

## AUSTRALIAN ROADWALK CHAMPIONSHIPS, ALBANY, WA, SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

The Australian National Roadwalking Championships were held last Sunday in Albany in Western Australia. From what I heard, the organisation was first rate and the 1km lap was well protected and potentially fast. The only thing missing was the walkers. In total, the results sheet shows only 30 walkers in the Athletics Australia Championships and a further 21 in the purely RWA races - 51 all together. Of these, only 15 were from outside Western Australia (QLD 3, VIC 2, NSW 3, TAS 0, ACT 3, SA 4). What a disaster for racewalking and, unfortunately, just as expected. When Athletics Australia asked stakeholders in November 2013 to provide feedback on Albany as a venue, the walking community was united in saying that Albany was not the right choice (I have the various emails saved for posterity). Alas, AA went ahead and confirmed the city, ignoring our concerns. As they say, the proof is in the pudding.

For those who did make the complicated and expensive trip, I am sure that they enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to all our various medallists and congratulations to our new Australian champions. My comments above are not meant in any way to diminish your fine walking last weekend. I reproduce the report published on the AA website:

**Dane Bird-Smith (Qld)** has successfully defended his national 20km race walking title, streeting the field at the 2014 'Go For 2&5' Australian Race Walking Championships on Sunday in Albany, WA. Bird-Smith won the open national crown in Hobart last year and successfully repeated as national men's Open 20km race walking champion by crossing the line in Albany in the time of 1:27:38. The Queenslander finished well ahead of second-placed Dale Hennighan (WA), who stopped the clock at 1:43:56 to win silver. Bronze went to Dean Nipperess (Qld) who clocked 1:48:01. Five men lined up for the event on the Flinders Parade 1km loop course, and by the time Bird-Smith came finished the first lap he was already a full 26 seconds clear of Hennighan in second place. After opening with a 4:12 first kilometre, Bird-Smith went 4:12 and 4:14 for the next two laps respectively to set up an unbeatable lead early. He went through the halfway point in 42:31 to lead by over five minutes from his nearest competitor and easily strode to victory.

In the women's Open 20km event, **Nicole Fagan (NSW)** was quite literally unchallenged for the national title. Fagan was the only competitor to make it to the start line after a number of athlete withdrawals. Regardless of the lack of female competition, Fagan pushed herself out to a 4:40 first kilometre and challenged herself all the way around the course to cross the line in 1:41:07.

Results follows. Lapsplits available at [http://www.nswathletics.info/liveresults/2014/aa\\_rw](http://www.nswathletics.info/liveresults/2014/aa_rw).

### AA 20km Walk Open Men

1.	Bird-Smith, Dane	QRWC	1:27:38
2.	Hennighan, Dale	WARWC	1:43:56
3.	Nipperess, Dean	QRWC	1:48:01
4.	Hastie, Garry	WARWC	1:57:15
	Crump, Peter	SARWC	DQ

### AA 20km Walk Open Women

1.	Nicole Fagan	NSWRWC	1:41:07
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### RWA 10km Open and Masters Women

1.	Brown, Vanessa	RWCWA	58:34
2.	Hahn, Andrea	RWCWA	1:02:26
3.	Tolardo, Karyn	WARWC	1:02:49
4.	Hall, Melissa	RWCWA	1:03:14
5.	Tingay, Sonia	WARWC	1:11:57
6.	Hughes, Robyn	WARWC	1:16:29
	Mitchell, Louisa	SARWC	DQ

Teams:	1	RWCWA (V Brown, A Hahn, M Hay)
	2	WARWC (K Toalrdo, S Tingay, R Hughes)

### AA 10km U20 Men

No starters

### AA 10km U20 Women

1.	Holt, Kate	WARWC	58:22
2.	Hennighan, Bree-Anna	WARWC	1:04:40

### AA 10km U18 Men

	Leatherland, Simeon	RWCWA	DQ
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**AA 5km U18 Women**

1.	Hughes, Holly	WARWC	29:57
2.	Gerken, Caitlin	RWCWA	30:37
3.	Tolardo, Isabella	WARWC	34:10
4.	Reid, Aimee	WARWC	39:15

Teams        1            WARWC (H Hughes, I Tolardo, A Reid)

**AA 5km U16 Women**

1.	Cross, Bethany	SARWC	27:26
2.	Johns, Mikayla	WA	29:37
3.	Pivac, Emily	WA	31:44
4.	Kezic, Tina	RWCWA	37:36
	Cross, Anna	SARWC	DQ

**AA 5km U16 Men**

1.	Tingay, Declay	WARWC	25:02
2.	Burns, Callum	ACTRWC	27:14
3.	Gerken, Christopher	RWCWA	30:16

**AA U14 3km Boys**

1.	Newton, Zachary	WA	15:05
2.	Burns, Spencer	ACTRWC	15:19
3.	Mavin, Harrison	NSWRWC	15:55
4.	Dawson, Bailey	WARWC	17:28
5.	Reid, Benjamin	WARWC	17:41
6.	Kezic, Tim	RWCWA	19:20

**AA U14 3km Girls**

1.	Hayes, Zahra	RWV	15:20
2.	Ruane, Tiahna	WARWC	15:32
3.	Johns, Courtney	WA	18:09

**RWA U12 2km Boys**

1.	Pitcher, Allanah	NSW	10:23
2.	Brown, Summer	RWCWA	11:13
3.	Andritsos, Sienna	WARWC	11:45
4.	Ruane, Hayley	WARWC	11:56
5.	Curry, Jaymee-Lee	RWCWA	12:50
6.	Martin, Hannah	WARWC	12:53
7.	Andritsos, Alessia	WARWC	13:01
8.	Reynolds, Lily	RWCWA	13:23
9.	Bogaers, Emily	WARWC	14:46
	Holland, Amy	WARWC	DQ
	Burns, Laura	ACTRWC	DQ

Teams:        1            WARWC (S Andritsos, H Ruane, H Martin)  
                   2            RWCWA (S Brown, J Curry, L Reynolds)

**RWA U12 2km Girls**

1.	Buchhorn, Adam	QRWC	11:04
2.	Kezic, Rya	RWCWA	12:47
3.	Johns, Declan	WARWC	12:58

**BRENNEN SHIELD FINAL POINTS**

<b>Brennan Shield</b>	<b>Tot Points</b>	<b>Canberra</b>	<b>Albany</b>
1. RWV	949	949	0
2. NSWRC	858	858	0
3. SARWC	397	397	0
4. ACTW	313	313	0
5. WARWC	300	0	300
6. RWCWA	149	0	149
7. TARWC	59	59	0