

AUSTRALIAN ULTRA RUNNERS ASSOCIATION INC

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (2002 to 2011)

- Re-creation of 100km national championships (2003) see <http://www.aura.asn.au/GoldCoast100.html> As a consequence of this initiative, times have improved considerably. Leading men's times are consistently under 8 hours and leading women's times have been sub 9 hours for the past two years. Jackie Fairweather was ranked number two in the world in 2009 with 7:41:23.
- Men's teams have been sent to represent Australia at the world 100km championships each year from and including 2004, with women's teams from and including 2009. For more information on 100k world championships, see <http://www.aura.asn.au/100kmWorlds.html> Australia had not sent teams in previous years although 3 - 4 Australians did perform with distinction in 1995 when they went as individuals without financial support. AURA is proud of the fact that it has been able to make a meaningful contribution towards travel costs of athletes selected to represent Australia, since 2004.
- Men's teams have been sent to represent Australia at the world 24hr championships since 2006 and women since 2008. The women's team placed 3rd in the women's team's event in 2010. Martin Fryer broke the Commonwealth record with 255.407km in 2009 and again with 259.481km in 2010. Sharon Scholz broke the Australian record with 224.885km in 2010. Sharon was awarded the international female ultra runner of the year for 2010. Martin Fryer was ranked 4th best in the world in 2009 and 6th best in 2010 while Jo Blake was ranked 5th best in 2009.
- Upgrading of 48 hour national championship from a surveyed grass surface on a rugby ground with manual lapscoreing to an athletic track with catering facilities and electronic timing (2003 to date). Entrants have increased from 5 - 10 to 50 - 60 (48, 24, 12 and 6 hr sections) and the quality of performances has increased substantially. Sharon Scholz broke the Australian record for 48 hrs in 2010 with 333.026 which ranked her second in the world for that year and Martin Fryer was ranked number one in the world in 2009 with 433.686km.
- In the 6 day races, Dipali Cunningham ranked number one in the world in 2009 with 825.953km while Sarah Barnett ranked number 3 in the world in 2010 with 677.447km. Dipali and Martin Fryer won the women's and men's division of the Sri Chinmoy6 day race in New York last month with 745km and 780km respectively.
- Introduction of various awards to recognise achievements and to perpetuate the memory of past champions. For example....male and female ultra athlete of the year, Bryan Smith award (best 24hr performance), Cliff Young award (best 24hr performance by O60), rising star awards etc.
- Development of our own website, see <http://www.aura.asn.au/>
- Creation of Hall of Fame to recognise achievements of past greats, see <http://www.aura.asn.au/HallOfFame.html>
- Creation of life memberships to recognise meritorious contributions to the sport, see <http://www.aura.asn.au/LifeMembers.html>
- introduction of annual reports to provide information of achievements. For the 2010 report see http://www.aura.asn.au/annual_reports.html
- construction of a database of members and other interested parties and a bulk email facility designed to comply with anti-spamming regulations.
- AURA has been able to stimulate interest in the sport to the point where the number of participations has grown tenfold in the past 9 years and the quality of performances has improved exponentially.
- If Commonwealth championships were held for 100km, 24 hours and 6 day races, in the near future, Australia would likely win 3 gold (women) and 2 gold (men) based on 2010-2011 rankings and current form.

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