

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 46

"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

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hi Club Members and Partners,

I trust all are healthy and hearty, keeping one step ahead of all the winter bugs. For those who follow one sport or another, we have had a smorgasbord to choose from on the local, national and international scene over the past month or two.

Amongst the stand outs on the local front have been the highly successful international ultra marathon, triathlon and world mountain bike competition-both events drawing competitors from across the globe.

Harley Davidson motorcycle clubs delighted locals when they held their national annual meet in Cairns riding their machines through the city and on to Port Douglas. You can imagine the roar of 1500 Harleys.

All is quiet on the committee level at the moment with no significant matters to refer to.

Dennis always welcomes members contacting him with personal accounts of their torch run, please don't let him down.

Kind Regards

Jim Vallely

FORMER OLYMPIC GAMES

Helsinki 1952

Usually one of the closest secrets of any games is the name of the runner who carries the flame on the last leg to light the flame that burns for the duration of the games.

When the torch appeared in the Helsinki Stadium there was a mighty cheer from the 70,500 crowd as a balding 55 year old whose athletic feats had thrilled the crowds some 30 years before, Paavo Nurmi, carried the torch. In his characteristic upright gait he circled the track and lit the flame.

He then handed the torch to Hannes Kolehmainen, the first of the flying Finns, who won the 5,000 and 10,000m in Stockholm in 1912. He was taken by lift to the top of a 250ft tower where he lit another flame in pouring rain. Soon after the lighting of the flame a woman dressed in white entered the stadium and ran gracefully around the track and addressed the crowd from the rostrum where the oath had been taken minutes before but was cut off by officials. The lady in question was a 23 year old student and fanatical peace enthusiast whose entry was perfectly timed and whilst puzzled, the crowd did not resent the intrusion. The main stadium was full to capacity for the opening ceremony.

In the athletics, 19 of the 24 men's events resulted in new Olympic records, whilst seven Olympic records were set in the nine women's events.

Russia competing in their first Olympics since 1912 was rewarded with two gold medals in the women's events.

The Czech Emil Zatopek was outstanding in the long distance events winning three gold medals in the 5,000, 10,000m and marathon. Zatopek's wife Dana won the javelin on the same day as Emil won the 5,000m event.

Australians Marjorie Jackson and Shirley Strickland won the 100m, 200m, and 80m hurdles

Early Notice : The Annual Meeting & Luncheon of the 56ers Torchbearer Club Inc., will be held on Saturday 8th November 2014 at the Cairns RSL, The Esplanade, Cairns, commencing at 12 noon.

respectively. The Australian women dropped the relay baton in the exchange between Marjorie Jackson and Winsome Cripps and the lost time did not allow them to win a medal.

Russell Mockridge won two gold medals in cycling in the 1000m time trial and the 2000m tandem events.

MELBOURNE 1956

I guess that there is not too much that the editor can say to members that they do not know by personal attendance or following radio broadcasts in 1956. But never the less I will attempt to choose some snippets that may be new to you. Forgive me if I choose some terms of familiarity.

The Melbourne games were the first held in the Southern Hemisphere and ones that were held in November/December. Nevertheless, some 67 nations sent 2,800 men and 370 women to compete in 16 sports. The suppression of the Hungarian revolution by Russia and the British and French adventure in the Middle East resulted in the withdrawal of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the Netherlands and Spain. However Ethiopia, Kenya and Malaysia were represented for the first time.

The outstanding competitor in the track events was Vladimir Kutz the Russian who won both the 5,000m and 10,000m events. The victory in the 10,000m was on the first day and Kutz burned up the field with a fast early pace and had disposed of all his rivals except Gordon Pirie the British runner. Pirie was weakened by the constant variation in pace by Kutz and by 8,000m had dropped back eventually to be placed in eighth position but Kutz was left on his own and won easily.

In the 5,000m Kutz was opposed by Pirie and Derek Ibbotson. By the 4,000m mark Kutz was incomplete command and won in 13:39.6 seconds beating the Olympic record by 27 seconds. Pirie of Great Britain was second.

- Betty Cuthbert won three gold medals.
- Hector Hogan won bronze in the men's 100m.

