

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1989 - 1992

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 1988.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1961-1966.pdf](#)
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- [Australian Championships Men 1985-1988.pdf](#)

Our story continues from 1989 with the start of a new 4 year Olympic cycle. It was a far cry from the days of past eras, when racewalking opportunities were few and far between.

The 1989 IAAF Race Walking World Cup had been allocated to Barcelona, Spain, and was due to be held on the weekend of 27-28 May 1989. Trials were needed for the men's 20km and 50km and for the women's 10km and they would all need to be held early in the year.

IAAF World Cup 50km Trial Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne, Sunday 12th February 1989

The first of the IAAF World Cup trials to be held was the men's 50km, staged at Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne, on Sunday 12th February. At the 1987 World Cup 50km in New York and while still a junior, **Craig Brill** had clocked an Australian Junior best of 4:19:46 as the first Australian to finish, in front of his older team mates **Mark Donahoo** and **Mike Harvey**. The results of the 1989 World Cup 50km trial were the same, Brill first with 4:14:34, Donahoo second with 4:19:41 and Harvey third with 4:20:54. Fourth placed **Mark Dossetor**, with 4:27:05, had also done enough to satisfy the selectors, and all four were eventually named in the team, alongside Simon Baker who eventually opted for the 50km rather than the 20km.

IAAF World Cup 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sun 12th Feb 1989

1.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:14:34
2.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	4:19:41
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:20:54
4.	Mark Dosseter	VIC	4:27:05
5.	Brian Trower	VIC	4:46:45
6.	Tim Thompson	SA	5:17:30
-	Paul Copeland	VIC	DNF
-	Rod Huxley	NSW	DNF
-	Duncan Knox	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Thomas	VIC	DNF
-	Richard Pestell	VIC	DNF

2nd World Indoor Championships Budapest, Hungary, 3-5 March 1989

It was rather obvious why **Simon Baker** and **Andrew Jachno** had bypassed the 50km trial, given their participation 3 weeks later in the 2nd World Indoor Championships in Hungary. The Australian team was a small one, with only 7 athletes, 4 of them walkers! As expected, Baker and Jachno filled the two male walk slots and they both walked well, finishing 7th and 8th overall. But the highlight of the meet from an Australian perspective was the gold medal walk of **Kerry Saxby**. She finished second in her heat with 12:41.55 and then blasted her opposition off the track in the final, with a new world record time of 12:01.65. NSW walker **Bev Hayman** rounded out the walks team, finishing 12th.

World Indoor Championships 5000m Walk Men

7.	Simon Baker	AUS	19:24.12
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8.	Andrew Jachno	AUS	19:25.24
World Indoor Championships 3000m Walk Women			
1.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	12:01.65
12.	Bev Hayman	AUS	13:06.61

**IAAF World Cup 20km Men Trial
Davies Park, Brisbane, Sunday 12th March 1989**

A week later, **Simon Baker** and **Andrew Jachno** were back in Australia and in action in the IAAF World Cup 20km trial walk in Davies Park, Brisbane. The day was a scorcher and the times were slow, Baker winning with 1:28:15 and Jachno second with 1:31:11. After a stellar junior career, **Paul Copeland** had taken up an AIS scholarship in Canberra at the start of 1989 so it was not surprising when he took third place behind his new training partners, albeit in a heat effected 1:35:23. Baker, Jachno and Copeland had all done enough for selection. One final World Cup spot was eventually confirmed – SA walker **Robbie McFadden**. Although he did not finish the trial, he had walked 1:28:25 in the 1988 National 20km so was given the selectors' final discretionary spot.

IAAF World Cup 20km Trial, Brisbane, Sun 12th March 1989			
1.	Simon Baker	VIC	1:28:15
2.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:31:11
3.	Paul Copeland	VIC	1:35:23
4.	Mark Thomas	VIC	1:38:06
5.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:42:47
6.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	1:43:59
7.	Klass Maurer	QLD	1:52:27
-	Mark Donahoo	VIC	DNF
-	Rob McFadden	SA	DNF
-	Brian Trower	VIC	DNF

**IAAF World Cup 10km Women Trial,
Davies Park, Brisbane, Sunday 12th March 1989**

The women's 10km IAAF World Cup trial was also held in Brisbane, on the same day, and with the same intense conditions. It seemed nothing could phase **Kerry Saxby**, as she strolled to victory in 44:05. It was then a long way back to **Lorraine Jachno** in second place with 48:56. **Bev Hayman**, third with 49:33, rounded out the top three and rounded out the subsequent team selections.

IAAF World Cup 10km Trial, Brisbane, Sun 12th March 1989			
1.	Kerry Saxby	NSW	44:05
2.	Lorraine Jachno	VIC	48:56
3.	Bev Hayman	NSW	49:33
4.	Gabrielle Blythe	VIC	49:49
5.	Sharon Schnyder	VIC	51:29
6.	Judy Kitchener	QLD	51:57
7.	Miriam Harding	NSW	52:30
8.	Celia Massie	VIC	52:56
9.	Carolyn Vanstan	VIC	52:57
10.	Karen Iselin	QLD	55:01
11.	Leanne Robinson	SA	55:01
12.	S. Miles	QLD	1:05:26

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1988-89
QEII Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland, 17-19 March 1989**

One week later, **Simon Baker**, **Andrew Jachno** and **Paul Copeland** took gold, silver and bronze in the 1989 Australian T&F Championship 5000m walk in Brisbane, confirming their position as our current top three walkers.

Australian 5,000m Track Walk, Brisbane, Sat 18th March 1989			
1	Simon Baker	VIC	19:38.23

2	Andrew Jachno	VIC	20:06.10
3	Paul Copeland	VIC	21:06.70
4	Mark Donahoo	VIC	21:15.12
5	Rob McFadden	SA	21:23.29
6	Michael Bodey	VIC	21:33.40
7	Rod Huxley	NSW	22:00.13
8	Paul Kennedy	VIC	22:28.35
9	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	22:57.13
10	Robin Miller	NZL	23:37.86
-	Greg Robertson	TAS	DQ
-	Julian Weller	QLD	DNF

1989 IAAF World Cup

L'Hospitalet (Barcelona), Spain, 27-28 May 1989

The 1989 IAAF World Race Walking Cup was held on 27 and 28 May 1989 in the streets of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, a suburb of Barcelona, Spain. It was a hot weekend in more ways than one, with high temperatures, big fields (341 walkers from 33 countries) and very high quality walking.

With Simon Baker in the 50km team, the Australian 20km men struggled to mix it with the high quality international field, **Andrew Jachno** finishing the best with 65th place, ahead of **Paul Copeland** in 85th and **Rob McFadden** in 109th place.

IAAF World Cup Men's 20 km Walk, Saturday 27 th May 1989			
65.	Andrew Jachno	AUS	1:30:01
85.	Paul Copeland	AUS	1:33:43
109.	Robert McFadden	AUS	1:39:00

The women's 10km race produced another wonderful walk by **Kerry Saxby**. After battling the whole way against East Germany's Beate Anders, she finished second with 43:12, just 4 seconds short in the final sprint to the line. **Lorraine Jachno** walked excellently for 31st and **Bev Hayman** was also competitive with 55th place. Overall, the women's team finished 8th, a very satisfying stat.

IAAF World Cup Women's 10 km Walk, Sat 27 th May 1989			
2.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	43:12
31.	Lorraine Jachno	AUS	47:18
55.	Bev Hayman	AUS	49:31

I don't think anyone, apart perhaps from **Simon Baker's** coach Craig Hilliard, give Simon much of a chance for the gold in the World Cup 50km, but he was in the best shape of his life - in a warmup 10km event in Hidesheim in Germany, he had recorded 39:56 for 2nd place behind Russian Waldas Lozlauskas.

His plan in the World Cup 50km was to sit with the leaders until half way and then apply pressure, and he executed his plan perfectly. On the 13th lap of the 25 lap course, he increased his pace and surged to the lead. Within 2 laps, he had a lead of 20-25 seconds. Out in front, Simon just concentrated on his technique while behind him the leading pack gradually fragmented as it unsuccessfully chased him. With 2 laps to go, the lead had increased to 80 seconds and the chasing pack was broken.

Simon's finishing time of 3:43:13 bettered his Seoul time by over a minute. Russian Andrey Perlov, the world's fastest in 1987, was 2nd in 3:44:12. Of the finishing stages of the race, Simon said "*By the finish of the race, because it was the Russians who were chasing me, just about the whole crowd was yelling at me to keep going. It was quite emotional in the last two laps with all the cheering and support there. That just kept pushing me through.*"

His final comment summed it all up perfectly. "*You work very hard and every now and then in your life there is a little bit of magic.*"

Behind Baker, the other Australians all endured tough races, **Craig Brill** disqualified, **Michael Harvey** 67th, **Mark Donahoo** 73rd and **Mark Dossetor** 75th. When the points from the men's 20km and 50km races were added together, Australia finished 13th overall.

