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Editor: Stu Cooper stuwalks@yahoo.com.au



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Address: RUNNERS WORLD 598 High St, East Kew 3102 (Melways 45 G4)
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PARIS 2024: Exit the 50km/35km. Enter the 'fake marathon'

It's official, as we all knew it would be. The **35km Mixed (men and women) Race Walk Teams Event**, as listed on the Paris 2024 athletics program, is gone without having fired a shot. With it goes any lingering doubt that the IOC no longer recognizes race walking as an endurance sport alongside the marathon, triathlon, open-water swim or cycling road race. In place of the 35km is either an innovative and intriguing experiment or a tent-show travesty, depending on one's viewpoint, values and sense of heritage ... and on how it plays out in Paris.

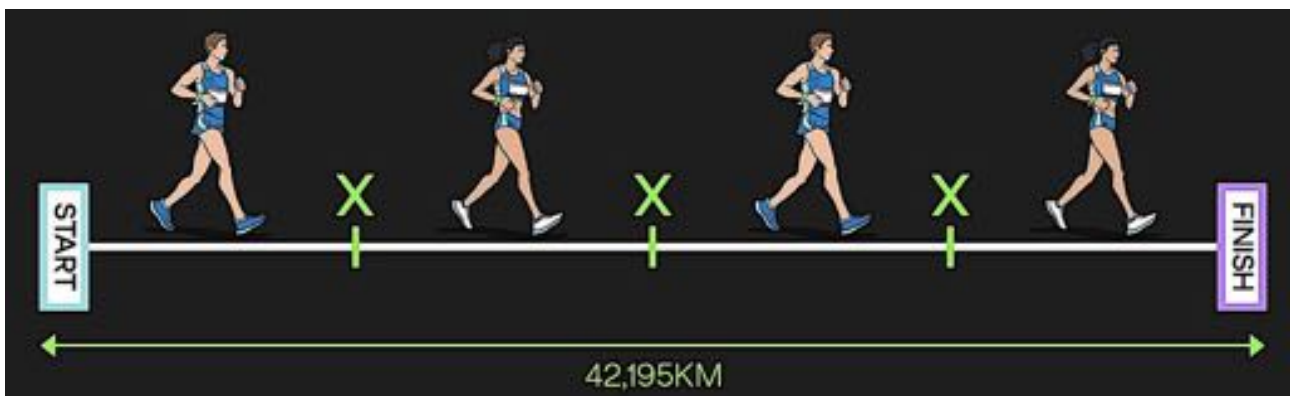
The announcement, as published on the *World Athletics* website, appears below:

New Olympic race walking event revealed¹

World Athletics and the International Olympic Committee have agreed on the format for the new race walking team event that will make its debut at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The **Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay** will feature 25 teams, each comprising one male and one female athlete, who will complete the marathon distance (42.195km) in four legs of approximately equal distance.

Each athlete will complete two legs of just over 10km each, alternating male, female, male, female.



© Christel Saneh

The marathon distance was selected because of its existing popularity in athletics and link to the traditions of the Olympic Games.

The event will be held on the same course as the individual race walking events, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in central Paris, and will be completed in about three hours. The requirement of each athlete to complete two legs, will add an endurance component to the race.

¹ World Athletics press release, 8 April 2023 https://worldathletics.org/competitions/olympic-games/news/olympic-race-walking-event-paris?mibextid=Zxz2cZ&fbclid=IwAR0zgarToksW6gonhq9QtZOMy1wL8aDe2GEuqczAPvBGGodMFXcS_GzG0WQ

The team qualification pathway for this new event will be published shortly.

World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon said: "We're excited to have another mixed relay on the Olympic programme to showcase the skills of both our female and male athletes in one event. This format is designed to be innovative, dynamic and unpredictable. We believe it will be easily understood by fans, will feature exciting competition and, importantly, it will ensure full gender equality across the Olympic track and field programme for the first time."

The Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay will be held on Wednesday 7 August 2024 at 7.30am, six days after the individual 20km race walking events launch the Paris Olympic athletics programme on Thursday 1 August.

The [full Olympic athletics programme](#) will span 11 days, from 1-11 August, finishing with the women's marathon on the final day of the Games.

Two points should be raised here. Firstly, the statement notes the marathon's '*existing popularity in athletics and link to the traditions of the Olympic Games.*' Fine. But what appears to have been missed is that the marathon represents the ultimate battle of an individual against their own tortured mind and body, and it is that battle that sports fans, historians and the wider public have found so compelling since 1896. Sure, there are longer and more rigorous tests of athletic endurance, but that galvanic number of 26 miles 385 yards / 42.195km is the most powerful in all of sport in terms of what it symbolises ... overcoming (or succumbing to) the adversity flung at an athlete by their own stricken self. And nothing in athletics is more romantic than the images conjured by the word itself – the *marathon*.

