 2009	BRA	47:31
33.	Yamkela Luthsa SHOSHA	16 JUN 2007	RSA	48:27
34.	Dylan Sebastian ACEDO	08 AUG 2007	MEX	49:00
35.	Ari BENNETT	22 SEP 2007	NZL	50:09
	Gabriel GONZÁLEZ	10 SEP 2008	VEN	DQ
	John RONAN	02 NOV 2007	AUS	DQ
	Clement RABREAU	03 AUG 2007	FRA	DQ

**Team results*

1.	Italy	7	6.	Japan	26
2.	China	7	7.	Ecuador	35
3.	Australia	14	8.	Ireland	45
4.	Spain	18	9.	Slovakia	59
5.	Mexico	21	10.	Brazil	59

Yang claims U20 women's individual and team honours

By Jon Mulkeen (reprinted from World Athletics news – 13 April)

Yang Yutong emerged victorious in a competitive U20 women's 10km at the Caixa World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Brasilia 26, winning both the individual and team titles for China on Sunday (12). It was only in the closing stages that the 19-year-old finally shook off the challenge of Italy's European U18 champion **Serena di Fabio**, the seventh-place finisher at this event two years ago. Yang crossed the line in **46:11** to finish 10 seconds ahead of Di Fabio with **Ni Lihua** placing third in **46:37** to secure team gold for China.

The race got off to a conservative start as the first kilometre was covered in 5:09. The pace started to pick up as the large lead pack approached 3km, but it was only at half way – which was reached in 24:01 – that the pack started to whittle down. Di Fabio led a nine-woman group at that point. After another kilometre, covered in 4:35, the pack was down to five: Di Fabio, France's **Chloe le Roch**, plus Chinese trio Yang, Ni and **Wang Yaru**.

Le Roch and Wang started to drift off the pace, leaving just three women to battle for the podium places over the final few kilometres. Di Fabio, Yang and Ni race walked together through 8km, then Yang began her long drive for home. Ni surrendered her challenge, while Di Fabio tried her best to stick with Yang, but the Chinese teenager was too strong. With a final kilometre of 4:23, and having covered the second half in 22:10, Yang crossed the line in **46:11** to become the third consecutive Chinese winner of the U20 women's race at these championships. Di Fabio held on for second place in **46:21** while Ni finished third in **46:37**. Further back, Le Roch was fourth (**47:18**) and Wang fifth (**47:27**).

"I thought it was very hard to finish the race," said Yang. "I hope I can repeat the same success at the World U20 Championships as I had here in Brazil."

China dominated the team standings and regained gold, two years after Spain ended their four-edition winning streak. Italy claimed team silver with 12 points, just one ahead of Japan. It represents Italy's best team result in the U20 women's race at these championships, and Japan's first team podium finish in a women's race.

1.	Yutong YANG	14 JAN 2007	CHN	46:11
2.	Serena DI FABIO	23 NOV 2007	ITA	46:21
3.	Lihua NI	15 SEP 2007	CHN	46:37
4.	Chloe LE ROCH	14 NOV 2007	FRA	47:18
5.	Yaru WANG	13 JUN 2009	CHN	47:27
6.	Yuna UCHIYAMA	14 JUL 2007	JPN	47:57
7.	Suzu OKUNO	28 FEB 2007	JPN	48:37
8.	Harumi TABATA	10 JAN 2008	JPN	48:46
9.	Hiwot AMBAW	06 JUN 2008	ETH	48:52
10.	Valentina ADAMO	15 MAY 2008	ITA	48:57
11.	Aleksandra ZEMBROWSKA	28 NOV 2007	POL	49:11
12.	Veronika TKACHUK	03 AUG 2008	UKR	49:14
13.	Irene VEGA	03 JAN 2007	ESP	49:17
14.	Katherine Dayanna BARRETO	27 JUN 2007	ECU	49:39
15.	Natalia MENDIOLA	24 OCT 2008	MEX	50:13
16.	Ella RAUTAWAARA	09 DEC 2008	FIN	50:15
17.	Şerife Berra GÜVEN	24 JAN 2008	TUR	50:26
18.	Andia AROTAIPE ROCIO	20 JUL 2009	PER	50:32
19.	Mercyline Nakhumicha WANJALA	16 MAR 2008	KEN	50:44
20.	Francesca Gloria BUSELLI	15 SEP 2007	ITA	50:53
21.	Nelci ROJAS	18 APR 2007	BOL	51:04
22.	Zoe WOODS	22 OCT 2007	AUS	51:10
23.	Lourdes VEGA HUALLPA	15 FEB 2009	PER	51:30
24.	Sophie POLKINGHORNE	22 MAY 2010	AUS	51:30
25.	Gina TORRES	25 AUG 2007	ESP	51:39
26.	Naomi LUIS	17 JAN 2008	MEX	51:43
27.	Danna Valentina RIVERA	24 MAY 2008	COL	51:52
28.	Isabel LUÍS	09 MAY 2007	POR	51:54
29.	Kristína ZÁMEČNÍKOVÁ	27 SEP 2007	SVK	52:09
30.	Ipek ÖZKAVLAK	31 MAR 2007	TUR	52:37
31.	Matilda WEBB	20 APR 2009	AUS	52:57
32.	Melany Yamileth MARTIN DEL CAMPO	06 JAN 2008	MEX	52:59
33.	Petra KUSÁ	08 APR 2007	SVK	53:14
34.	Gabriela Beatriz BARROS	12 APR 2010	BRA	55:47
35.	Vitoria SILVA	03 FEB 2007	BRA	57:44
36.	Genesis TORO	06 DEC 2010	VEN	57:45
37.	Mariana DIAS	22 FEB 2008	BRA	58:05
38.	Alysa BROWN	14 DEC 2009	NZL	1:00:35