- Charles Porter won silver in the men's high jump.
- Hal Connolly won the men's hammer throw and won the heart of Czech, Olga Figotova, winner of the women's discus.
- Shirley Strickland won the women's 80m hurdles and both Strickland and Norma Thrower (Croker) created an Olympic record of 10.8.
- Ron Delaney (Ireland) won the 1500m with J Landy placed third.
- The Hungarian and Russian water polo teams drew blood in the water over the Russian invasion of Hungary.
- Australia was second in the 4x400m sprint relay.
- Allain Lawrence was placed third in the 10,000m.
- Marlene Mathews was placed third in both the 100 and 200m relay for women.
- Norma Thrower was placed third in the 80m hurdles for women.
- Al Oerter won the men's discus. He returned to Melbourne in 2006 for the 50th anniversary of the Melbourne Olympics. As could be expected he was totally different to the slim and trim winner of the gold medal at Melbourne.
- The USA won the eights and many of the Melbourne crew attended the 50th anniversary celebrations in Melbourne. *(The editor was fortunate to speak to some of them.)*

Avery Brundage was IOC President and the games were officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh.

ROME 1960

The Olympics were 50 years late in coming to the eternal city. The 1908 Olympics were scheduled for Rome but the Italians had to withdraw and Britain stepped into the breach to organize the first of the great modern games.

Cash from football pool profits supported the Olympic movement and in the city new sports stadiums were built to accommodate the biggest sporting occasion to grace the Italian capital since the fall of the Roman Empire.

In athletics only four countries won more than one gold medal namely USA (nine), USSR (five), New Zealand (two), and Poland (two). Russians dominated the women's events with 6 wins in ten events. For the first time since 1928 the men's sprint title eluded the Americans. Amin Hary (the blitz start specialist) won the 100m for Germany.

New Zealand's gold medals came during the same afternoon with 21 year old Peter Snell winning the 800m and 27 year old Murray Halberg winning the 5000m. Halberg ran the race of a life time breaking away 1000m from the tape. His last lap was slow but he still won by 1.2 seconds.

The showpiece of the track and field events was the 1,500m. The Cerutti trained Herb Elliott, the World record holder was the favorite and he made winning in World record time look so simple.

America took all three places in both the 110m and 400m hurdles with the winners Lee Calhoun and Glen Davis winning back-to-back Olympic events.

Al Oerter won the discus title but Hal Connolly the Melbourne gold medalist in the hammer throw could only manage eighth place. Olga Connelly (nee Figatova) could only manage 7th in the women's discus.

The outstanding woman of the games was 20 year old Wilma Rudolph of the USA who became the third woman since WW2 to win Olympic gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x 100m relay. The result in the decathlon was the closest in Olympic history. There was never more than 144 points between Rafer Johnson and Formosa's Yang Chuankwang the American Johnson and the Taiwanese did battle in the final event the 1500m with Yang trying to run away from Johnson but the American hung on to win the competition.

MEANING OF THE OLYMPIC RINGS

The Olympic Rings are now synonymous with the Olympic Games. They were designed by Pierre de Couberton in 1913 and symbolize the five Continents of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. No one color represents any one continent. However the colors are significant in that everyone who is part of the Olympic family has

one of those colors including the white background in their national flag.

The Olympic rings are seen as the most potent of all global marketing. In a survey conducted by Sponsorship Research International in 1996, 78 percent of the world's population recognized the Olympic Rings and their significance to the Olympic Movement. The percentage topped the listing ahead of the symbols of Shell, McDonalds, Mercedes and Red Cross.

56ers CORNER

RON ENTSCH (9 MILES NORTH OF INGHAM)

My mile of road was corrugated gravel and dirt that made the going pretty tough underfoot. The heat was oppressive and humidity high with not a breath of air along the way. It was a desolate stretch and there was no one to see me run only the birds and the trees. I kept thinking what a fool I was in not borrowing a camera which I could have given to someone in the support vehicle to record my run. It seemed that my few minutes of glory would never be recorded.

Then I saw a vehicle pull over about 100 yards from my finishing point. The occupants alighted and I couldn't believe my luck, they were going to photograph me! I gasped to them to 'wait please' as I passed thinking that they would take off in the opposite direction. I reckon my transferring of the flame was done in record time and I ran back to the photographer to give him my address and to beg for a copy of the photograph. In due course the photo arrived and it is treasured along with my medal. *(Extracted from the book, "Carrying the Torch" by Marcus Marsden and communication with Ron Entsch.)*

1956 OLYMPIC TORCH FOUND ON A RUBBISH DUMP

It would be the reward of a life time finding the torch that we all ran on a rubbish dump. But this is what Bill Melchert found whilst at a rubbish dump.