What's being presented here is *not* a marathon. Nor could it be unless competitors covered the whole marathon distance, or at least one of comparable rigour (which the 50km walk certainly imposed.) What we see here is a fake ... a misguided attempt to capitalise on a revered name in the subversion an event that already had its own endurance credentials. The IOC, in collusion with World Athletics, has nullified those credentials and relegated race walking to the latest in a shabby conga line of marathon hangers-on. '*The requirement of each athlete to complete two legs, will add an endurance component to the race.*' Did whoever wrote this do it with a straight face? Seriously?

Secondly, whatever the strengths of our protests, we lovers of race walking know we are faced with a *fait accompli* and have been ever since the first rumours circulated. We are also realist enough to know that society has changed on many levels. Life is harder, more uncompromising now, with demands on one's time, resources, health and energy that were barely imaginable even twenty years ago. Apart from the committed ultra-walking fraternity, long-distance endurance walking at club level has pretty much dried up world-wide ... too few have the time now to train for it. As far as spectating goes, the average punter understandably wants quick gratification in the leisure time available to them, and they will seek this in their sports entertainment – something well understood by the advertisers and TV networks underwriting the Olympics. Want to generate more bums on seats and eyes on screen? Why not a quick, flashy 'bells and whistles' contest? It works for reality TV, doesn't it?

From this standpoint, it has to be said, the new event ticks boxes. One, it is new (always a selling point at first. Even a new teacher facing a class in January is interesting for 15 minutes.) Two, it features boys and girls together – there aren't many such events outside of equestrianism and it may prove a winner. Three, it has variety – the dynamic of the contest changes with each handover, as running and swim relays show. Four (and this is inescapable), it's race walking – and we all have to concede the comic elements of our sport. Compared with (for many) the relatively dour and time-consuming spectacle of a 50 or even 35km race, it's not hard to see the new event's potential appeal to a time- and patience-poor audience or a ratings-hungry network.

But it's *NOT* a marathon. And it shouldn't be called one, no matter what its total distance. It makes nothing *like* the demands upon an athlete a true marathon does – or a 50km walk, for that matter.

With the death of Olympic endurance walking, a new iteration of the sport has taken its place. Whether it succeeds or fails, whether it proves a saviour of the sport's Olympic future or the final nail in its coffin, will become evident in Paris. We'll just have to wait and see – and hope.

Stu Cooper

**** WALKER OF THE WEEK ****

Our WOTW award this week goes to West Australian Masters walker **Lynne Schickert** – who, by the look of the image opposite, is no slouch at collecting awards!

Competing in the 80yrs+ division at the World Masters Indoor T&F championships at Torun, Poland, Lynne contested both race walks on offer – 3000m and 10km – and made it two out of two, winning gold in each with times of **24:28.13** and **1:29:53.0** respectively. These are impressive results considering they were done on unfamiliar indoor boards rather than a relatively comfortable outdoor 400m track.

Well done, Lynne. May you wear the green and gold with success in future overseas competition.

(Photo: PerthNow)



***Honourable mentions**

- **Heather Carr (VIC)** – a gritty 6th place in the W75 3000m race in Torun, despite leaping though a rank of health and medical hoops just to get there ... and coming away with an Australian W70+ indoor record of **19:09.39**.
- **Isaac Beacroft (NSW)** and **Zoe Woods (NSW)** – both smashed State records in winning their NSW Little Athletics title

races. Isaac's time was an astonishing **5:43.22**, eclipsing Tyler Jones's old record, while Zoe set a new mark of **6:22.80**.

- **Sienna Pitcher (NSW)** – another to go under a State record, Sienna came oh-so-close to finally pipping Zoe on the line in their Little Aths title race, falling by less than 3 seconds with her time of **6:25.78**.



CLUB NEWS and RESULTS

REGISTRATION & RACE ENTRY

Our Winter season opener is now just over two weeks away.

Members will now be aware that the procedures for membership registration and renewal have changed, along with the introduction of a new portal for race entries.

An email was sent out to all members on March 28, explaining in detail the new arrangements and requirements. These were also published in *H&T Online*, Issue #12, sent out on the same day. If you did not receive this or the email, please go to <http://www.vrwc.org.au/newsletters/heelandtoe-2023-num12.pdf>

To access the new portal to register and/or enter races, go to <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/vrwc/>

If you experience difficulties, contact Terry Swan at secretary@vrwc.org.au

****TO ALL MEMBERS ...***

Please remember to put your name forward to join our Winter

DUTY ROSTER

on days of your choosing and in whatever role you feel you can assist.

We thank those who have already responded to this appeal.