***Team results**

1.	China	4	6.	Mexico	41
2.	Italy	12	7.	Australia	46
3.	Japan	13	8.	Turkiye	47
4.	Spain	38	9.	Slovakia	62
5.	Peru	41	10.	Brazil	69

MARCIA DAL MONDO & 'O MARCHADOR' ROUNDUP

The Portuguese race walking blog *O Marchador* posts news reports and results as they come to hand. The page has dozens of links to articles on race walking, featuring both domestic events and those from abroad.

- Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Rui Magalhães and Juliana Galvão win the Northern Zone Race Walking Championship – Felgueiras 2026 - <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/rui-magalhaes-e-juliana-galvao-vencem.html>
- Monday, April 13, 2026 - Kimberly García and Ukraine win the women's half-marathon at the world championships in Brasília. <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/kimberly-garcia-e-ucrania-vencem-meia.html>
- Monday, April 13, 2026 - Japanese balance leads to victory in the men's half-marathon at the world championships in Brasília, on a day of Fortunato's success. <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/equilibrio-japones-da-vitoria-na-meia.html>

- Sunday, April 12, 2026 - **Paula Flores and Ecuador shine in the marathon of the World Race Walking Team Championships.** <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/paula-flores-e-equador-brilham-na.html>
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 - **Japanese Katsuki dominates men's marathon at the World Race Walking Championships.** <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/japones-katsuki-domina-maratona.html>
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 - **Imperial Chinese women in the 10km race at the Brasilia World Championships** <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/chinasas-imperiais-nos-10-km-femininos.html>
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 - **Pu and Italy win the junior men's 10km race at the world championships in Brasilia.** <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2026/04/pu-e-italia-vencem-10-km-juniores.html>

Note: The O Marchador blog is written in Portuguese. To access an English version, open the page in Google Chrome – if you haven't already – at <https://omarchador.blogspot.com>, then right click on any empty space (not on text) on the page. A window will appear with the option to translate the page. Click on it, and the page should reload in English.

**** H&T Online - NOTICE BOARD ****

**** A.C.T. 59th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival, 7 June**

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for
LBG CANBERRA CARNIVAL 2026**

An event of this magnitude requires many hands to the wheel – more than a single club can manage.

To ensure we can conduct the carnival successfully for the athletes, we will need lots of volunteer help, from interstate as well as local.

Roles we will need include:

Announcer, start line coordinator/assistant, starter, finish line marshals, finish line recorders, red card collectors, results assistant, water table assistant, officials & volunteers' welfare, presentation assistants.

If you can assist with any of these roles – even if only for a limited time – please contact Mark, Stu or Terry.

**LBG CANBERRA CARNIVAL 2026
VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR**

Each state has been asked to appoint a person or persons to organize volunteers from their clubs for the Carnival.

The Coordinator's duties will involve being the main point of contact for confirming and organising volunteers from the VRWC, as well as their time availability and preferred roles on the day. The Coordinator will be asked for their name, email address and contact phone number, so as to receive communications from the Race Walking Australia organising committee.

Please contact Stu or Mark Donahoo if you are able to fill this position, or if you have any questions.

Stu Cooper

**** VRWC ANNUAL FEES**

These are reviewed at the Annual General Meeting each year. Below are the current fees as of 1st April 2026:

Senior (Open and Masters) \$30.00

Under 20: \$25.00

Under 16: \$15.00

Associate (Officials who assist with races throughout the year): \$ 0.00

Family membership: \$50.00

Annual Subscriptions are due on **April 1st** of each calendar year.

***Inner metro** and **outside ring metro** members pay full fees.

(The **outside ring** of metropolitan councils are: Wyndham, Melton, Hume, Whittlesea, Nillumbik, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia, Casey, and the Mornington peninsula down to Mornington.)

***Country members** ... pay **50%** of the annual fee.

Municipalities/districts beyond the outside ring are considered country areas.

To re-register – or to register for the first time – go to <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/vrwc/registration>

** VRWC RACE FEES

Seasons ticket 12 months: Financial members: \$150.00 paid by the **end of May**.
VRWC Club Races: Race fee: \$15.00.
VRWC Championships: Race fee: \$15.00

Season's ticket: All VRWC races only ... **not** Little Athletics, AV, VMA or RWA.