Bill had the torch restored and proudly had his photo taken with the prized possession. Bill ran the torch 47 miles South of Ayr. What a prized possession.



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OLYMPIC TORCH FUEL CANNISTER

For those of us who ran the torch in the dark of the night the included photo allows a great vision of the fuel canister that provided the flame, light, and smoke and the lighter for the next runner to have the torch progress down the Nation to Melbourne. I (*the editor being very appreciative of the included photo*), was very pleased to rescue the photo in Keith Barratt's 56ers memorabilia as my run time was at 11.16pm on the gravel road and in bush a mile north of Calen and there was no moon. No doubt in view of the fact that many runners also ran at night, many of you may also have not seen or remembered the fuel canister.



50TH MELBOURNE OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY

A search of the piles of Torchbearers Club records has revealed 23 fridge magnets designed by Keith Barrett and Andrew Cummings. The magnets pictured below are available for \$3 and members contact Bill Cummings seeking copies.



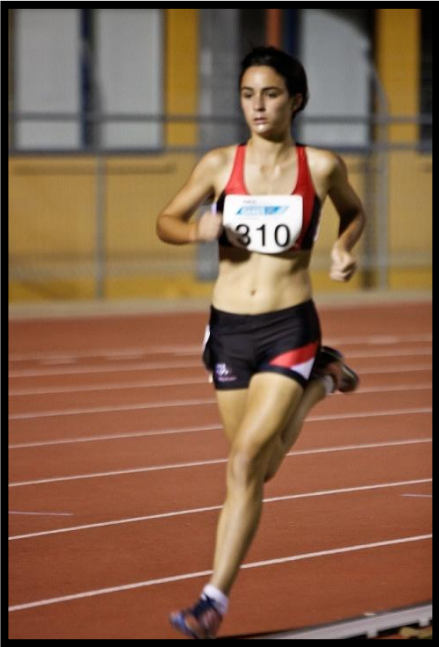
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RACQ NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES

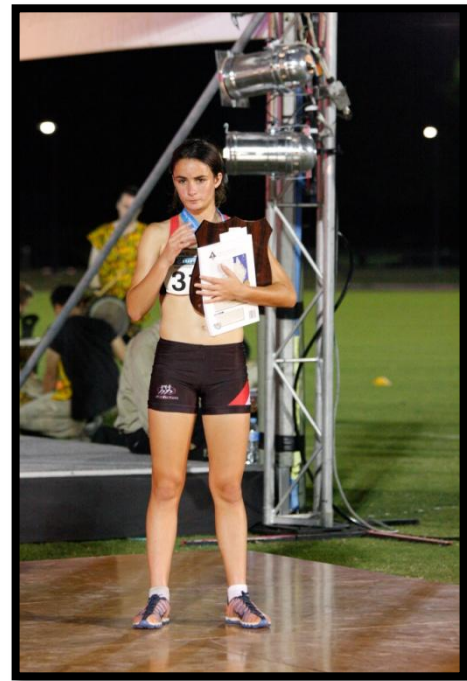
Women's 1500m race

The president advised in Newsletter 45 of the winners and place getters in the 1500m events sponsored by the Torchbearers Club. Pictured in the document was the winner of the men's event Liam Mumford. Not being a 'misogynist' I would wish to present the winner of the women's 1500m Montanna Mc Avoy. Montanna was 14 at the time

of the race and demonstrated a very mature performance during the race. Her style was superb and her pace even but determined. Her time was 4:48.36, a truly mature performance. Montanna is pictured during the race and on the podium receiving the prize money funded by the 56ers Torchbearers Club and a copy of Marcus Marsden's book "Carrying the Torch".



Montanna is attending grade 9 at the Trinity Anglican School in Cairns and is a member of the Cairns Athletic Club. She recently represented TAS in the NQ Student Games and allcomers' track and field championships held in Townsville where she won two gold and one silver medals.



WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM

MARJORIE JACKSON AC, CVO, MBE, DStJ

Marjorie Jackson was born in September 1931 at Coffs Harbour and first gained fame when she defeated Fanny Blanker-Koen the reigning Olympic 100 and 200m champion a number of times in 1949. She became favorite for the 100 and 200m events at the 1952 Olympics at Helsinki winning both and was the first Australian to win an Olympic title since Edwin Flack. The Australian women lost the relay because of a faulty baton change.