It won't just happen. We need your help!



Daniel Pashutin has been selected to represent Victoria in the Coles Australian Little Athletics T&F championships, to be held on Friday-Sunday 21-23 April at Lakeside Stadium. Daniel will join **Max Davidson** as one of our walking reps in the Little Athletics Victoria –

Australian Junior Athletics Championships (AJAC) squad. We wish both boys the best of luck and successful racing.



VICTORIA - METRO & REGIONAL



Victoria's classic annual ultra-running and walking event is on this coming weekend, starting at noon on Saturday and finishing at noon 24 hours later. This is Australia's signature Centurion walking qualifier (100 miles in under 24 hours is the required performance). The 24Hour Walk field features 12 men and 2 women, including twelve aiming to qualify with 3 being from overseas. VRWC member **Marnie Zakis** is among the contenders.

If you have some time up your sleeve during the weekend, why not drop by the Harold Stevens track and give the walkers your support?

Coburg 24 Hour Carnival Website: <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/>

Current Entry list and competitor profiles: <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/2023/2023-Coburg-24H-Profiles.pdf>



Aust. T&F U13 & U16 C'ships, 13/16 April – QSAC, Brisbane
**** PREVIEW**

The Easter break is over and the National titles resume this weekend at Queensland Sports & Athletics Centre, this time with the best of the country's 12 to 17 year-olds battling it out for championship honours.

Our focus, of course is on the race walks, with the walking events spread across the four days. The schedule is as follows:

*Thursday 13 April		
12.50pm	3000m Walk	Men U13, U14
1.25pm	3000m Walk	Women U13, U14
*Friday 14 April		
2.25pm	3000m Walk	Men U15, U16
6.25pm	3000m Walk	Women U15, U16
*Saturday 15 April		
5.00pm	5000m Walk	Men U17, U18
*Sunday 16 April		
9.30am	5000m Walk	Women U17, U18
<i>Schedule correct as at 6/4/23</i>		

The fields across the program contain the usual sprinkling of undisputable favourites, together with an intriguing range of expected duels as well as unknown 'dark horse' prospects.

U18 Men 5000m

With the U20 10,000m title already in the bag and barring anything untoward, **Marcus Wakim** (VIC) will make short work of this race. It's hard to see **Kodi Clarkson** (ACT) losing 2nd spot, while the contest between **Samuel Lindsay** (TAS), **Sam McCure** (QLD) and **Scott Peart** (VIC) for bronze will be keenly fought.

U18 Women 5000m

With a PB almost 2mins faster than anyone else in the field, **Daisy Braithwaite** (SA) will start a clear favourite for this one, although a 'smokey' emerging for an upset can never be discounted. **Aiva Pinches** (NSW), **Maddison Nash** (VIC), **Kaytee Bogaers** (WA) and **Chelsea Roberts** (NSW) seem most likely to battle for the minor medals.

U17 Men 5000m

In terms of quality, this is shaping as the race of the meet. With **Isaac Beecroft** (NSW) appearing untouchable based on his All-Schools results in Sydney and Adelaide, we should be treated to a battle royal for the minor placings between **Owen Toyne** (ACT), **Riley Coughlan** (VIC), **John Ronan** (WA) and **Bailey Housden** (QLD). All have peaked at the right end of the season and the potential is there for a surprise outcome or two.

U17 Women 5000m

Fresh from her first sub-50min result for bronze in the U20 10,000m a fortnight ago, **Zoe Woods** (NSW) has as close to an iron lock on this title as is possible, although team-mate **Sienna Pitcher** – the only other in the field to have broken 24mins –

will stake her own claim and force Woods to take it off her. Bronze is very much up for grabs, with **Ariana Pashutina** (VIC) and **Lyla Williams** (NSW) the most likely on paper to fight it out.

U16 Men 3000m

A small field of 7 entrants is likely to be dominated by **Kodi Clarkson** (ACT), doubling up from the U18 5000m. Another back for a second bite, **Samuel Lindsay** (TAS), recently clocked his first sub-13min 3000m and should be untroubled for the silver.

U16 Women 3000m

Grace Beck (NSW) is unlikely to be headed here, so the interest should be in the other podium contenders. **Kaytee Bogaers** (WA), **Elise Scott** (SA) and **Milly Sharpe** (QLD) are evenly matched and should provide a solid contest for the placings.

U15 Men 3000m

Another seven-man field will toe the line, this time with **Nicholas Christian** (ACT) as the clear favourite. Behind him, Victorians **Daniel Pashutin** and **Max Davidson** look likely to contest the other podium places.