***UNIFORMS -** Remember also that all competing members are required to wear the current Club **racing uniform** (singlet, racing top or crop top), in order to be eligible for Time or Handicap points and to race in Club championships. The cost of each item is \$45.

VRWC Committee

**Vacancy – Club Treasurer

The Committee invites expressions of interest from members (or their families) who would like to consider taking on this vital role.

The job entails:

- *Overseeing and accounting for all Club income and expenditure;*
- *Presenting a monthly report to the Committee;*
- *Liaising with the Club's auditor in the preparation of an annual financial statement;*
- *Presenting a Treasurer's Report to the membership at the Annual General meeting*

The position would suit someone with experience in finance, business or clerical work, or indeed anyone with an interest in numbers or accounting.

Interested persons should contact Terry Swan, Stu Cooper or Karyn O'Neill (treasurer@vrwc.org.au) ASAP.



WHAT'S UP AHEAD?

2026 WINTER SEASON FIXTURE

APRIL

Saturday 25 th April	AV 10km & VRWC CHAMPIONSHIPS	Mentone Track
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MAY

Saturday 2 nd May	VRWC Points races	Middle Park
Saturday 9 th May	VRWC Points races	Middle Park
Saturday 16 th May	VRWC Points races	Middle Park
Saturday 16 th May	Coaching seminar for parents, athletes and coaches	Middle Park
Sunday 24 th May	AV, AV SCHOOLS & VRWC CHAMPIONSHIPS	Middle Park
Saturday 30 th May	VRWC Points races	Middle Park

** A.C.T. 59th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Saturday & Sunday 6/7 June
Stromlo Forest Park, Canberra

Hosted by the ACT Race & Fitness Walking Club Inc.

Download your copy of the Information Pack from <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/vrwc/events/342804>

JUNE

Sat/Sun 6th/7th June	RWA 59th Annual Lake Burley Griffin Carnival,	Canberra
Saturday 13th June	VRWC events. & LA Vic Championships,	Middle Park
Saturday 13th June	Judging course and Coaching seminar	Middle Park
Saturday 20th June	VRWC Points races	Middle Park
Saturday 27 th June	VRWC Points races & Prize Day	Middle Park

JULY

Saturday 4 th July	Racewalking Australia Postal Challenge event & VMA 10km C'ship	Middle Park
Saturday 11 th July	VRWC Points races	
Saturday 18 th July	VRWC Points races and Interval races	Middle Park
Sunday 26 th July	AV & VRWC CHAMPIONSHIPS & EVENTS	Middle Park

AUGUST

Saturday 1 st August	VRWC Points races	Middle Park
Saturday 8 th August	AV Championship & VRWC Championships & events	Middle Park
Saturday 15 th August	VRWC Last points race	Middle Park
Sunday 23 rd August	AA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	Ballarat
Saturday 29 th August	VRWC non points race day	Middle Park

September

Saturday 5 th September	AV 5km teams, VMA 5km track c'ship & VRWC events	Mentone Track
Sunday 13 th September	VRWC relay race and Seasons Presentations	Middle Park

Victorian & National Key Dates – 2025/2026

Wed-Mon 15/20 Apr 2026	AA Junior T&F Championships – Brisbane QLD
Sat 25 Apr 2026	AV 10,000m track walk C'ships - Mentone
Sun 24 May 2026	AV, VMA & VRWC Half Marathon, AV Schools C'ships – Middle Park
Sun 7 Jun 2026	59 th LBG Walking Carnival (inc. AA & RWA Marathon & H-M c'ships) – Canberra ACT
Sat 13 Jun 2026	LAVic Road walk Championships – Middle Park
Sat 4 Jul 2026	VMA 10km Road walk Championship & RWA Challenge – Middle Park
Sun 26 Jul 2026	AV 30km C'ship inc. Jared Tallent Trophy & VRWC c'ships – Middle Park
Sat 8 Aug 2026	AV 15km Championships & VRWC c'ships
Sun 23 Aug 2026	AA Junior Road walk Championships – Ballarat VIC
Sat 5 Sep 2026	AV 5000m Teams & VMA Championships - Mentone

International Dates

18-23 May 2026	2026 Oceania Athletics C'ships – Darwin NT, AUS
23 May 2026	XXXIX Gran Premio Cantones de A Coruna de Marcha (WA Tour Gold) – La Coruna, ESP
31 Jul 2026	Commonwealth Games 10,000m Walk finals – Glasgow, SCO
4-9 Aug 2026	World U20 Athletics Championships – Eugene OR, USA
22 Aug-3 Sep 2026	World Masters Athletics Championships – Daegu, KOR
30 Oct-15 Nov 2026	Youth Olympic Games – Dakar, SEN

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Stu Cooper - editor
0421 470 949
stuwalks@yahoo.com.au