IAAF World Cup Men's 50 km Walk, Sunday 28th May 1989

1.	Simon Baker	AUS	3:43:13
67.	Michael Harvey	AUS	4:33:07
73.	Mark Donahoo	AUS	4:37:19
75.	Mark Dossetor	AUS	4:37:55
-	Craig Brill	AUS	DNF



Simon wins the 1989 Racewalking World Cup – a first for Australia

23rd Lake Burley Griffin Carnival**Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1989**

1989 saw the 20 Mile event held first, starting at 8:30AM, while the shorter races were held in the afternoon at the Bruce Stadium Complex. **Andrew Jachno**, in his first year on an AIS scholarship, broke through for an inaugural win with a PB time of 2:27:17 which placed him 3rd on the all time rankings behind Willi Sawall and Simon Baker. **Willi Sawall** and **Tim Erickson** made once off return appearances and finished 2nd and 4th respectively. It was Sawall's 10th appearance for 8 golds and 2 silver medals while for Erickson it was 5 silvers, two bronzes and a 4th from 8 appearances. As usual, **Michael Harvey** walked a solid race, finishing 3rd with 2:34:21. It also saw the first New Zealander, **Shane Donnelly**, race by invitation. It also saw a young **Nick A'Hern** come an inauspicious 12th place in just under 3 hours.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1989

1.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	2:27:19
2.	Willi Sawall	VIC	2:32:44
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:34:21
4.	Tim Erickson	VIC	2:43:04
5.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:44:24
6.	Shane Donnelly (INV)	NZ	2:50:00
7.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:55:19
8.	Duncan Knox	VIC	2:55:52
9.	Mark Wall	VIC	2:56:13
10.	Murray Marker	SA	2:57:49
11.	Mark Dredge	NSW	2:59:16
12.	Nick A'Hern	NSW	2:59:47
13.	Keith Law	NSW	3:02:43
14.	John Smith	NSW	3:08:52
15.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:11:46
16.	Trevor Vogler	ACT	3:12:48
17.	Ben Richardson	NSW	3:14:20
18.	Chris Stratford	NSW	3:14:28

19.	Robert Lilley	NSW	3:15:00
20.	Warren Harbour	VIC	3:18:41
21.	Graeme Huxley	NSW	3:20:39
22.	Paul Moritz	NSW	3:21:31
23.	Caleb Maybir	QLD	3:22:54
24.	Anthony Barrett	VIC	3:26:47
25.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:30:13
26.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:35:28
27.	Tony Andrews	ACT	3:40:22
28.	Bill Starr	SA	3:45:52
29.	G Walsh	NSW	3:52:20
30.	Paul Thompson	NSW	3:55:58
-	Paul Copeland	VIC	DQ
-	Mark Thomas	VIC	DQ
-	Bob Agnew	ACT	DQ
-	Tony Michelson	ACT	DQ
H. C. Campbell Shield			
1.	VIC 103	Andrew Jachno, Willi Sawall, Michael Harvey	
2.	NSW 81	Rod Huxley, Mark Dredge, Keith Law	
3.	VIC2 74	Duncan Knox, Mark Wall, Warren Harbour	
4.	ACT 61	Robin Whyte, Trevor Vogler, Tony Andrews	
5.	SA 58	Murray Marker, Tim Thompson, Bill Starr	
6.	NSW2 57	John Smith, Robert Lilley, Graeme Huxley	

1989 Australian 20km Championship Perth, Saturday 24th June 1989

If the first half of 1989 had seen some fantastic racing, the 1989 Australian 20km was a big letdown. With the race held in Perth, none of the big guns made the long and expensive trip. **Rod Huxley** won with 1:36:41, ahead of **Andrew Ludwig** and New Zealander **Shane Donnelly**.

1989 Australian 20km Championship, Perth, Sat 24 th June 1989			
1.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:36:41
2.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	1:37:00
3.	Shane Donnelly	NZ	1:39:50
4.	Mark Wall	VIC	1:42:19
5.	Alan Whiteley	WA	1:49:42
6.	John Mison	NSW	1:52:47
7.	George Audley	WA	2:01:48
8.	Garry Hastie	WA	2:17:22 ?
9.	Peter Back	WA	2:14:30 ?
Teams 1. WA 10			

Federation Carnival, including Alexander Cup 20km Adelaide, Saturday 1st July 1989

The Federation Carnival in Adelaide a week later did attract a better field, with **Michael Harvey** winning the Alexander Cup 20km with 1:27:22, ahead of **Willi Sawall**, **Rob McFadden** and **Tim Erickson**.

Alexander Cup 20km, Adelaide, Saturday 1 st July 1989			
1.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:27:22
2.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:28:27
3.	Rob McFadden	SA	1:32:32
4.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:36:38
5.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:37:19
6.	Don Cox	SA	1:41:48
7.	Murray Marker	SA	1:42:13
8.	Keith Law	NSW	1:46:09

9.	C. Strathford	NSW	1:47:05
10.	Tim Thompson	SA	1:49:56
11.	D. Tomson	ACT	1:50:30
12.	W. Harbour	VIC	1:51:05
13.	Trevor Vogler	ACT	1:51:34
14.	G. Huxley	NSW	1:54:36
15.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:55:28
16.	Peter Waddell	ACT	1:58:54
17.	Colin Hainsworth	SA	2:00:55
18.	Jack Webber	SA	2:19:43
-	Mark Walk	VIC	DQ
-	Nigel Crew	ACT	DQ
-	Wayne Fletcher	TAS	DQ
Teams			
1.	VIC 69	2. SA 61	3. NSW 49 4. ACT 44

1989 Australian 50km Championship Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, Sunday 5th August 1989

Simon Baker returned to racing after a 3 month layoff, walking to an easy victory in the 1989 Australian 50km championship in Melbourne with 3:57:36. **Craig Brill** seemed to have recovered from his DNF in the World Cup, taking second with a 13 minute PB time of 4:01:38. On this occasion, he negative split the race, with his second half significantly faster than his first half. This happened on a number of subsequent occasions with Craig. He seemed to prefer to start slowly and gather steam as the event progressed. The ever youthful 47 year old **Willi Sawall** took third with 4:12:29.

Australian 50km, Melbourne, Sunday 5 th August 1989			
1.	Simon Baker	VIC	3:57:36
2.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:01:38
3.	Willi Sawall	VIC	4:12:29
4.	Brian Trower	VIC	4:24:33
5.	John Leydon	NSW	4:35:16
6.	Bill Dyer	VIC	4:40:58
7.	Mark Wall	VIC	4:42:32
8.	Kevin Lowden	VIC	4:42:48
9.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	4:49:55
10.	Rod Huxley	NSW	4:55:18
11.	Tim Thompson	SA	5:03:55
12.	Keith Law	NSW	5:24:35
Teams 1. VIC 6 2. NSW 15			

15th Summer Universiade Duisburg, Germany, 22-30 August 1989

The 1989 Summer Universiade, also known as the XV Summer Universiade, took place in Duisburg, West Germany. Five Australian walkers were in attendance, with **Andrew Jachno** providing one of the Australian team highlights with his third place finish in the men's 20km. **Paul Copeland** with 10th and **Michael Harvey** with 13th also finished well up. The women had a harder time of it. **Carolyn Vanstan** finishing 20th and **Celia Massie** finishing 21st.

Summer Universiade 20km Walk Men			
3.	Andrew Jachno	AUS	1:23:48
10.	Paul Copeland	AUS	1:31:24
13.	Michael Harvey	AUS	1:37:29

Summer Universiade 20km Walk Women			
20.	Carolyn Vanstan	AUS	24:01
21.	Celia Massie	AUS	24:52

The Australian Commonwealth Games Walk Trials Melbourne, Sunday 29th October 1989

The Australian trials for the 1990 Commonwealth Games were held on 29th October 1989 on a course around the inner Melbourne streets, near Olympic Park.

For the first time a women's walk was to be held at the Commonwealth Games and the 10km distance had been chosen. The Australian qualifying standards had been set to 2:15:00 for the men and 48:00 for the women.

In the men's 30km trial, **Willi Sawall** took the lead from the start, racing in the only way he knew. But it was not long before he had to yield to his nagging hamstring and he fell back with his race over. **Michael Harvey** was the next to take the lead, solo early on and then in tandem with **Simon Baker**. But his effort took its own toll and he too fell off the pace. **Andrew Jachno**, who had been lurking in the background early in the race, soon joined Baker at the front and they battled each other to the 28km mark before deciding to cross the finishing line together in 2:10:53.

The real interest lay in the final team spot and there were a number of contenders. **Paul Copeland** was well back in fifth place early on and had walked his way up through the field, but with a lap to go, he was still outside the required time of 2:15:00. Urged on by family and friends, Copeland drew on every reserve to claw the time back, eventually taking third in 2:14:53. During the race he would have had plenty of time to contemplate his 1988 Olympic Trial when he missed out on a trip to Seoul by a mere 2 seconds. This was a fitting payback. **Craig Brill** was fourth in 2:16:51 while **Michael Harvey** was fifth in 2:21:27. It was another high quality trial.

1990 Comm Games 30km Trial, Melbourne, Sun 29th Oct 1989

E1.	Simon Baker	VIC	2:10:53
E1.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	2:10:53
3.	Paul Copeland	VIC	2:14:53
4.	Craig Brill	VIC	2:16:51
5.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:21:27
6.	Nick A'Hern	NSW	2:21:53
7.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	2:26:13
8.	Greg Robertson	TAS	2:29:23
9.	Bill Dyer	VIC	2:37:02
10.	Mark Wall	VIC	2:43:55
11.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:01:45
-	Anthony Michelsen	NSW	DQ
-	Steve Beecroft	VIC	DNF
-	Duncan Knox	VIC	DNF
-	Ross Reid	VIC	DNF
-	Willi Sawall	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Thomas	VIC	DNF

The women's race started 5 minutes after the men's start. As expected, **Kerry Saxby** went straight to the lead which then grew larger each lap. She eventually won by the proverbial mile in a world class time of 43:29.3. She was not even puffing as she crossed the finish line. **Lorraine Jachno** was second in 46:29, a time that cemented her place as the number two woman walker in Australia. **Gabrielle Blythe** kept Jachno company for a few laps but never looked comfortable and retired on the fifth lap. It was a day of dramatic finishes as NSW walker **Bev Hayman** narrowly qualified and then **Carolyn Vanstan** also just slipped under the required time. Sadly only 3 women could be selected and the Victorian youngster was the one to miss out. Alas, only partial results are available.