U15 Women 3000m

No stand-out favourite in this one, but the prospect of an intriguing 3-way tussle for the gold is there. **Matilda Webb** (NSW), **Jessica Loring** (NSW) and **Emma Grocott** (ACT) are all in hot form and, while Webb has a PB edge, the other two will be ready to capitalize if she falters.

U14 Men 3000m

Six entrants will contest this race, with WA's **Keiran Smith** bringing a clear edge in speed to the start. **Jaime Hvalica** (VIC) and **Alexander Braendle** (NSW) are likely to duel for silver and bronze.

U14 Women 3000m

Sophie Polkinghorne (NSW) is a class above in this field. On times, **Jillian Hosking** (ACT) should occupy 2nd spot on the podium, while bronze could go to a range of contestants with PBs in the 16.00+ range.

U13 Men 3000m

Fastest on times, **Lachlan Moore** (QLD) and **Angus Shuttleworth** (VIC) have recent PBs separated by only 7 secs and they seem most likely to contest the gold medal. Very much in the mix is **Callum Martin** (NSW) who hasn't yet posted a 3000m time but has recorded a 9:47 2000m this year.

U13 Women 3000m

This race will see 12yo prodigy **Ela Uzun** (VIC) aim for her first national track title ... and on the form she has shown over the summer, it's hers to lose. The contest for the minor medals will be intriguing, with **Havana Ali** (VIC), **Erin Cassilles** (NSW) and **Gemma Dixon** (NSW) all evenly matched.

These championships will showcase Australia's most promising young race walkers. We wish all competitors successful racing and realization of their personal goals.

NEW SOUTH WALES Little Aths NSW State T&F c'ships, 19 March – SOPAC, Sydney

Held in 37C temperature, these championship walks clearly offered nothing for free, and rewards such as medals and PBs had to be earned. Supplying their own heat were **Isaac Beacroft**, **Zoe Woods** and **Sienna Pitcher**, all of whom beat existing State records and will take formidable form into the AA age-group championships in Brisbane next weekend.

Thanks to **Melanie Pitcher** for providing the link to these results, of which the first 6 in each heat (first 8 in U17) are recorded here.

U12 Boys 1500m

1	Tyler Cousins	Cardiff & District	7:24.69
2	Mitchell McCarthy	Ryde	7:46.87
3	Darcy Waring	Tallawong Park	8:07.18
4	Jayden Calder	Riverstone	8:15.87
5	Michito Henderson	Wollongong City	8:18.91
6	Lucas Siemionow	Prestons Robins	8:28.05

U12 Girls 1500m

1	Gemma Dixon	Manly Warringah	7:25.40
2	Erin Cassilles	Revesby Workers	7:49.12
3	Miarose Everson	Ryde	8:09.51
4	Lilly Gasper	Balmain	8:19.82
5	Nikki Hearnden	Cardiff & District	8:42.15
6	Georgia Watson	Colyton St Clair	8:48.30

U13 Boys 1500m

1	Alexander Braendle	Northern Districts	7:48.48
2	Lukas Hall	Edgeworth	8:13.53
3	Rhys Chandler	Ryde	8:22.88
4	Miller Farrington	Wauchope	8:27.23
5	Sebastian Linton	Ku-Ring-Gai	8:29.57
6	Logan Cowling	Cardiff & District	8:59.13

U13 Girls 1500m

1	Sophie Polkinghorne	Nth Rocks Carlin	6:42.26
2	Emma Hoskins	Quakers Hill	7:41.07
3	Lily Horne	Ku-Ring-Gai	7:45.56
4	Lexie Beacroft	Quakers Hill	8:06.22
5	Madeleine Felice	Illawong	8:07.97
6	Lilly Twigden	Campbelltown	8:19.84

U14 Boys 1500m

1	Jaxson Horton	Liverpool City	7:35.99
2	Aidan Kirk	Eschol Park	7:51.35
3	Christopher Nilon	Nth Rocks Carlin	8:07.59
4	Alexander Wenzel	Manly Warringah	9:35.88

U14 Girls 1500m

1	Jessica Loring	Parramatta	6:55.88
2	Maisie Mitchell	Kurrajong Bilpin	7:03.91
3	Emma Hearnden	Cardiff & District	7:15.65
4	Imogen McKenzie	Tamworth	8:00.11
5	Caetlin Ashby	Gosford	8:03.20
6	Ella Dickson	Hills District	8:08.57

U15 Boys 1500m

1	Dylan Allabush	Ku-Ring-Gai	6:53.06
2	Alexander Sinnett	Kurrajong Bilpin	6:59.87
3	Sebastian Gonzalez	Balmain	7:44.70
4	Jad Nasser	The Ponds	8:10.32
5	Kane Robson	Hills District	8:20.93
6	Parker Ivanovski	Lake Illawarra	10:29.63