Later in 1952 Jackson lowered the 100m world record time to 11.4 at a meet in Gifu in Japan.

Marjorie Jackson dubbed the Lithgow Flash, also won gold in 100, 220 and 3x110/220 yard events in the Auckland Commonwealth Games. She won every State and National title she contested from 1950 to 1954.

Marjorie Jackson married Peter Nelson and became the 33rd Governor of South Australia in November 2001, a position she occupied until August 2007.

As of May 2014 Marjorie Jackson lived at Marion, South Australia.

Acknowledgement is made to John Goodridge's article in Wikipedia 16/05/14 for most of the information in this article.



Marjorie Jackson/Nelson, the 33rd Governor of South Australia.

RALPH DOUBELL AM

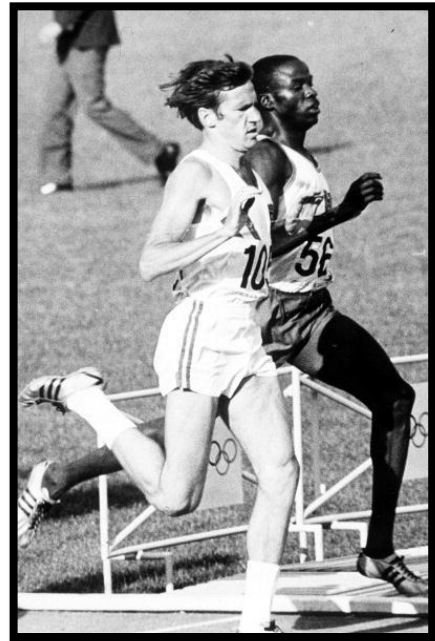
Ralph Doubell was trained by Franz Stampfl and won the 800m at the 1968 Mexico Olympics in world record time beating Kenyan Wilson Kiprugut.

Doubell attended the Melbourne University where he studied zoology and psychology and in the Athletics Club he came under the influence of Franz Stampfl. He won the 1968 club 800m event in 1:44.40. It was later in 1968, that Doubell won the gold medal at the Mexico Olympics defying all the tales of the oxygen-depleting atmosphere affecting his run.

This race had Doubell almost disqualified from starting. When the field of eight were under the starters orders and locked into the set position the runner next to Doubell broke and the Australian was wrongfully accused of having a false start. Unfairly Doubell was placed on his last warning. In a split second he had to make a judgement

- dispute the decision;
- protest his innocence;
- loose both concentration and emotional energy;
- or shut the incident out of his mind.

He settled for the final point and so doing he demonstrated one of the qualities that made him one of the country's finest middle distance runners.



Ralph Doubell passing Wilson Kiprugut to win the Mexican Olympics 800m final.

He won the 800m event in 1,44.3. He swept past the Kenyan 50m from the tape and won over the excellent Kiprugut.

In spite of his Olympic fame Doubell was not filled with athletic portent. At the age of 14 he was placed fourth in the C grade triple jump in the inter-house sports at Melbourne High, and although he later ran well in cross country races he never won a school championship. However in his sixth-form year he was coached by former Olympic sprinter Mike Agostini and won both the 440 and 880 yard events.

At the Melbourne University he came under the influence of Franz Stampfl whom Doubell said, "He had the ability as a coach to badger, cajole and flatter me into thinking I could achieve my objective by winning the 800m at the Olympics. I well remember the many long lunches I had with Franz. By four o'clock I often felt that I could conquer the world".

ONE DAY HE DID!

Acknowledgement is made of the article on Ralph Doubell by Harry Gordon from the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame.

JANE FLEMMING OAM

Jane Flemming was born in 1965 at Horsham in Victoria. She started her athletics career at Fairpark Little Athletics Club at the Knox Little Athletics Centre. She took part in Australian National championships and won 13 open titles, heptathlon (5), 100m hurdles (5), 100yds (1), 100m (2). Flemming was named the Australian female athlete of the year in 1993. She was an Olympian for two games and the 1986, 1990, and 1994 Commonwealth Games. Her highest score in the heptathlon was 6695 points that won her the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth gold medal. As at April 2014 this record still stands as an Australian and Commonwealth Games record.

In Auckland Flemming also won the long jump gold medal with a career best jump of 6.78m

Her best performances at Olympic games were 7th in Seoul in 1988.