1990 Comm Games 10km Trial, Melbourne, Sun 29th Oct 1989

1.	Kerry Saxby	NSW	43:29.3
2.	Lorraine Jachno	VIC	46:29
3.	Bev Hayman	NSW	
4.	Carolyn Vanstan	VIC	

Lorraine and her husband Andrew became one of the very few husband-wife teams to compete at the same Games.

1990

1990 Commonwealth Games

Auckland, New Zealand, 24th January - 3rd February 1990

The 1990 Commonwealth Games were held in Auckland, New Zealand from 24th January to 3rd February 1990. It was the 14th Commonwealth Games, and part of New Zealand's 1990 sesquicentennial celebrations. Participants competed in ten sports: athletics, aquatics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, lawn bowls, shooting and weightlifting. The Triathlon was a demonstration event. The main venue was the Mount Smart Stadium.

Commonwealth Games Men's 30km Walk

Auckland, Friday 2nd February 1990

Defending champion and athletics team captain **Simon Baker** had been expected to win the men's walk. Just three weeks before he had walked a personal best for 10km and he was, after all, the reigning World Cup 50km champion. Alas, two weeks before the Commonwealth Games walk, his hopes were crippled when he came down with sciatica after a fast track session. He had constant treatment at the AIS in Canberra and in Auckland but 500 metres into the race, he knew he had not overcome it. "*I had shooting pains up and down my leg,*" Baker said.

Baker had also come down with a virus the day before the race. "*I woke up this morning about 1AM*", he said. "*I was sweating so much I felt like I could go for a swim.*" Through a mixture of pride and stubbornness, he finished the race but he was a mere shadow of what might have been expected. It was typical of Simon that he chose to finish the race alongside the young **Paul Copeland** to encourage him for the future.

Andrew Jachno made a valiant effort to steal the race. He had expected to walk with Baker and cut out a 2:06 pace but now he had to do it alone. He took a gamble, setting a sizzling pace to cover the first 10km in 42:11, establishing a big break over the eventual winner, LeBlanc of Canada. He was still well ahead at the 20km mark but an impending cramp slowed him and, by the 24km, he was overhauled by the Canadian. with Englishman Ian McCombie close behind.

The Australian and the Canadian walked together for several kilometres but Jachno was now struggling with cramping when LeBlanc made his move, breaking away at the 27km mark. At 29km the cramps finally became unbearable and he had to stop and stretch. "*At 29 km, it went. I had a cramp in my right hamstring. I knew McCombie was on my hammer.*" Even after stretching, the cramp would not loosen so he simply had to walk with it for the remainder of the race. It was agonising to watch those last few kilometres on TV as Andrew struggled home for 2nd place in 2:09:09.

The third Australian walker, Paul Copeland, was also in trouble. A back injury in December 1989 severely hampered his final preparations and his 8th place, finishing alongside Baker, was a disappointment after his wonderful trial performance. Growing disillusioned with the AIS, he eventually made the decision to return to Melbourne and continue his career in the more familiar home environment.

Hilliard blasted the course, describing the rough blue chip surface as disgracefully inadequate for an international event. "*They've had years to prepare for this, but obviously have a complete lack of understanding of what is required for a world-class walking event.*" There was little doubt that it had cost Jachno the gold medal. Baker added his voice to the chorus of protests over the surface of the race course. "*There were times when I couldn't put my foot on the surface properly and I thought I would pull my hamstring.*" He held back from calling it the worst surface he had competed on: "*Well, I've raced on cobblestones in Germany – but at least they were flat.*"

Leblanc's gold now gave him the full set of Commonwealth medals after his bronze in Brisbane in 1982 and his silver in Edinburgh in 1986.

Commonwealth Games 30km Walk, Auckland, Fri 2nd Feb 1990			
1.	Guillaume Leblanc	Canada	2:08:28
2.	Andrew Jachno	Australia	2:09:09
3.	Ian McCombie	England	2:09:20
4.	Francois Lapointe	Canada	2:12:41
5.	Mark Easton	England	2:14:52
6.	Christopher Maddocks	England	2:15:07
E7.	Simon Baker	Australia	2:19:55
E7.	Paul Copeland	Australia	2:19:55
9.	Stephen Partington	Isle of Man	2:20:11
10.	Shane Donnelly	New Zealand	2:24:01
11.	Martin Archambault	Canada	2:29:22

12.	Sean Sullivan	New Zealand	2:35:40
-	Moetu Tangitamaiti	Cook Islands	DNF

Commonwealth Games Women's 10km Walk, Auckland, Friday 2nd February 1990

Lorraine Jachno's immediate pre-race preparations were ruined by the sight of her husband Andrew limping across the line in second place and then being stretchered off groaning in agony. Once she had determined that Andrew was going to be ok, she left to mentally tune herself for her own walk.

By that time, the sun had a real sting to it and the effects were not long in coming. With her rivals collapsing around her and the stretcher bearers working overtime, Australia's **Kerry Saxby** cruised to victory in the inaugural Commonwealth Games women's walk – after covering most of the 10km with a stone in her shoe. The amazing walker from the NSW coastal town of Ballina, who had set 26 world best times on the track and road, was relaxed and still full of energy at the finish, in stark contrast to the rest of the field.

The hot weather and rough course took a heavy toll with five of the 11 walkers ending in the hands of the medical people. Four of them, silver medallist Lisa Keller of England, Janice McCaffrey (fifth) and Alison Baker (eighth) and England's Betty Sworawski, who failed to finish, were taken away on stretchers. Another Canadian, Ann Peel, also failed to make it to the finish and was led away in tears. The competitors tent looked more like a hospital ward.

Only Saxby seemed unaffected by the ordeal. In fact she said she didn't feel the heat and enjoyed the race. She won in 45:03, well outside the world record of 43:08, and exactly two minutes ahead of the silver medallist, Auckland doctor Anne Judkins.

The victory ended years of frustration for Saxby, 28, who has always felt that her feats have gone unrecognised in Australia because she has never won a medal at the Olympic or Commonwealth Games. There was a good reason for that - women's walking was never a part of either Games and was a late addition to the Auckland program after Australian athletics officials lobbied heavily on her behalf. It was to be added to the Olympic Program in 1992 and they felt it deserved to be added at the Commonwealth level. She got added pleasure from the fact that her mother, sister, brother and 82 year old grandmother all made the trip to Auckland to watch her walk in an international race for the first time.

She supported Hilliard's criticism of the course, saying it was too bumpy. *"It was very harsh on my legs,"* she said.

Australia's other two walkers, **Lorraine Jachno** and **Bev Hayman**, finished fourth and sixth in 47:35 and 48:50 respectively. But that does not tell the story of the brave race put up by both girls in the dreadful conditions. I remember watching Lorraine's valiant performance in the final kilometres where she chased eventual bronze medallist Langford but could not bridge the gap. She collapsed at the finish and was comforted by Saxby.

1.	Kerry Saxby-Junna	Australia	45:03
2.	Anne Judkins	New Zealand	47:03
3.	Lisa Kehler	England	47:23
4.	Lorraine Jachno	Australia	47:35
5.	Janice McCaffrey	Canada	48:26
6.	Beverley Hayman	Australia	48:50
7.	Helen Elleker	England	49:51
8.	Alison Baker	Canada	50:54
-	Ann Peel	Canada	DNF
-	Elizabeth Sworowski	England	DNF
-	Jane Jackson	New Zealand	DQ

Australian Track & Field Championships 1989-90 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 30 March - 1 April 1990

Andrew Jachno had soon recovered from his Commonwealth Games soreness and was untroubled to win the 1990 Australian T&F Championships 5000m Walk at the Olympic Park in Melbourne, his time an excellent 19:29.84. **Simon Baker** was still not 100% body wise and struggled home in third place with 20:36.51, behind a quickly improving young **Nick A'Hern** of NSW, who took second with 19:56.3.

5,000m Track Walk - Men - Saturday 31st March 1990

1	Andrew Jachno	VIC	19:29.84
2	Nick A'Hern	NSW	19:56.03
3	Simon Baker	VIC	20:36.51
4	Rob McFadden	SA	20:54.06
5	Willi Sawall	VIC	21:12.19
6	Mark Dossetor	VIC	21:16.97
7	Mark Thomas	VIC	21:41.95
8	Rohan Best	TAS	21:44.46
9	Martin Richardson	VIC	21:45.49
10	Paul Kennedy	VIC	21:52.68
11	Duncan Knox	VIC	21:53.43
12	Grant Saunders	VIC	22:08.93
13	Ross Reid	VIC	22:24.50
14	John Leydon	NSW	22:33.79
15	Jeff Phillips	NSW	22:42.42
16	Bill Dyer	VIC	22:42.96
17	Kevin Lowden	VIC	23:09.34
-	Julian Weller	QLD	DQ
-	Craig Brill	VIC	DNF

24th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival**Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 10th June 1990**

In 1990, the Federation U20 Men's 10,000m walk was extended in scope to also include the Australian Junior 10,000m racewalking championship. Also, a new Federation club, Proclamation Park, competed for the first time. Since this was a second Victorian club, the results would now have to show VRWC or PP rather than VIC. Once again, the Bruce Stadium precinct was used for the afternoon events.

On this occasion, the entries hit the 300 mark – a new record. Near disaster was avoided when the cycle path was dug up on the Thursday before. A team of Mike Dando, Bob Agnew and Bruce Cook had to quickly fill in a 10m wide hole and sweep 80m of sand/dirt off the track the day before the carnival.

Andrew Jachno, fresh from his Commonwealth Games silver medal, easily retained his title from **Michael Harvey** and **Mark Donahoo**. Donahoo, after a slow first 10 miles in 81:25, stormed home with a 72:47 last 10 miles to finish just 5 seconds behind Harvey. **Robin Whyte** celebrated his 24th year of continuous racing in this event with a time of 3:00:07. VRWC filled the first 7 positions.