U15 Girls 1500m

1	Grace Beck	Ku-Ring-Gai	7:12.93
2	Evie Armstrong	Reading South Eastern	7:23.93
3	Matilda Olson	Quakers Hill	8:00.81
4	Adelayde Baker	Coffs Coast	8:24.14
5	Claire Giffney	Kings Langley	8:46.74
6	Arika English	Dapto	8:59.10

U17 Boys 1500m

1	Isaac Beacroft	Quakers Hill	5:43.22S
2	Darcy Bell	Kurrajong Bilpin	6:20.28
3	Myles Ashby	Gosford	6:22.94
4	Joel Byatt	Girraween	6:33.71
5	Thomas Shannon	Cherrybrook	6:52.51
6	Brodie Spamer	Cardiff & District	6:58.90
7	Liam Murphy	Glenbrook	7:48.20
8	Aidan Pospischil	Winston Hills	7:54.63

U17 Girls 1500m

1	Zoe Woods	Ku-Ring-Gai	6:22.80S
2	Sienna Pitcher	Gosford	6:25.78S
3	Aiva Pinches	A.N.L	6:36.58
4	Ciara Cassilles	Revesby Workers	6:38.50
5	Samantha Torrens	Winston Hills	7:03.52
6	Chelsea Roberts	Riverstone	7:03.90
7	Brooke Newberry	Armidale	7:32.29
8	Ella Munroe	Hills District	7:42.69



WMA Indoor T&F Championships, 28 & 31 March – Torun POL
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Two of our hardest, most committed Masters athletes in **Heather Carr** and **Lynne Schickert** (WA) made the long trip to Torun in Poland for the WMA Indoor titles. Against fields overwhelmingly from Northern Hemisphere countries with long experience in competing on boards, the two Aussies nevertheless held their own. Lynne reaped two golds from two starts while Heather, against stiff opposition, outlasted many younger than she for 6th (7th overall) in the 3000m.

Women 65-70 3000m Walk

1	ORLETE MENDES Maria	W70	Portugal (POR)	17:39.27	1
2	FLIPSEN Johanna	W65	Canada (CAN)	17:54.30	1
3	SWISHER Karen	W70	United States of America (USA)	18:27.40	2
4	BRAND Edna	W70	South Africa (RSA)	18:27.99	3
5	BROCHOT Edith	W70	France (FRA)	18:47.67	4
6	CHIOZZA Teresa	W70	Canada (CAN)	19:07.57	5
7	CARR Heather	W70	Australia (AUS)	19:09.39	6
8	MARTINO Marianne	W70	United States of America (USA)	19:09.91	7
9	PATTEN Nancy	W65	Canada (CAN)	19:24.57	2
10	KRUSE Cora	W65	Germany (GER)	19:35.56	3
11	BRIZ Maria José	W70	Spain (ESP)	19:36.02	8
12	ORDAS ALVAREZ Aurora	W70	Spain (ESP)	19:45.98	9
13	ECHLE Maria Rita	W65	Germany (GER)	19:54.60	4
14	SIEGENFUHR Yvette	W65	France (FRA)	20:08.11	5
15	BERTHON Corinne	W65	France (FRA)	20:40.67	6
16	MAGGIORE Yvonne	W65	France (FRA)	21:02.06	7
17	WILKINSON Carol	W70	United States of America (USA)	21:14.09	10
18	KÖHLER Renate	W70	Germany (GER)	23:03.87	11
19	SCHROTTER Maria Anna	W65	Austria (AUT)	24:11.93	8
	MYERS Helene	W65	United States of America (USA)	DQ	
	MULLIS DUBOW Trenice	W65	United States of America (USA)	DNS	

Women 75+ 3000m Walk

1	TYSHKO Antonina	W75	Ukraine (UKR)	20:02.57	1
2	FRABLE Kathleen	W75	United States of America (USA)	22:55.24	2
3	LOYER Suzanne	W75	France (FRA)	22:59.15	3
4	NEIDEL Heidrun	W75	Germany (GER)	23:16.83	4
5	KLINK Ursula	W75	Germany (GER)	23:17.65	5
6	SCHICKERT Lynne	W80	Australia (AUS)	24:28.13	1
7	DRÄGER Helga	W80	Germany (GER)	28:35.19	2