She achieved the following individual performances during her gold medal performance in the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

- 100m hurdles-13.21
- high jump-1.82m
- shot put 13.76m
- 200m- 23.62
- long jump-6.57m
- javelin throw-49.28m
- 800m- 2:12.53

Truly a great all round athlete.

Jane Flemming was unfortunately involved in mixing urine samples in the Ulster Games in 1986 and received an official warning from a Senate report into drugs in sport.

THE 1956 MELBOURNE OLYMPICS

Some perhaps unknown happenings.

Bill O'Neill has provided some copied sheets from the Ballarat paper 'The Lake' that provides a few stories we may not have been aware of.

Myth Exploded by Olympic Medal Finder.

There was a myth going around Ballarat that a Russian sculler had thrown his Olympic gold medal into Lake Wendourie only for it to disappear forever.

This story is not true. Russian pairs silver medallist Victor Ivanov accidentally dropped his medal into the lake as he was being presented with his medal while sitting in the boat.

Ballarat school-boy Andrew Hemingway 13 who still lives in Ballarat was cycling to swimming training stopped to see what all the commotion was about. He returned to the lake following his evening meal. Because it was a flat medal it had wobbled out a little way and I attacked it systematically Andrew reported. After a couple of hours he found the medal and took it home to show everyone. The next day I took it to school and was showing everyone but the principal came down and snaffled it saying he would look after it. The principal told the town clerk who organized a civic reception and Andrew was presented with several medals (not Olympic silver though) and had tea with the Russian team.

Andrew was wise enough to take rubbing impressions of both sides of the medal and still has those impressions.

MORE ON THE DREDDER USQUEBAUGH

A Whisky Experience

Ron Entsch (9 miles North of Ingham) has advised of a wise whisky experience with an Australian (Tasmanian) made single malt whisky, Sullivan's Cove. Sorry to keep the whisky tales going but it sounded too good to let go.

In 2000 I purchased from the then little known Tasmanian Distillery, a 50 litre American Oak Barrel of Sullivan's Cove Single Malt Whisky (new fill). It

seemed like a good investment idea at the time. If not, one could drink it.

Today a bottle costs \$109 from Dan Murphy's and 'walks out the door'. It won the 2011 World Award "best of the rest Single Malt 12 years and under." Whisky expert Jim Murray rated it 96.5 out of 100 in his 2003 Whisky Bible, and that is notable.

However being an ignorant amateur how did I fare financially?

Cost of the barrel, storage and insurance, \$2550.

I didn't realize the barrel was about 90% proof and had to be broken down to the legal 40% a/v for bottling. It would translate to 89x 750ml bottles. Wow I was committed.

Excise \$1561 (forgot this one too!)

Bottling, freight on 8 cases and GST \$670

Total outlay \$4781 costing \$53. 72 per bottle.

After the shock of the financial whack, I asked the Distillers if they would assist by selling my stock Nooooo!, they made it, and didn't retail it. What then should I do?

It tasted so good. All 89 bottles gradually disappeared. I realize now how much more I should have enjoyed that experience at that price.

Ron Entsch.

JOKERS CORNER

The Christian Way to call someone a Bastard.

A guy was getting ready to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer approached and asked if he could join him. The first said that usually he played alone, but agreed to the twosome.

They were even after the first few holes. The second guy said, we're about evenly matched, how about playing for 5 dollars a hole? The first guy said that he wasn't much for betting but agreed to the terms.

The second guy won the remaining 18 holes with ease.

As they were walking off number 18, the second guy was busy counting his \$80. He confessed that he was the pro at a neighboring course and liked to pick on suckers. The first fellow revealed that he was the Parish Priest.

The pro was flustered and apologetic, offering to return the money.

The Priest said.

'You won the money fair and square and I was foolish to bet with you. You keep your winnings.'

The pro said, 'Is there anything I can do to make up to you?'

The Priest said, 'Well you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation....'

And if you wish to bring your mother and father along, I will marry them.

Grannies Natural Remedies

Yes our Grand mothers had their own natural remedies. Here is one grandma who passed on to her grandchild from her own personal experiences.

To improve my digestion I drink beer, for a loss of appetite I drink white wine and for low blood pressure I drink red wine, and if I have a cold I drink whisky.

And Grannie when do you drink water?

Thank God I've never had such a serious illness!

Kind Regards.

Dennis M Stevenson
menafalls1@bigpond.com