LBG 20 Mile Walk, Canberra, Sunday 10th June 1990

1.	Andrew Jachno	VRWC	2:27:31
2.	Michael Harvey	VRWC	2:34:07
3.	Mark Donahoo	VRWC	2:34:12
4.	Mark Dossetor	VRWC	2:38:00
5.	John Leydon	VRWC	2:38:47
6.	Mark Thomas	VRWC	2:46:28
7.	Duncan Knox	VRWC	2:48:03
8.	Michael Woods	NSW	2:48:55
9.	Mark Dredge	NSW	2:49:50
10.	Robert McFadden	SA	2:50:52
11.	Jeffrey Phillips	NSW	2:51:45
12.	Bob Mee	ACT	2:52:29
13.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:55:20
14.	Keith Law	NSW	2:55:35
15.	Kevin Lowden	PP	2:56:02
16.	Frank Bertei	PP	2:56:10
17.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:56:20
18.	Robin Whyte	ACT	3:00:07
19.	Alex Crawford	NSW	3:03:29
20.	Trevor Vogler	ACT	3:03:42
21.	Bruce Dudon	VRWC	3:05:06

22.	Grant Saunders	VRWC	3:10:30
23.	Chris Stratford	NSW	3:18:33
24.	Warren Harbour	PP	3:19:45
25.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:23:41
26.	Robin Wood	VRWC	3:28:03
27.	Graeme Huxley	NSW	3:30:38
28.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:31:51
29.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:39:05
30.	Bill Starr	SA	3:40:30
31.	Tony Barrett	VRWC	3:41:53
32.	Ron Whitham	NSW	3:41:53
-	Russell McFarlane	VRWC	DQ
-	Brian Trower	VRWC	DQ
-	Bill Dyer	VRWC	DQ
-	Anthony Michelson	NSW	DQ

8 Nations Meet

Grassau, Germany, Sunday 17th June 1990

Australia was invited to participate in the prestigious 8 Nations Meeting, to be held in Grassau in Germany in June 1990. With Simon Baker spearheading a competitive team, Harry Summers was appointed the manager and the following walkers were selected by Athletics Australia. This was the first of 4 years (1990-1993) when Summers took what were viewed as developmental teams to Europe to compete in this meet.

Junior Men 10km: **Rohan Best** (TAS), **Anthony Miles** (QLD), **Dean Nipperess** (QLD), **Tony Baker**

Junior Women 5km: **Nat McKean** (NSW), **Teresa Letherby** (QLD), **Wendy Muldoon** (VIC), **Lynda Pearce** (NSW), **Sharon Pearce** (NSW)

Women 10km: **Lorraine Jachno**, **Carolyn Vanstan** and **Heather McDonald** (VIC), **Miriam Harding** (SA)

Men 20km: **Andrew Jachno**, **Michael Harvey** and **Mark Fletcher** (VIC), **Nick A'Hern** (NSW)

Men 35km: **Simon Baker** and **Craig Brill** (VIC)

The 8 Nations Meet was held a week after the Canberra LBG Carnival, in which most of the team had competed. Then it was onto the plane to Europe and a quick acclimatisation before the big event, where Australia finished a creditable 5th amongst the European walking nations.

Simon Baker showed that he had now regained top form, finishing only 4 secs behind East German walker Ronald Weigel in the 35km Walk. **Nick A'Hern** continued his rise to the top of Australian walking with 10th place in the 20km, ahead of **Andrew Jachno** in 13th and **Michael Harvey** in 26th. **Lorraine Jachno** was another to walk well, coming 12th in the women's 10km with 47:04.

8 Nations Meet Men 35km walk			
1.	Ron Weigel	GDR	2:32:05
2.	Simon Baker	AUS	2:32:09
24.	Craig Brill	AUS	2:50:46
8 Nations Meet Men 20km walk			
1.	Ernesto Canto	MEX	1:21:20
10.	Nick A'Hern	AUS	1:22:59
13.	Andrew Jachno	AUS	1:24:45
26.	Mick Harvey	AUS	1:29:22
-	Mark Fletcher	AUS	DNF
8 Nations Meet Women 10km walk			
1.	Bette Anders	GDR	43:50
12.	Lorraine Jachno	AUS	47:04
23.	Carolyn Vanstan	AUS	49:30
24.	Heather McDonald	AUS	49:37 (PB)
25.	Miriam Harding	AUS	49:49
8 Nations Meet Junior Women 5km walk			
6.	Sharon Pearce	AUS	24:04

8.	Nat McKean	AUS	24:30
9.	Teresa Letherby	AUS	24:33
19.	Wendy Muldoon	AUS	25:04
22.	Lynda Pearce	AUS	25:11
8 Nations Meet Junior Men 10km walk			
14.	Anthony Miles	AUS	46:01
17.	Rohan Best	AUS	46:22
28.	Dean Nipperess	AUS	48:15
30.	Anthony Baker	AUS	?

The team then went on to Frankfurt for a 10km race which was held on roads in the city centre. The mens race was a fast affair with Perlov of Russia just edging out Nick A'Hern in the low 39's. Andrew Jachno finished 7th in 39:50, just ahead of Ron Weigel of GDR and Simon Baker – an indication of the great depth of this event. This was A'Hern's first overseas trip as a senior walker and his fine walking ensured that he received an invitation to compete in the prestigious Goodwill Games later that year.

RWA/AA 50km Championship Adelaide, Sunday 14th July 1990

A special RWA/AA 50km championship was held on Sunday 14th July 1990 in Adelaide. The carnival also featured AA Open Women 20km, AA U20 Men 20km, AA U20 Women 10km and AA U18 Men/Women 8km. **Michael Harvey** was untroubled to win with 4:14:56. It was a long way back to second place! **Craig Brill**, the only other top liner in action, suffered a rare disqualification.

Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 14th July 1990			
1.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:14:56
2.	John Leydon	VIC	4:28:00
3.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	4:46:00
4.	Jeffrey Phillips	NSW	4:48:06
5.	Keith law	NSW	5:16:49
6.	Chris Stratford	NSW	5:23:18
7.	Frank Overton	NSW	5:38:31
-	Rod Huxley	NSW	DNF
-	John Smith	NSW	DNF
-	Alex Crawford	NSW	DNF
-	Mark Nipperess	NSW	DNF
-	Trevor Vogler	ACT	DNF
-	Robin Whyte	ACT	DQ
-	Mick Dando	ACT	DQ
-	Craig Brill	VIC	DQ
-	Brian Trower	VIC	DQ
Teams: 1. NSW 6			

2nd Goodwill Games Husky Stadium, Seattle, USA, 20th July - 5th August 1990

At the first Goodwill Games in Moscow in 1986, **Kerry Saxby** had won gold in the 10,000m track walk. She returned to defend her title at the second Goodwill Games, held between 20th July and 5th August 1990, in Seattle, USA. She was one of a small Australian team which also included male walkers **Simon Baker**, **Andrew Jachno** and **Nick A'Hern**.

Saxby's walk was a superb one, just losing out by less than 1 second to Russian walker Nadezhda Ryashkina in the final sprint, both girls breaking the previous world record. Beate Anders, who had beaten Kerry for gold in the 1989 World Cup, was relegated to third place on this occasion. The men also performed well in the track 20,000m walk, especially given it was held in searing heat, with A'Hern turning the tables on his older team mates and finishing 4th, ahead of Baker in 5th and Jachno in 7th place. It is fair to say that he had now come of age as a 20km walker.

Goodwill Games 10,000m Track Walk Women			
1.	Nadezhda Ryashkina	URS	41:56.23 WR

2.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	41:57.22
3.	Beate Anders	GDR	42:48.51
Goodwill Games 20,000m Track Walk Men			
1.	Ernesto Canto	MEX	1:23:13.12 GR
2.	Mikhail Shchennikov	URS	1:23:22.34
3.	Bernd Gummelt	GDR	1:23:29.61
4	Nick A'Hern	AUS	1:23:49.90
5	Simon Baker	AUS	1:23:57.04
7	Andrew Jachno	AUS	1:25:44.56

Australian 20km Championship and Glover Shield Davies Park, Brisbane, Sunday 28th August 1990

All the big guns had gathered for the 1990 Australian 20km championship in Brisbane, held in conjunction with the Second Federaton Carnival and also hosting the newly minted Australian All-Schools Road Walking Championships. Conducted by the Queensland Athletic Association, it was a huge meet with big fields in nearly all of the events.

Andrew Jachno, Nick A'Hern and **Simon Baker** seemed to be playing musical chairs in the various races in 1990, with positions changing but with the three of them now well clear of any opposition. On this occasion, Jachno won out with a PB 1:20:43, ahead of A'Hern with 1:22:00 and Baker with 1:22:38. But it was by no means an easy win, with A'Hern setting a scorching pace for 8km before he succumbed to his stronger opponent.