8	ANTRITTER Erna	W85	Germany (GER)	38:50.00	1
	HERRENDOERFER Ursula	W80	Germany (GER)	DQ	
	BRUCE Velta	W75			

Women 55+ 10000m Walk

1	BODORKOS-HORVATH Kata	W55	Hungary (HUN)	55:44	1
2	BRÖNNECKE Sigute	W55	Germany (GER)	57:00	2
3	MORAWCZYŃSKA Jolanta	W55	Poland (POL)	57:20	3
4	GAVALAKI Kalliopi	W55	Greece (GRE)	1:00:30	4
5	FLIPSEN Johanna	W65	Canada (CAN)	1:01:54	1
6	LUNIEWSKA Janina	W60	Poland (POL)	1:02:26	1
7	ORLETE MENDES Maria	W70	Portugal (POR)	1:02:38	1
8	DANIEL Maryanne	W60	United States of America (USA)	1:03:38	2
9	BRAND Edna	W70	South Africa (RSA)	1:03:41	2
10	FALCON Line	W55	Canada (CAN)	1:03:57	5
11	GARCIA FRONTONS Carmen	W60	Spain (ESP)	1:04:24	3
12	SLABÁKOVÁ Lenka	W55	Czech Republic (CZE)	1:05:13	6
13	BROCHOT Edith	W70	France (FRA)	1:05:21	3
14	URIOL BATUECAS Macarena	W60	Spain (ESP)	1:06:04	4
15	MÁLKOVÁ Anna	W55	Czech Republic (CZE)	1:06:08	7
16	MARTINO Marianne	W70	United States of America (USA)	1:06:20	4
17	KÖHLER Antje	W60	Germany (GER)	1:06:48	5
18	SWISHER Karen	W70	United States of America (USA)	1:06:56	5
19	ORDAS ALVAREZ Aurora	W70	Spain (ESP)	1:07:03	7
20	CHIOZZA Teresa	W70	Canada (CAN)	1:07:03	6
21	ESPARZA CORNEJO Yolanda	W60	Mexico (MEX)	1:07:24	6
22	PATTEN Nancy	W65	Canada (CAN)	1:07:56	2
23	ECHLE Maria Rita	W65	Germany (GER)	1:08:24	3
24	KRUSE Cora	W65	Germany (GER)	1:09:04	4
25	KLOSE Gudrun	W55	Germany (GER)	1:09:10	8
26	BRIZ María José	W70	Spain (ESP)	1:09:26	8
27	TYSHKO Antonina	W75	Ukraine (UKR)	1:09:26	1
28	SIEGENFUHR Yvette	W65	France (FRA)	1:09:34	5
29	BERTHON Corinne	W65	France (FRA)	1:10:37	6
30	TRIEBL Christa Maria	W60	Austria (AUT)	1:10:48	7
31	KOMOLL Birgit	W60	Germany (GER)	1:10:55	8
32	BAJERSKA Renata	W55	Poland (POL)	1:12:13	9
33	VAKKURI Tarja	W55	Finland (FIN)	1:12:53	10
34	WILKINSON Carol	W70	United States of America (USA)	1:13:39	9
35	KOZLOVA Halyna	W65	Ukraine (UKR)	1:14:39	
36	KLINK Ursula	W75	Germany (GER)	1:16:16	2
37	MAGGIORE Yvonne	W65	France (FRA)	1:16:29	8
38	KÖHLER Renate	W70	Germany (GER)	1:18:02	10
39	FRABLE Kathleen	W75	United States of America (USA)	1:19:56	3
40	NEIDEL Heidrun	W75	Germany (GER)	1:20:09	4
41	LOYER Suzanne	W75	France (FRA)	1:21:08	5
42	GORMLEY Anne	W60	Ireland (IRL)	1:21:30	9
43	TORŁOP Małgorzata	W60	Poland (POL)	1:22:59	10
44	BERNIER Janine	W75	France (FRA)	1:27:45	6
45	SCHICKERT Lynne	W80	Australia (AUS)	1:29:53	1
46	DRÄGER Helga	W80	Germany (GER)	1:37:42	2
	VLACHYNSKA Libuse	W60	Czech Republic (CZE)	DQ	
	BRUCE Velta	W75	Latvia (LAT)	DQ	
	MYERS Helene	W65	United States of America (USA)	DQ	
	STAVNYCHA Varvara	W70	Ukraine (UKR)	DQ	
	HERRENDOERFER Ursula	W80	Germany (GER)	DNS	

***RANKINGS**

All-time National 20km Road Walk - as at 24 March 2023

Compiled by Paul Jenes (AA statistician)

Last issue we printed the latest Men's 20km all-time rankings. This time it's the **Women's** turn. The latest results from Nomi (JPN) include several in which our women climbed the rankings ladder, and these have been highlighted:

1:27:27	Jemima Montag	V	Adelaide	13 Feb 2022
1:27:44	Jane Saville	N	Naumburg, GER	2 May 2004
1:28:43	Rebecca Henderson	V	Nomi, JPN	18 Mar 2023
1:28:52	Olivia Sandery	S	Nomi, JPN	18 Mar 2023

