

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 63

“56ers Torchbearers Club Inc”

PO Box 2148, CAIRNS Q 4870

Committee:

Patron	Margaret Cochrane	
President	Jim Vallely	Tel 07 40532150
Vice President	Dennis Stevenson	Tel 07 40653223
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Cummings	Tel 07 40312888
Email		admin@56ers.org.au

President’s Comments

Greetings Torchbearers and Partners

2018 has commenced with a myriad of major sporting events with the Winter Olympics already decided and it is refreshing to see a less populated country such as Norway come to the top of the medal count.

On the home front we have the Commonwealth Games in progress followed by the North Queensland Games due in early May.

Should there be any club member living in the Proserpine, Bowen or Mackay area who would like to take part in the distribution of cheques to the successful competitors of the Club’s sponsored Men’s and Women’s 1500m events at the RACQ Insurance Games in Mackay, both secretary Bill 0740312888 or myself 07 40532150 will be more than happy to hear from you.

Where possible we would encourage local members to fly the flag.

Looking forward to touching base with our members as we move further into 2018.

Regards
Jim Vallely
President



Notice:

North Queensland Games

Opening Ceremony: 6 PM May 5th 2018

**1500 Metre Event Scheduled &
56ers Prises Presentations: 10
AM May 5th**

SEE INVITATION TO 56ERS LAST PAGE

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM DAMIAN MARSH

Damian Marsh was born in Goondiwindi on the 28th March 1971. Apart from being a Queenslander his finest moment as a sprinter was winning the 1995 100m IAAF Grand Prix final in Monaco in a time of 10.13 defeating a field of the World’s top sprinters. This bettered his own Australian national record of 10.16 set in July 1994 in Oslo. He had broken Gerrard Keating’s national record of 10.22 in February 1993 in Melbourne with a time of 10.19. He also ran a personal best of 20.32 in Monaco in the 200m. Marsh also led Australia to a silver medal in the 4x 100m sprint relay in a national record time of 38.17 at the IAAF

World Championships. Marsh narrowly missed out in reaching the 100m final with a 9th best time of 10.20 in the events semi-finals. He finished 1995 ranked 9th in the world in the 200m.



Damian Marsh.

Marsh finished well in 100 m and 200m at Australian championships during 1993 and 1998. He competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics and was ranked 9th in the world for 200m.

After suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon injury during training for the 1996 Athens Olympics-he never returned to such world class form.

BRENDA JOYCE LAIDLAW

Brenda Laidlaw is not well known as an Australian athlete but she did quite well in track and field athletics and won a gold medal in the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Perth. She was part of the Australian 4x100 yard relay team comprising Joyce Bennett, Glenys Beasely and Betty Cuthbert. Brenda also won bronze in the 100yards and finished a close fourth in the 220yards final.



Brenda Laidlaw.

Brenda was born on the 17th April 1944 in Proserpine. She was reared in Queensland country towns such as Beaudesert, Biggenden and Ingham.

Brenda passed away on the 6th May 2016 at Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast.

56ers Corner

THE QUEENS BATON RELAY

The Queens Baton Relay passed through North Queensland and was due in Paronella Park 13th March. However flood disruptions prevented this schedule.

The participants are ran / walked 200-250m. This compares with 500m for the Sydney relay and 1 mile for the wonderful Melbourne relay as we all know. Additionally the Melbourne relay was a 24 hour run with short stops at major centres throughout the Eastern part of Australia welcoming the torch but never did it bed down overnight.

A photo in the Innisfail Advocate featured the Cassowary Coast Regional Mayor. Councillor John Kremastos and four 1956 relay runners taken prior to the current presence of the Queen's baton journey.



Mayor Kremastos, with 56ers John Lowe, Jim O'Brien, Don Lowe and Jack Jacovos. John ran his mile 29 miles South of Ingham, Jim 2 miles South of Innisfail and Jack 28 miles South of Ingham.

PROGRESS OF MONTANNA MCAVOY

The editor was very pleased to receive an email from Montanna's parents Mark and Alicia McAvoy advising that she had a great time at the titles and her Queensland team finished with a bronze medal. She led the Queensland contingent of over 600 athletes as Captain in the Opening Ceremony and did herself, the 56ers and her family proud. She was also named as the Queensland team's most inspirational athlete. An additional note, her younger sister Mackenzie played in the Queensland 16 years hockey and she was the goalie. And in the Queensland v New South Wales final and after a 1 all draw at full time it came down to a penalty shootout with Mackenzie saving the crucial final goal attempt to take the win and finish with a Gold Medal and as Pacific School Games champions.

Montanna is back in training in Brisbane after obtaining an OP4 but adjusted to OP1 under the Elite Athlete Bonus Scheme adjusted for the time spent away from school doing an elite sport. She gained early admission and plans

on doing a Double Degree in Business/Media Communications at Queensland University of Technology. She is to travel to Sydney to compete in 3km steeple chase at the Hunter Track Classic and she continues to work towards the national titles in March.