Aust 20km Champ and Glover Shield, Brisbane, Sun 28th Aug			
1.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:20:43
2.	Nick A'Hern	NSW	1:22:00
3.	Simon Baker	VIC	1:22:38
4.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:26:18
5.	Robert McFadden	SA	1:29:40
6.	Derek Beaver	NZ	1:29:29
7.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:36:05
8.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	1:37:19
9.	Ignacio Jiminez	QLD	1:38:03
10.	Greg Robertson	TAS	1:38:26
11.	Rodney Huxley	NSW	1:38:43
12.	Jeffrey Phillips	NSW	1:40:22
13.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:41:11
14.	Jeffrey Goller	VIC	1:43:54
15.	Darian Law	NSW	1:45:29
16.	Peter Thompson	QLD	1:45:59
17.	Warren Barbour	VIC	1:45:31
18.	Klass Maurer	QLD	1:47:11
19.	Keith Law	NSW	1:48:11
20.	Caleb Maybir	QLD	1:50:12
21.	Bruce Cook	ACT	1:51:45
22.	Stephen Iselin	QLD	1:53:01
23.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:56:39
24.	Robert Lilley	NSW	1:58:15
25.	Grahame Huxley	NSW	2:00:10
26.	Graham Walsh	NSW	2:04:15
27.	Ron Witham	NSW	2:06:03
-	Trevor Vogler	ACT	DNF
-	Stuart Walters	VIC	DQ
-	Nigel Crew	ACT	DQ
-	Craig Brill	VIC	DQ
-	Anthony Michelsen	NSW	DQ
Teams			
1	VIC	13	Andrew Jachno, Simon Baker, Michael Harvey
2	NSW	29	Nick A'Hern, Rodney Huxley, Jeffrey Phillips
3	Qld	38	Andrew Ludwig, Ignatio Jiminez, Peter Thompson

Simon Baker finished off the winter season in great form in September, slashing the Commonwealth and National 50km track record in winning the Victorian title at the Box Hill track. He cut a massive 22 minutes off Englishman Chris Maddock's 1984 track record of 4:05:47, finishing in 3:43:50. It was the fastest 50km for the year and less than 2 minutes outside Raul Gonzalez's track world record. In this walk, he broke 4 Victorian and Australian records - his 25km time of 1:52:24 (this broke Ted Allsopp's famous 1956 record), his 30km time of 2:14:22, his 40km time of 2:57:57 and of course his 50km time of 3:43:50.

1991

The next IAAF Race Walking World Cup was to be held in San Jose, USA, on the weekend of 1st - 2nd June 1991. Trials would need to be held early in the year, with the first one being the men's 50km, pencilled in for Melbourne in late January.

IAAF World Cup 50km Trial Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, Sunday 27th January 1991

Simon Baker had been expected to dominate this trial, but was granted an exemption due to a broken collarbone, sustained after being knocked off his bike near the AIS after winning an Interclub 5000m walk. This opened the door for **Craig Brill** who was an easy winner with 4:05:59. **Bill Dyer** took second with 4:15:59, also cementing a World Cup team spot. **Kevin Louden** produced the walk of his life to finish 3rd with 4:16:43, a huge PB of around 26 minutes and a time also good enough for team selection. Amazingly, he had not even been planning to finish. He had entered the event purely to make up the numbers and intended to do around 30km for training. He ended up stopping at around the 35km mark, prepared to call it quits. But those on the sidelines saw that he was only 1 or 2 places outside team selection and urged him to go on. He restarted and the rest is history. **Rick Cooke**, with 4:17:47, was also under the 4:20:00 standard and would be in the team.

IAAF World Cup 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sun 27th Jan 1991			
1.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:05:59
2.	Bill Dyer	VIC	4:15:45
3.	Kevin Louden	VIC	4:16:43
4.	Ricky Cooke	TAS	4:17:47
5.	Brian Trower	VIC	4:21:13
6.	Duncan Knox	VIC	4:32:20
7.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	4:33:10
-	Michael Harvey	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Donahoo	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Fletcher	VIC	DNF
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	DNF
-	Stuart Walters	VIC	DNF
-	Chris Lockwood	VIC	DNF

With Simon Baker an automatic qualifier, the World Cup 50km team was now a full contingent of five: Baker, Brill, Dyer, Louden and Cooke.

The next event of note was the NEC T&F Meet, held at the Olympic Park in Melbourne on Thursday 7th February 1991. This was of special significance for the racewalking community as it saw **Andrew Jachno** set a new Commonwealth Record for the 5000m track walk (10:56.22) and **Kerry Saxby** set yet another World Record for the 3000m track walk (11:51.26).

IAAF World Cup 20km Trial Sydney, Wednesday 20th February 1991

The World Cup 20km trial was held in Sydney, in conjunction with the 1991 National T&F Championships, a few days before the 5000m track walk. Once again, **Nick A'Hern** had the wood over his older rival **Andrew Jachno**, 1:26:51 to 1:27:10. The surprise was the third place finish of **David Smith**, now representing Queensland and having his first national level race since 1987. He showed he had lost little of his fitness, with a good time of 1:28:38. It should have been good enough to book him a World Cup berth, alongside A'Hern and Jachno. However, Smith and Steve Becroft were named in the 20km team, subject to further fitness tests. The fifth spot remained unfilled.

IAAF World Cup 20km Trial, Sydney, Wed 20th February 1991			
1.	Nick A'Hern	NSW	1:26:51
2.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:27:10
3.	David Smith	QLD	1:28:38
4.	Rowan Best	TAS	1:32:51
5.	Mark Thomas	VIC	1:37:07
6.	Mark Fletcher	VIC	1:39:42
7.	Ignacio Jiminez	QLD	1:42:19
8.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:44:06
9.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:45:15
10.	Caleb Maybir	QLD	1:48:26

IAAF World Cup 10km Trial Sydney, wednesday 20th February 1991

The women's IAAF World Cup 10km trial was contested along with the men's 20km trial in Sydney just before the National T&F Titles. Kerry Saxby was going to be an automatic selection so did not need to race. In her absence, **Lorraine Jachno** had a comfortable win with 47:37. Fellow Victorian **Sharon Schnyder** had to put her late career on hold as she had her first child Jason in May 1990. But like many mothers before her, she bounced back stronger and surprised with a fine 48:18 for 2nd in the race. **Natalie Camplin** also did well enough to earn a spot World Cup spot with her third placed time of 48:29. The final World Cup spot was at the selectors' discretion and they went with Sue Cook who had a time of 46:51 to her credit but who had not contested the trial.

IAAF World Cup 20km Trial, Sydney, Wed 20th February 1991			
1.	Lorraine Jachno	VIC	47:37
2.	Sharon Schnyder	VIC	48:18
3.	Natalie Camplin	QLD	48:29
4.	Miriam Harding	ACT	49:52
5.	Therese Letherby	QLD	50:20
6.	Jane Lewry	SA	50:21
7.	Natalie McKean	NSW	50:54
8.	Carolyn Vanstan	VIC	51:17
9.	Wendy Muldoon	VIC	53:24
10.	Jenny Jones	QLD	56:20

Australian Track & Field Championships 1990-91 Sydney Athletic Field, Sydney, New South Wales, 22-24 February 1991

Simon Baker was only just starting training again after his broken collar bone so was a notable absentee from the 1991 Australian T&F Championships walk. That left **Nick A'Hern** and **Andrew Jachno** to fight out the title, and it was A'Hern who won with a huge PB of 19:08.03. This was in fact the second fastest ever by an Australian, behind David Smith. Jachno also PB'd with his second place time of 19:09.74 while **David Smith** continued his good form with a third placed 20:26.70.

Aust 5,000m Track Walk, Sydney, Saturday 23rd February 1991			
1	Nick A'Hern	NSW	19:08.03
2	Andrew Jachno	VIC	19:09.74
3	David Smith	QLD	20:26.70
4	Greg Robertson	TAS	20:41.45
5	Mark Thomas	VIC	21:08.48
6	Mark Donahoo	VIC	21:39.81
7	Paul Kennedy	VIC	21:42.58
8	Grant Saunders	VIC	22:04.74
9	Duncan Knox	VIC	22:10.49
10	Mark Fletcher	VIC	22:20.70
11	Rod Huxley	NSW	22:31.03
12	Chris Lockwood	VIC	22:35.37
13	Jeff Phillips	NSW	23:29.38
14	Caleb Maybir	QLD	25:39.07
-	Ross Reid	VIC	DQ

-	Ignacio Jimenez	QLD	DNF
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3rd World Indoor Championships

Palacio Municipal de Deportes San Pablo, Seville, Spain, 8th - 10th March 1991

Simon Baker had to withdraw from the Australian team for the World Indoors, his broken collarbone still not ready for racing. That left a walks team of three - **Nick A'Hern**, **Andrew Jachno** and **Kerry Saxby**. Surprisingly and somewhat controversially, A'Hern was one of 8 walkers (out of 20) disqualified in the heats while Jachno was disqualified in the final, after successfully negotiating his way through his heat with 20:06.83. Yet Jachno's style was thought to be exemplary and he had recorded a series of top pace preliminary races with excellent technique. There were no such issues for Saxby who placed fourth in her heat with a leisurely 13:06.38 before recording a time of 12:03.21 to take silver in the final, beaten once again by arch rival Beate Anders.

World Indoor Championships 5000m Walk Men			
-	Nicholas A'Hern	AUS	DQ
-	Andrew Jachno	AUS	DQ
World Indoor Championships 3000m Walk Women			
2.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	12:03.21

Second "Unofficial" World Cup 20km Trial

Knox Industrial Estate, Melbourne, Sunday 21st April 1991

There were mixed messages coming from Athletics Australia with regard to the 1991 World Cup men's 20km team. Nick A'Hern and Andrew Jachno were definite but there was uncertainty about the remaining spots, with further performances needed to satisfy the selectors.

The prime opportunity to impress the selectors was deemed to be the Victorian 30km Championship, to be contested in Melbourne on Sunday 21st April. Paul Copeland walked the first 20km in 1:25:19 and Michael Harvey did the same, recording a 20km time of 1:27:08. Steve Beecroft, thinking it was only a fitness trial, retired after doing the first 10km in around 43 mins – this proved to be a fatal error in judgement. For the record, Simon Baker, in his return to racing after his broken collarbone, won the 30km convincingly with 2:11:35.

Rather than come to Melbourne, David Smith put his times on the board in Brisbane, first with a 10km time of 41:35, followed by the required 20km time.

The 20km World Cup team was now confirmed as Nick A'Hern, Andrew Jachno, David Smith, Paul Copeland and Michael Harvey. It was a poorly handled process by Athletics Australia.