1:28:53	Claire (Woods) Tallent	S	Taicang, CHN	30 Mar 2012
1:29:25	Katie Hayward	Q	Adelaide	10 Feb 2019
1:29:33	Regan Lamble	V	Rome, ITA	7 May 2016
1:29:36	Kerry Saxby-Junna	N	Naumburg, GER	30 Apr 2000
1:29:44	Cheryl Webb	N	Melbourne	7 Mar 2009
1:29:49	Beki (Lee) Smith	N	Rome, Italy	7 May 2016
1:29:56	Tanya Holliday	S	Rome, Italy	7 May 2016
1:30:25	Jess Rothwell	V	Melbourne	7 Mar 2009
1:31:33	Rachel Tallent	V	Adelaide	21 Feb 2016
1:31:34	Natalie Saville	N	Naumburg, GER	2 May 2004
1:32:22	Stephanie Stigwood	T	Melbourne	13 Dec 2015
1:32:57	Kellie Wapshott	V	Melbourne	23 Feb 2008
1:33:00	Lisa (Sheridan) Paolini	N	Sydney	8 Jul 2000
1:33:15	Kelly Ruddick	V	Launceston	1 Sep 2013
1:33:17	Allanah Pitcher	N	Nomi, JPN	18 Mar 2023
1:33:37	Clara Smith	Q	Adelaide	13 Feb 2022
1:33:45	Megan (Peters) Szirom	V	Melbourne	7 Mar 2009
1:33:56	Elizabeth McMillen	N	Nomi, JPN	18 Mar 2023
1:34:13	Jillian Hosking	A	Hobart	13 Feb 2010
1:34:27	Anne (Pembroke) Manning	N	Hawkesbury	10 Jul 1993
1:34:35	Wendy Muldoon	V	Melbourne	16 Aug 1998
1:34:44	Simone Wolowiec	V	Canberra	16 Jan 2000
1:34:44	Lyn Ventris	W	Melbourne	16 Dec 2001
1:35:55	Nicole Fagan	N	Hobart	20 Feb 2011
1:36:16	Jenny (Jones) Billington	Q	Hawkesbury	10 Jul 1993
1:36:19	Sally Pierson	V	Melbourne	15 Jul 1984
1:36:23	Sue (Orr) Cook	V	Canberra	7 Jul 1984
1:36:40	Lisa Grant	N	Sydney	4 Feb 2006
1:36:53	Samantha Findlay	S	Nomi, JPN	18 Mar 2023
1:37:13	Jessica Pickles	Q	Adelaide	11 Feb 2018
1:37:32	Michelle French	N	Geelong	2 Dec 2006
1:37:32	Simone McInnes	V	Adelaide	9 Feb 2020
1:37:34	Teresa Letherby	Q	Adelaide	3 Sep 1995
1:37:48	Jill (Barrett) Maybir	NT	Sydney	7 Sep 1997
1:37:59	Bev (Wilkins) Hayman	N	Sydney	15 Jul 1989
1:39:02	Jane (Lewry) Barbour	S	Hawkesbury	10 Jul 1993
1:39:03	Jo Strangman	A	Sydney	5 Aug 1995
1:39:49	Sue Narbey	W	Perth	13 Jul 1985
1:40:02	Gabrielle Blythe	V	Melbourne	24 May 1992
1:40:06	Philippa Huse	V	Nomi, JPN	17 Mar 2019
1:40:31	Zoe Hunt	A	Naumburg, GER	22 May 2016
1:40:36	Sharon Schnyder	V	Adelaide	14 Jul 1991
1:40:38	Jenny Crooks	S	Melbourne	1 Sep 1996
1:40:39	Jess Heazlewood	N	Melbourne	7 Mar 2009
1:40:49	Carolyn (Vanstan) Ferguson	V	Melbourne	8 Sep 1991
1:40:49	Tracy Rosengrave	V	Melbourne	6 Jul 1997
1:41:17	Anne Ryan	N	Canberra	13 Jul 1985
1:41:29	Lorraine (Young) Jachno	V	Richmond	14 Jul 1990
1:41:30	Philippa Huse	V	Adelaide	10 Feb 2019
1:41:37	Kristie Goznik	S	Melbourne	13 Dec 2015
1:41:59	Kirsty Klein	N	Adelaide	22 Feb 2015
1:42:17	Lara Kara-Ali	S	Melbourne	12 Dec 1999
1:42:22	Heather McDonald	V	Melbourne	12 Sep 1993
1:42:39	Alanna Peart	V	Melbourne	15 May 2022
1:42:46	Laura Johnson	N	Sydney	28 Feb 2004



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE: Marche sur Route à Ocquerre, 9 April - Ocquerre

Thanks to **Emmanuel Tardi** for this report.