She won the 5,000 m in a world qualifying time of 16.35 and then in stifling 38 degree heat she won the 3,000m steeplechase in 10.10 a personal best time and 20 seconds under the qualifying time. She was 17 seconds ahead of her nearest rival in the 5,000 m and 16 seconds ahead of her nearest rival in the 3,000m steeple chase.

In all this she went at her own pace and led all the way as a front runner.

Montanna has stepped up to U20 age group this year and as a 17 year old this is no mean feat.

A great performance Montanna. The Torchbearers Club extend our congratulations to you and wish you tonnes of success in the future.



Montanna on the podium being awarded a gold Medal in the 3,000m steeple chase at the Australian Championships.

RAELENE BOYLE RECEIVES LEGEND STATUS

In the final of the 200m event at the Munich Olympic Games, Raelene Boyle was beaten by an East German drug cheat Renate Stecher. Raelene recalls the unbelievable pain she felt

at the end of the 200m event in Munich because she tried so hard. Boyle said this as she was elevated to legend status in the Sport Australia Hall of Fame awards dinner in Melbourne.

‘Bursting with pain is the wrong way to say it, but I felt like I was going to explode with pain. I was chasing her down and was getting so close, I was straining everything I had. I was coming through and she was coming back and it was tight, there was a few hundredths of a second in it.’



Raelene Boyle applying her total strength attempting to win the 200 m at Munich. Only to be beaten by a drug cheat from East Germany.

Stecher denied Boyle the chance of winning gold in Munich. She holds no personal animosity to Stecher, more anger at the system that conspired against her and the fact that the International Olympic Committee turned a blind eye. Whilst the loss at Munich was painful for her, Boyle truly earned her legend status. She was born in Melbourne but now lives on the Sunshine Coast.



She compares the honour of being elevated to legend status to when she wheeled her friend Betty Cuthbert into the Sydney Stadium as part of the opening ceremony in 2000.

Joker’s Corner

WORDS OF WISDOM

OBSERVATIONS BY **GEORGE CONSTANZA**

AN AMERICAN TELEVISION CHARACTER FROM A SHOW CALLED SEINFELD

‘The most unfair thing about life is the way it ends. I mean life is tough. It takes up a lot of your time. What do you get at the end of it? A death. What is that? A bonus?! I think that the life cycle is all backwards. You should die first. Get it out of the way. Then you go live in a retirement home. Get kicked out for being too healthy. Go collect your pension, then when you start work collect a gold watch on your first day. You work for forty years until you’re young enough to enjoy your retirement. You drink alcohol, you party and you get ready for high school. You go to primary school, you become a kid, you play, you have no responsibilities, you become a little baby, you go back, you spend your last 9 months floating with luxuries like central heating, spa, room service on tap then you finish up as an orgasm!! Amen.’

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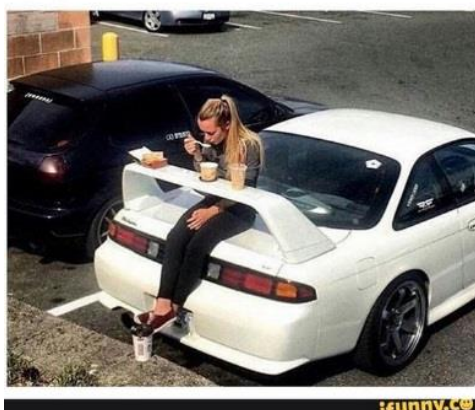


Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....

The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog. ~Ambrose Bierce



Finally I understand why cars have these things...



An old man went to the Doctor complaining that his wife could barely hear. The Doctor suggested a test to find out the extent of the problem.

“Stand far behind her and ask her a question, and then slowly move up and see how far away you are when she first responds.”

The old man excited to finally be working on a solution for the problem, runs home and sees his wife busy at the kitchen counter preparing their supper.

“Honey” the man asks, standing around 20 feet away, “What’s for supper?”

After receiving no response he tried it again 15 feet away, and again no response.

Then again at 10 feet away and again no response.

Finally he was 5 feet away “Honey what’s for supper?”

She replies “For the fourth time it’s lasagna!”

The editor badly needs stories from members to fill the lines in the Torchbearers Newsletter. Each member must have some riveting stories prior to and post the Melbourne relay or knowledge about former athletes, athletics officials or track and field events. What are your recollections of the Melbourne Torch arriving at your reception place?



Kind Regards

Dennis M Stevenson
menafalls1@bigpond.com

“The Running Scotsman”



The North Queensland Sports Foundation,

has the pleasure in inviting you
to attend the **Opening Ceremony** of the

2018 Mackay City Auto Group North Queensland Games

On

Friday 4th May 2018

6-8pm

Harrup Park Country Club,
89 Juliet Street, South Mackay

Please RSVP to the NQSF Office on (07) 47242500 or
admin@nqsports.com.au by **Friday 13th April**