1991 IAAF World Cup

San Jose, USA, 1-2 June 1991

The 1991 IAAF World Race Walking Cup was held on the weekend of 1 - 2 June 1991 in the streets of San Jose, California, USA. The course followed a loop along Park Avenue and Almaden Boulevard, north and east of the intersection. The judges continued the strict judging they had started at the World Indoor Championships earlier in the year and times were generally slower across the board. The Russians were hard hit, as were the Australians, with 4 of our men disqualified. Fields were huge, with 127 in the men's 20km, 120 in the men's 50km and 91 in the women's 10km.

The men's 20km saw **Nick A'Hern** consolidate his position as our premier 20km walker, with a 15th place finish and a time of 1:22:31. **David Smith**, 46th with 1:26:14, justified his team selection, when he finished as the second Australian, ahead of Andrew Jachno and **Michael Harvey**. **Paul Copeland** was disqualified, his first setback after a steady rise through the Australian ranks. Jachno's disappointing 59th place prompted medical tests which confirmed he had contracted glandular fever. He withdrew from the 1991 IAAF World Championship team as the illness lingered.

1991 IAAF World Cup Men 20km Walk, San Jose, Sat 1st June			
15.	Nicholas A'Hern	AUS	1:22:21
46.	David Smith	AUS	1:26:14
59.	Andrew Jachno	AUS	1:28:42

63.	Michael Harvey	AUS	1:29:59
-	Paul Copeland	AUS	DQ

Simon Baker's performance in taking second in the 50km, only months after a broken collarbone, was definitely the outstanding Australian performance. In a bizarre finish, Baker had been dropped from the leading pack of 5 walkers late in the race and eventually crossed the line in 3rd place, ultimately being promoted to 2nd as the third Soviet walker was disqualified. The event was won by Mexican Carlos Mercenario in 3:42:03. The second Soviet disqualification had been the most sensational with Andrey Perlov physically removed from the course within metres of the finish after ignoring the chief judge's efforts to inform him of his disqualification a kilometre earlier. It was yet another quality 50km performance by Simon. **Ricky Cooke** was the only other Australian finisher, with **Bill Dyer**, **Craig Brill** and **Kevin Lowden** all disqualified.

1991 IAAF World Cup Men 50km Walk, San Jose, Sun 2nd June			
2.	Simon Baker	AUS	3:46.36
58.	Ricky Cooke	AUS	4:28:15
-	Bill Dyer	AUS	DQ
-	Craig Brill	AUS	DQ
-	Kevin Lowden	AUS	DQ

The women's 10km saw yet another quality walk by **Kerry Saxby** – fifth place with 44:49. **Lorraine Jachno** walked well (as she always did when the chips were down) to finish 33rd and **Natalie Camplin**, **Sue Cook** and **Sharon Schnyder** all finished, ensuring the women finished 8th in the Teams event.

1991 IAAF World Cup Women 10km Walk, San Jose, Sat 1st June			
5.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	44:49
33.	Lorraine Jachno	AUS	48:01
46	Natalie Camplin	AUS	49:32
59	Sue Cook	AUS	51:29
72.	Sharon Schnyder	AUS	54:58

25th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 9th June 1991

The carnival continued to get bigger and bigger, with a second year of over 300 entries. Again, VRWC proved to have too much depth in the 20 Mile event and took 8 of the first 10 placings. **Simon Baker** won out after a good battle with **Michael Harvey** while 20 year old **Steve Beecroft**, in his first year of an AIS scholarship, took 3rd place in a great first up appearance. The previous year, he had won the U20 10,000m title at Canberra in an Australian Junior best time of 42:30.

LBG 20 Miles, Canberra, Sunday 9th June 1991			
1	Simon Baker	VIC	149.11
2	Michael Harvey	VIC	149.54
3	Steve Beecroft	VIC	154.15
4	Greg Robertson	TAS	155.37
5	Mark Donahoo	VIC	161.34
6	Mark Fletcher	VIC	165.23
7	Duncan Knox	VIC	165.23
8	John Leydon	VIC	168.20
9	Chris Lockwood	VIC	168.43
10	Frank Bertei	PPk	169.56
11	Paul Nunn	VIC	170.02
12	Rod Huxley	NSW	170.49
13	Keith Knox	NSW	171.11
14	Keith Law	NSW	174.59
15	Alex Crawford	NSW	177.03
16	Tony Johnson	VIC	180.13
17	Warren Harbour	PPk	180.25
18	Marker Murray	SA	181.48
19	Ben Richardson	NSW	182.42
20	Robin Whyte	ACT	184.46
21	Chris Stratford	NSW	185.35

22	Dean Cruise	VIC	188.16
23	Trevor Vogler	ACT	191.30
24	Darian Law	NSW	191.54
25	Peter Luke	VIC	194.43
26	Frank Overton	NSW	198.41
Teams			
1.	VIC1	Simon Baker, Mike Harvey, Steve Beecroft	
2.	VIC2	Mark Donahoo, Mark Fletcher, Duncan Knox	
3.	NSW	Rod Huxley, Keith Law, Alex Crawford	

1991 Australian 50km Championship Adelaide, Sunday 14th July 1991

Dariusz Wojcik (4:00:38) and **Craig Brill** (4:02:38) were the standouts in the 1991 Australian 50km, with both walkers showing that they would be serious contenders for the 1992 Olympic 50km team.

1991 Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, 14 th July 1991			
1.	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	4:00:38 PB
2.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:02:45 PB
3.	Ricky Cooke	TAS	4:21:44
4.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	4:30:30
5.	John Leydon	VIC	4:32:58
6.	Keith Knox	NSW	4:36:36
7.	Murray Marker	SA	5:08:00
Teams 1. VIC 6			

16th Summer Universiade Sheffield, Great Britain, 14-26 July 1991

The 1991 Summer Universiade, also known as the XVI Summer Universiade, took place in Sheffield, England. Only one Australian walker was in attendance – remember you had to be studying for a tertiary degree, and that cut out many of our top athletes. **Steve Beecroft** seemed to have recovered from the disappointment of missing the World Cup team, finishing 6th with 1:26:33.

Summer Universiade 20km Walk Men, Sheffield, July 1991		
6.	Steve Beecroft	AUS 1:26:33

Australian 20km Championship and Glover Shield Albert Park, Melbourne, Sunday 25th August 1991

The Australian men's 20km and women's 10km championships were contested as part of the Second Federation Carnival in Melbourne on Sunday 25th August. With Nick A'Hern, Simon Baker and Kerry Saxby overseas preparing for the IAAF World Athletics Championships, the races were open affairs and the senior titles were taken by **David Smith** and Sharon Schnyder. In the men's 20km, Smith had the wood over rival **Andrew Jachno**, kicking away in the second half to win by just over 2 minutes, 1:23:50 to 1:25:55. In fairness to Jachno, he was still overcoming the effects of glandular fever so was below his best. Third place went to the ever consistent **Michael Harvey** with 1:28:47.

Aust 20km Champ and Glover Shield, Melbourne, Sun 25 th Aug			
1.	David Smith	QLD	1:23.50
2.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:25.55
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:28.47
4.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	1:30.05
5.	Craig Robertson	Tas	1:30.22
6.	Craig Jeffrey	VIC	1:30.55
7.	Craig Brill	VIC	1:33.16
8.	Robert McFadden	SA	1:33.38
9.	Willi Sawell	VIC	1:34.34

10.	John Leydon	VIC	1:34.47
11.	Shane Pearson	QLD	1:34.55
12.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:36.06
13.	Frank Bertei	VIC	1:36.07
14.	Paul Nunn	VIC	1:37.21
15.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:37.45
16.	Chris Lockwood	VIC	1:38.27
17.	Ignacio Jiminez	QLD	1:39.01
18.	Mark Thomas	VIC	1:39.18
19.	Andrew Ludwig	QLD	1:39.48
20.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:42.47
21.	Ben Richardson	NSW	1:43.00
22.	Richard Illingworth	VIC	1:44.14
23.	Mark Wall	TAS	1:45.12
24.	Alex Crawford	NSW	1:45.30
25.	Keith Law	NSW	1:45.33
26.	Peter Thompson	QLD	1:48.22
27.	John Jardine	VIC	1:48.40
28.	Mick Mulligan	NSW	1:48.51
29.	Manfred Kuppler	VIC	1:49.58
30.	Ian Richardson	QLD	1:50.01
31.	Caleb Maybir	QLD	1:53.18
32.	Tony Barrett	VIC	1:53.36
33.	Darian Law	NSW	1:54.38
34.	Trevor Vogler	ACT	1:55.46
35.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:59.28
36.	Graham Walsh	NSW	2:00.22
37.	Ron Whitam	NSW	2:08.53
38.	Tony Michell	VIC	2:17.51
-	Rohan Best	TAS	DQ
-	Bill Dyer	VIC	DQ
-	Mathew Ness	NSW	DNF
-	Brian Maslin	VIC	DNF
-	Kevin Douglas	VIC	DNF
-	Paul Copeland	VIC	DNF
-	Duane Cousins	VIC	DNF
Teams			
1	VIC	Andrew Jachno, Michael Harvey, Mark Donahoo	
2	QLD	David Smith, Shane Pearson, Ignacio Jiminez	
3	NSW	Keith Knox, Rod Huxley, Ben Richardson,	

3rd IAAF World T&F Championships, Tokyo, Japan, 23rd September - 1st October 1991

With Andrew Jachno a withdrawal due to glandular fever, a small team of 3 Australian walkers made the trip to Tokyo for the 1991 IAAF World T&F Championships, and their results were mixed. **Kerry Saxby** excelled as usual, coming fifth with 44:02 in the women's 10km. **Nick A'Hern** continued his rise up the rankings with a 20th placed time of 1:23:44 in the men's 20km. **Simon Baker** suffered a rare disappointment in the men's 50km – his first disqualification in 14 international appearances.