I was judge this Sunday in Ocquerre (50km to the east of Paris) for a small event for promote racewalking. The first kilometer was on the track, then there were 9 loops near the stadium. Start of the race was at 9am. Weather was beautiful

and the temperature increased during the event to finish around 20°C. **Nicolas Boyer** walked with **Mathieu Olivares** for 3k, then won. Local walker **Emma Ribeiro** won the women race. A very good competition, and everybody hopes that it will be organized again next year.

Hommes

1	Nicolas Boyer	1977	Us Champagne	54'09''
2	Mathieu Olivares	1976	Neuilly-sur-Marne	59'54''
3	Stephane Labrousse	1959	Avia Club	1h03'16''
4	Cyrille Levesque	1973	UAI Nogent	1h04'21''
5	Guy Baudet	1955	Cap 94	1h10'27''
6	Patrick Montigny	1949	Us Ivry	1h38'55''

10km

Femmes

1	Emma Ribeiro	2004	Ac Pays de l'Ourcq	1h00'47''
2	Delphine Reaud	1982	Ac Paris-Joinville	1h01'46''
3	Sophie Dore	1977	UAI Nogent	1h06'06''
4	Nathalie Steinville	1964	Asfi Villejuif	1h06'42''

10km



Boyer



Ribeiro

(Photos: Emmanuel Tardi)

Judges: Emmanuel Tardi (Chief), Dominique Leclercq, Florent Brou, Eric Swidzinski, Claude Mauny, Michel Letoqueux.

MARCIADALMONDO & O MARCHADOR ROUNDUP

Marcia Dal Mondo is no longer presenting news items, but will continue to post local (Italian) and international results until December 31. These are regularly updated and can be perused at <http://www.marcialmondo.com/eng/risultati.aspx?anno=2023>, along with many other items of interest.

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

- Monday, April 10, 2023 - Zhenhao Wang and Xiangkun Chang win 35 km in Taicang <http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/zhenhao-wang-e-xiangkun-chang-vencem-35.html>
- Sunday, April 9, 2023 - Hong Liu, Jun Zhang and David Hurtado, the main figures in the 20 km in Taicang, China <http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/hong-liu-jun-zhang-e-david-hurtado-as.html>
- Sunday, April 9, 2023 - Lima resigns from organizing the U-20 Athletics World Cup in 2024 <http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/lima-renunciou-organizacao-do-mundial.html> (Political instability and the effects of recent natural disasters are stated as driving this decision.)

- Friday, April 7, 2023 - Álvaro López and Carmen Escáriz triumph in Pamplona 2023
<http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/alvaro-lopez-e-carmen-escariz-triufam.html>
- **Thursday, April 6, 2023 - 100th edition of the Australian Athletics Championships in Brisbane (results)**
<http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/100-edicao-dos-campeonatos-de-atletismo.html>
- Wednesday, April 5, 2023 - Kazakhstan Road Walking Championships (2023) in Almaty – results
<http://omarchador.blogspot.com/2023/04/campeonatos-do-cazaquistao-de-marcha-em.html> (Nice to see some results from Kazakhstan – homeland of 50km legend Veniamin Soldatenko.)

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.



WHAT'S UP AHEAD?

Victorian & National Key Dates – 2023

Thu-Sun 13-16 Apr 2023	AA U13-U18 T&F c'ships – QSAC, Brisbane
Sat-Sun 15-16 Apr	Coburg 24Hour Run & Walk (Australian Centurions qualifier) – Coburg Harriers track
Sun 16 Apr 2023	VMA 30+ Gift (1600m Walk) – Tom Kelly track, Doncaster
Wed-Fri 19-21 Apr 2023	UniSport National T&F c'ships – Gold Coast Performance Centre, QLD
Fri-Sun 21-23 Apr 2023	Coles Australian Little Athletics c'ships – Lakeside Stadium
Sun 6 Aug 2023	AMA Masters 20km road c'ship - Adelaide

International Dates

30 Apr 2023	2 nd Gran Premio Internacional Madrid Marca LaLiga – Madrid, ESP
6 May 2023	Grande Premio Internacional de Rio Major em Marca Atletica – Rio Major, ESP
3 June 2023	36 th Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruna de Marcha – La Coruna, ESP
28 Jul-8 Aug 2023	World University Summer Games – Chengdu, CHN (now confirmed by FISU)
19-27 Aug 2023	19 th World Athletics Championships – Budapest, HUN
26 Jul- 11 Aug 2024	XXXIII Summer Olympics – Paris, FRA
13-25 Aug 2024	24 th World Masters T&F Championships – Gothenburg, SWE
20-24 Aug 2024	WA World Junior T&F Championships – Lima, PER
13-21 Sep 2025	20 th World Athletics Championships – Tokyo, JAP

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