IAAF World T&F Championships 20km Walk Men			
20.	Nick A'Hern	AUS	1:23:44
IAAF World T&F Championships 10km Walk Women			
5.	Kerry Saxby	AUS	44:02
IAAF World T&F Championships 50km Walk Men			
-	Simon Baker	AUS	DNF

1992

Olympic 50km Trial

Melbourne, Sunday 26th January 1992

In January 1992, the 1992 Olympic 50km trial was held in Melbourne. Simon Baker did not have to compete, being granted an automatic Olympic selection, compliments of his 2nd place finish in the 1991 World Cup in Barcelona. In his absence, **Dariusz Wojcik** (first in a PB 3:58:30) and **Craig Brill** (2nd with a PB 4:00:21) rose to the challenge, producing worthy performances. Both walkers were well under the Olympic B Qualifying standard for a second time, following on from their 1-2 finish in the 1991 Australian 50km championship 6 months before. This should have been sufficient to justify Olympic selection, yet surprisingly, neither was added to the Australian Olympic team. There were even accusations of pacing levelled against Andrew Jachno and Wojcik, but this was ridiculous as they were competitors on the track at the same time (Wojcik in the 50km and Jachno in the 20km) and simply walking together, as allowed by the rules. The only other 50km competitor, **Kevin Lowden**, did not finish the trial.

Olympic 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sunday 26th January 1992

1.	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	3:58:30	PB
2.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:00:21	PB
-	Kevin Lowden	VIC	DNF	

There was no stated qualification time to make the team, although 3:58:00 was a time being given some importance. The selection requirement was that athletes had to demonstrate that they could finish in the top 16 at the Olympics. It was all rather vague.

In a controversial move, it was announced that the results were not of a sufficient standard and that the 'official' 50km trial would now be in Dudince, Czechoslovakia. Anyone wishing to gain an Olympic berth would have to pay their own way to Europe and compete in this race. This was unprecedented! With Athletics Australia unwilling to bend, walkers, Wojcik and Brill amongst them, had no alternative but to self-fund a European trip to try to earn an Olympic spot.

Olympic 20km Trial

Grand Prix Circuit, Adelaide, Wednesday 4th March 1992

The men's 20km trial was held in Adelaide in conjunction with the National Track and Field Titles, and it was an exciting race. **Simon Baker** finished strongly to overtake **Nick A'Hern** and win with 1:22:15, 57 secs ahead of A'Hern who took second with 1:23:13. **David Smith** had been up there early before retiring around the 12km mark.

But the real interest was further back. As 1992 started, **Andrew Jachno** seemed to have overcome his illness, capturing the ACT 5000m walk title in a quick 20:05.5. But just when he seemed to be back on track, a critical problem put his athletic career on hold again. Applying ice to a sore knee, he froze one of the key nerves in the knee and electrical impulses to the shin were impaired. The diagnosis - wait for it to repair naturally - the timeframe 3 to 6 months. With his preparation in tatters, he looked like missing the Olympic 20km trial, until AIS physiotherapist Peter Stanton came to the rescue and devised a contraption using a bicycle inner - the tube was attached to the shoelaces and taped under the kneecap. The result - the toes were held firm at 90° to the shin and provided the necessary control to pull the foot forward. Some people questioned the legality of the device but it was ruled by A.A. to be within the rules and Jachno was able to line up for the trial. He struggled across the finish line in 3rd place, with a time of 1:23:36.

Olympic 20km Trial, Adelaide, Wednesday 4th March 1992

1.	Simon Baker	VIC	1:22:16
2.	Nick A'Hern	NSW	1:23:13
3.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:23:36
4.	Rick Cooke	TAS	1:30:08
5.	Greg Robertson	TAS	1:31:11
6.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:35:25
-	George White	VIC	DNF
-	David Smith	QLD	DNF
-	Shane Pearson	QLD	DNF
-	Craig Jeffrey	VIC	DNF
-	Ben Richardson	NSW	DNF
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	DQ
-	Manuel Kollorz	GER	DQ
-	Paul Copeland	VIC	DQ

Olympic 10km Trial

Grand Prix Circuit, Adelaide, Wednesday 4th March 1992

Kerry Saxby gave another great exhibition to win the women's Olympic 10km trial in Adelaide. Kerry beat New Zealander **Anne Judkins** by 3 minutes, with the consistent **Lorraine Jachno** 20 secs further back in third place. It was not easy for Australian women to be selected for this Olympic walk. Although the IOC had set a B standard of 48:00 and an A standard of 46:30, Australia had set its own standard of 45:30. The women's walk was the only event which warranted such special treatment. Lorraine was only awarded a provisional place based on her 2nd place in the trial. Although she subsequently beat the 45:30 standard twice, she was not added to the final team in what can only be seen as a miscarriage of justice. But more of that later.

1.	Kerry Saxby	NSW	43:03
2.	Anne Judkins	NZL	46:36
2.	Lorraine Jachno	VIC	46:56
3.	Gabrielle Blythe	VIC	47:49
5.	Sue Cook	VIC	47:52
6.	Natalie Camplin	QLD	48:01
7.	Wendy Muldoon	VIC	48:51
8.	Carolyn Vanstan	VIC	49:06
9.	Jantien Saltet	NSW	49:34
10.	Therese Letheby	QLD	49:40
11.	Jane Lewry	SA	50:34
12.	Jenny Jones	NSW	51:01
-	Louise Nicholson	VIC	DNF

Australian Track & Field Championships 1991-92

Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, SA, 5-10 March 1992

The Australian 5000m track title was an unforgettable 3 way tussle between **Andrew Jachno**, **David Smith** and **Simon Baker**. Smith eventually won in 19:23, with Jachno crossing the line in 2nd place, only a couple of seconds behind, to find that the referee had ruled his support strap illegal and disqualified him. Baker was moved up to second place and **Michael Harvey** was now the bronze medallist.

1	David Smith	QLD	19:23.41
2	Simon Baker	VIC	19:47.84
3	Mike Harvey	VIC	20:40.75
4	Rob McFadden	SA	20:48.35
5	Manuel Kollorz	GER	20:58.36
6	Craig Jeffrey	VIC	21:07.02
7	Greg Robertson	TAS	21:16.26
8	Paul Kennedy	VIC	21:30.47
9	Ben Richardson	NSW	22:30.32
10	Stuart Walters	VIC	22:51.19
11	Ross Reid	VIC	23:50.60
-	Shane Pearson	QLD	DQ
-	Nick A'Hern	NSW	DQ
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DQ
-	John Leydon	NSW	DQ

This raised a whole new controversy as to whether Jachno's 20km trial performance should be reviewed. But common sense prevailed and the 20km result was ratified. Consider the Monty Python like scenario: the same mechanical aid had resulted in a tick of approval in one Athletics Australia race and then a cross of disapproval in another Athletics Australia race 3 days later. You couldn't invent this stuff!

Jachno was named in the Olympic B squad and, with the shin responding to treatment, he was off to Europe to chase further performances to confirm his selection. In May he had a series of races that showed he was regaining form. First he placed 2nd in the German Olympic Games 20km trial in 1:21:37, then followed this up with 38:49 for 2nd place in a road 10km event in Copenhagen and a week later finished 4th in a track 20km in Bergen, recording 1:21:34.1 for a new

Victorian record. But the races took a toll on his limited preparation and he faded in the heat at Barcelona to finish a disappointed 31st place in 1:36:49. This was to be his last international walk, although none of us could have guessed.

Second Olympic 50km Trial

Dudince, Czechoslovakia, Saturday 26th April 1992

Ok, now let's talk about this infamous second Olympic 50km trial in Czechoslovakia. As Simon Baker had been pre-selected, he was not required to race, but everyone else had to self fund a trip to Europe. Alas, no one was successful. Why am I not surprised! **Michael Harvey** went through the halfway mark in 1:59 but then struggled, fading to finish 15th with 4:13:58. **Dariusz Wojcik** was disqualified at the 45km mark while on sub 4 hour pace. **Craig Brill** and **Rick Cooke** was amongst the retirees.

Olympic 50km trial, Dudince, Saturday 26th April 1992

15.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:13:58
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	DQ
-	Craig Brill	VIC	DNF
-	Rick Cooke	TAS	DNF

Three weeks later, Wojcik and Harvey both started another 50km on the track in Bergen, Norway, and again Michael was the only Australian to finish but, alas, still not fast enough. After going through 40km in 3 hr 9 min, he faded badly and struggled to walk the last 10km in 65 minutes.

1992 Australian 50km Championship

Knox Industrial Estate, Melbourne, Sunday 24th May 1992

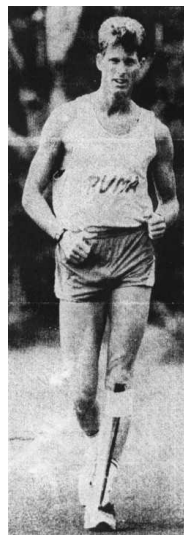
With Andrew Jachno chasing times in Europe and with Simon Baker and Craig Brill notable absentees, the 1992 Australian 50km championship was a relatively open event. You might be wondering why this was not designated as the 'second' Australian Olympic 50km Trial? So were many people! It only served to illustrate what an absolute debacle Athletics Australia had engineered.

Perhaps not surprisingly, only one Australian finished, and it was 50 year old **Willi Sawall**, who won with 4:12:57. What can you say except - amazing! The only other finishers were New Zealanders **Paul McElwee**, **Gary Little** and **Stephen Farquhar**. **Michael Harvey**, **Rick Cooke** and **Dariusz Wojcik** all failed to finish. Harvey and Wojcik had only just returned from Europe, having tried to get a 50km time on the board in Bergen the weekend before. Sadly, Harvey pulled out at 40km with a hip injury sustained in Bergen, while Wojcik fell foul of the judges once again.

Thus time ran out for the other Australian 50km walkers and Simon Baker was our only 1992 50km Olympian. Dariusz Wojcik has the rather dubious honour of being the only Australian to have broken 4 hours for the 50km and yet to never have gained an Australian vest.

Aust 50km Championship, Melbourne, Sunday 24th May 1992

1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	4:12:57
2.	Paul McElwee	NZL	4:17:48
3.	Gary Little	NZL	4:35:19
4.	Stephen Farquhar	NZL	4:42:42
-	Caleb Maybir	QLD	DNF
-	Michael Harvey	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Dnoahoo	VIC	DNF
-	Rick Cooke	TAS	DNF
-	Duncan Knox	VIC	DNF
-	Stuart Walters	VIC	DNF
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
-	Robert McFadden	SA	DNF
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	DQ



Athletics Essendon team mates – Dariusz Wojcik did 3:58:30 but missed out on Olympic 50km selection while Andrew Jachno had to make use of an experimental lower leg splint to get his 20km berth

**26th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 7th June 1992**

Michael Harvey, after 5 second placings and 3 third placing, finally broke through for a well deserved and popular win in the 1992 LBG 20 Mile Championship. In a year in which most of the senior walkers were absent, **John Leydon** and **Bill Dyer** took the minor medals ahead of youngsters **Shane Pearson** and **Mark Fletcher**.

LBG 20 Miles, Canberra, Sunday 7th June 1992			
1.	Michael Harvey	VRWC	2:30:14
2.	John Leydon	NSW	2:38:42
3.	Bill Dyer	VRWC	2:43:48
4.	Shane Pearson	QRWC	2:46:31
5.	Mark Fletcher	VRWC	2:47:10
6.	Mark Dossetor	ACT	2:48:40
7.	Duncan Knox	VRWC	2:52:18
8.	Mark Donahoo	VRWC	2:53:51
9.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:54:30
10.	Chris Stratford	NSW	2:56:47
11.	Craig Webb	NSW	2:58:51
12.	Ben Richardson	NSW	2:59:01
13.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:59:41
14.	Darian Law	NSW	3:08:46
15.	John Smith	NSW	3:10:40
16.	Murray Marker	SA	3:11:09
17.	Keith Law	NSW	3:19:38
18.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:21:34
19.	Ann Staunton (F)	ACT	3:28:06
20.	H Geyteman	NSW	3:36:41
21.	Bill Starr	SA	3:41:49
22.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:57:21
-	Alex Crawford	NSW	DNF
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VRWC	DNF

**20km Australian Championship and Glover Shield
Heffron Park, Maroubra, Queensland, Sunday 30th August 1992**

The 1992 Australian 20km Championship, held as part of the Second Federation Carnival on the Gold Coast, Queensland, was another open event, with the top walkers absent. The yearly calendar was now overflowing with walks

and it was not possible, either from a physical or from a financial perspective, to attend them all. **Rob McFadden** won with 1:30:49, ahead of **Craig Jeffrey** and New Zealander **Craig Barrett**.

20km Australian Championship, Maroubra, Sun 20th Aug 1992			
1.	Rob McFadden	SA	1:30.49
2.	Craig Jeffrey	VIC	1:33.26
3.	Craig Barrett	NZ	1:34.21
4.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	1:36.59
5.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:37.42
6.	Dominic McGrath	VIC	1:38.58
7.	Steven Burke	VIC	1:40.13
8.	Chris Stratford	NSW	1:40.32
9.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:42.48
10.	Craig Webb	NSW	1:42.52
11.	George White	SA	1:43.56
12.	John Leydon	NSW	1:46.21
13.	Peter Bennett	QLD	1:46.43
14.	John Stenhouse	ACT	1:47.59
15.	Robin Whyte	ACT	1:48.36
16.	Keith Law	NSW	1:52.12
17.	Michael Mulligan	NSW	1:53.21
18.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:57.02
19.	Robert Chapman	ACT	1:57.30
20.	Hugh Geyteman	NSW	2:05.50
21.	LC Waddell	ACT	2:07.59
22.	Caleb Maybir	QLD	2:09.38
23.	David Jones	QLD	2:09.41
-	Greg Robertson	TAS	DQ
-	Nigel Crew	ACT	DQ
-	Ignacio Jiminez	Qld	DQ
Teams			
1.	Vic	12	Craig Jeffrey, Mark Donahoo, Dominic McGrath
2.	NSW	24	Keith Knox, Chris Stratford, Craig Webb
3.	ACT	42	John Stenhouse, Robin Whyte, Robert Chapman

Revisiting the 1992 Australian Olympic Selections

The Australian Olympic selections were eventually confirmed as follows

20km Men **Nick A'Hern** (NSW), **Andrew Jachno** (VIC)
 50km Men: **Simon Baker** (VIC)
 10km Women: **Kerry Saxby** (NSW), **Gabrielle Blythe** (VIC)

The women's selections deserve a separate discussion, as they remain controversial, even now, nearly 30 years down the track.

It was not easy for Australians to be selected for this first Olympic walk for women. Although the I.O.C. had set a B standard of 48:00 and an A standard of 46:30, Australia had set its own standard of 45:30. The womens walk was the only event to warrant such special treatment.

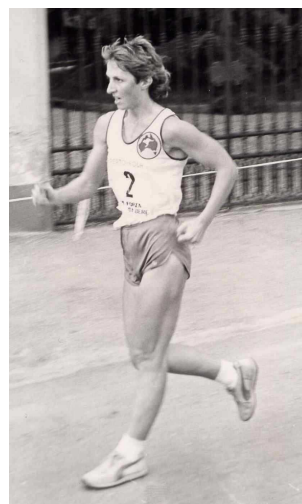
Kerry Saxby was expected to be a shoe-in and Lorraine Jachno was expected to be the next most likely for Olympic selection. They confirmed this with their 1-2 finish in the official Australian trial (Saxby 43:03 and Jachno 46:56).

With Jachno as the second Australian in the official trial and with an Australian Olympic qualifier already under her belt, we expected to see her name announced in the official lists. It was with some astonishment that we read that she had only been given a B grade selection, meaning that she would have to confirm her spot with other qualifying performances. She did this twice, firstly in Melbourne on the road (45:24) and then in Bergen in Norway on 16th May on the track (45:26). Her Bergen time was a new Victorian record and she beat the Chinese girl who went on to win the 1992 Olympic walk. Surely this was enough to satisfy the selectors!

The situation changed radically while Jachno was in Europe. Fellow Victorian Gabrielle Blythe, who had been convincingly beaten by her in the trial, won the Australian 20km title in Melbourne on 24th May with 1:40:02. In this race, her first 10km split had been 44:21. She then backed this up with 44:27 in La Coruna in Europe.

The selectors were faced with the choice – which one of Jachno and Blythe to select. The answer seemed obvious to us – both girls had repeatedly beaten the tough Australian standard and both deserved selection. There was consternation when Jachno was left out of the team in favour of Blythe. Was the decision political (Blythe was at the AIS and Jachno was not) or did they choose a younger walker instead of an older walker (Jachno was 32). In any case, much discussion occurred behind closed doors. Jachno had been led to believe that a time under 45:30 would gain her selection and she had met this criteria on 3 separate occasions. Her subsequent omission from the 1992 Olympic team rates as one of the blackest moments in Australian walking history.

By way of comparison, 3 women athletes were selected to compete in the 200m and in the 400m, so it was not as if 3 selections in one event was not allowed.



Gabrielle Blythe (left) and Kerry Saxby (middle) made the inaugural women's Olympic 10km walk but Lorraine Jachno (right) was controversially left out

1992 Olympic Games

Barcelona, Spain, 25th July – 9th August 1992

Following such turmoil, it was perhaps not surprising that the Australian 1992 Olympic walk performances were mediocre. **Andrew Jachno** and **Gabrielle Blythe** had been forced to chase times in Europe in the leadup to the Games and, understandably, both subsequently walked personally disappointing Olympic races in what turned out to be their last international appearances. **Nick A'Hern** was diagnosed with a hyper-active thyroid gland soon after his Olympic trial performance in April (explaining why he had been so tired for some time) and an operation was required later that month to remove a tumour from his neck. He bounced back, but again his Olympic performance was below his usual high standard. Only **Simon Baker** and **Kerry Saxby** could break into the top twenty, with Olympic placings of 19th and 15th respectively.

1992 Olympic Performances – Australia			
Nick A'Hern (NSW)	20km Walk	22/42	1:31:39
Andrew Jachno (VIC)	20km Walk	31/42	1:36:49
Simon Baker (VIC)	50km Walk	19/43	4:08:11
Gabrielle Blythe (VIC)	10km Walk	31/44	50:13
Kerry Saxby (NSW)	10km Walk	15/44	46:01

1993 IAAF Race Walking World Cup 50km Trial

Knox Industrial Estate, Melbourne, Sunday 13th December 1992

There was one final important race for the year, namely the Australian 50km Trial for the 1993 IAAF Race Walking World Cup. It was staged in conjunction with the 1992 Victorian 50km Championship at Knox, and a very hot and windy day made for a tough race. It was a typical Melbourne summer scorcher.

The tough men won out, with **Simon Baker** first (4:05:08), **Michael Harvey** second (4:09:20) and **Craig Brill** third (4:13:13). Brill had collapsed at 44km and had to be revived with buckets of water and encouragement from supporters, before he could summon up sufficient strength to finish. **Andrew Jachno** struggled and retired at 40km while **Dariusz Wojcik** retired at 20km.

1992 World Cup 50km Trial, Melbourne, Sun 13th Dec 1991			
1.	Simon Baker	VIC	4:05:08
2.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:09:20
3.	Craig Brill	VIC	4:13:13
4.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	4:22:06
5.	Bill Dyer	VIC	4:43:00
-	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	DNF
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DNF

Baker, Harvey and Brill would all be rewarded with World Cup 50km berths. There were no controversies this time!