

# THE TORCHBEARER

## NEWSLETTER 62

### "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 |



# Merry Christmas

### President's Comments

Greetings once again Torchbearers and Partners.

With a successful AGM behind us where all executive positions remained as previous, the main discussion was centred around the Club's future direction. It was unanimously decided a section of the Club's Constitution as to allow and encourage Torchbearers descendants to join as fully fledged members.

Both young athletes, Montanna McAvoy and John Dodds are progressing exceptionally well and have been chosen to represent their Country at the World Junior Games to be held in Finland in 2018.

I must pay tribute to Andrew Cummings, our Secretary/ Treasurer's son for the assistance he gives Dennis with the production of our newsletter, as Andrews's technical knowledge is invaluable.

As this will be our final newsletter for the year, I would like to wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Festive Season.

Regards  
Jim Vallely  
President



### Early Notice

#### North Queensland Games Mackay

4 - 7 May 2018

Once again, the 56 Olympic Torchbearers will provide the prize for the Men's and Women's 1500 metre races to be held in Mackay.

The NQ Games organisation have invited Club members to participate in the Opening Ceremony and presentation of the 1500 metre prizes.

We'd like to have a good representation there. If you think you will be able to attend, could you please advise the Secretary on 40312888 or [admin@56ers.org.au](mailto:admin@56ers.org.au).

Further details will be advised closer to the time.

### WE MUST NEVER FORGET THEM MAUREEN CAIRD

Maureen Caird was born in Cumberland NSW and began serious athletics as a teenager. She was coached by 1948 Olympian June Ferguson and success came early with a surprise Olympic victory in 1968 Olympics at just 17 years of age.

Maureen was an amazing junior- initially winning primary school titles before as a

tender 13 year old, gathering senior and junior schoolgirl championships over 100 yards.

Progress was rapid and within a year, Maureen ran 11.0 for 80 metres hurdles to smash the Australian junior record. In 1967 she lowered the mark dramatically to 10.6.



*Maureen Caird hurdling as junior.*

At that years women's National titles on North Hobart Oval she ran a wind assisted 10.5 to win her heat and in the final she finished a creditable third behind Pam Kilborn in 11.0. Compensation for any disappointment came in the form of a junior title 11.1 and a second gold in the pentathlon.

A year later the Australian Championships were in Adelaide and Maureen edged closer, this time finishing a close second behind Kilborn in both the then standard event 10.5 to 10.6 and again in the new 100 m 13.4 to 13.8. She again won the junior hurdles in 10.6 and added the long jump title with a leap of 5.64m.

Cairds hurdles result gained her an extra prize in the form of selection for the Mexican Olympic Games. At a pre -games meet in Mexico, Maureen lowered her personal best to 10.5.

At 17 she faced her biggest challenge but perhaps fortunately her biggest rival and one

of the favourites for gold was team mate Pam Kilborn. Pam won her heat in 10.41 seconds, whilst Maureen stunned every one, bar her coach, by winning hers in 10.48. They were the two fastest times of all the heats. Both athletes won their semis with Pam in 10.44 and Maureen in 10.59 although the latter victory was into a strong head wind. June Ferguson conveyed her race plan to Maureen 'reach the first hurdle in front and you won't be headed'. The coach proved to be correct for that was exactly what eventuated. Maureen won in 10.39 and Pam in 10.46 in second place.

Following the Mexico Olympics Maureen met Pam Kilborn on a number of occasions in 1970 they both as well as Penny McCallum were selected for the Commonwealth Games to compete in the changed 100m hurdles event. They were also controversially entered into the pentathlon to get an extra hurdles run but both withdrew after doing just the hurdles and shotput events.



*Maureen Caird breaking the tape to win the 80m hurdles in Mexico in 1968 in 10.39.*

In the main event all three qualified the two heats Maureen 13.79 whilst Pam was fastest with 13.48. In the final Pam ran away with the race in 13.27 and Maureen clocked 13.73 taking the silver medal. Australia narrowly missed a clean sweep with Penny finishing 4<sup>th</sup>

in 13.82. In the 1972 National titles in Perth, Penny McCallum (now Gillies) won the title in 13.3. These titles were pre selection for the Games in Munich and Penny, Pam and Maureen were selected.

### 56ers Corner

#### A CULTURAL FLAVOR - TORCHBEARERS PHOTO

I'm not quite sure how Marcus Marsden did not include this culturally significant picture in his magnificent book 'Carrying the Torch' but it has been deemed essential that the first exchange of the Olympic Torch between Con Verevis (a Greek descendant) and Anthony Mark an indigenous lad from Kowanyama be shown to our members. Many of our northern members will be familiar with this photo but I guess others will not have viewed it.



*Cairns mayor Fulton watching Con Verevis lighting Anthony Mark's torch with close inspection by a member of the torch team.*

#### Olympic Poem by Edwina du Casse

Torch bearer Paul Searle (9 miles South of Lismore) has been kind enough to forward a poem by Edwina du Casse called the Olympic poem. The poem was written by Edwina to commemorate the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The poem was selected for publication in the Sydney Organizing Committee's official magazine *The Village* welcoming world athletes to Sydney.

#### EDWINA'S POEM TO WELCOME ATHLETES TO THE SYDNEY OLYMPIC GAMES



*Edwina du Casse*

*"We are Australia, Gods land created, Of Sea and Sun Of Natural beauty, Natural harbours.*

*Richness of nature's Colours. Clear, crystal waters, Endless forests, Green and lush.*

*Nature's harbour In the Forrest, life song Of nature's heart, under the Southern Cross.*

*We stand united, One heart, one spirit, In peace, joy, Friendship, love.*

*We are Australia Our hand Of Friendship reaches out To All Nations of peace.*

*We welcome you.*

*We are Australia, Come let us meet, In bonds of friendship, Unity, peace.*

*Welcome to our country.*

*Under the Southern Cross.*

*We are Australia, We stand united, Through times of crisis.*

*We are Australia, We are one heart.*

*One spirit, united, In peace, joy, love, With GOD 'help We are triumphant, All wars and hardship, We overcome.*

*We are Australia, We stand united, We are one heart, One spirit in peace, joy, love.*

*We are Australia We welcome you, To our land of friendship, Oceans blue, Nature's beauty, Within our land.*

*We are Australia, Come let us meet, In bonds of friendship, Joy, peace, Under The Southern Cross.*

*We greet you, We are Australia, We are Australia."*

**Edwina du Casse.**

### **MONTANNA McAvoy**

Montanna continues to achieve, in her wonderful athletic career. She featured a recent issue of the Innisfail Advocate. This story gave a snap-shot of her achievements since March 2017.

**March:** She competed in the Australian Track and Field Championships in the under 18 2km steeple chase and under 18 3000m winning gold in both events and set new Australian Championship meet records.

**June:** Proving that she is more than just a runner she was selected for the Queensland Secondary Schools Sport Football Team.

**July:** She narrowly missed a podium finish at the Commonwealth Youth Team for the under 18 games in the Bahamas finishing fifth in the 3000m race.

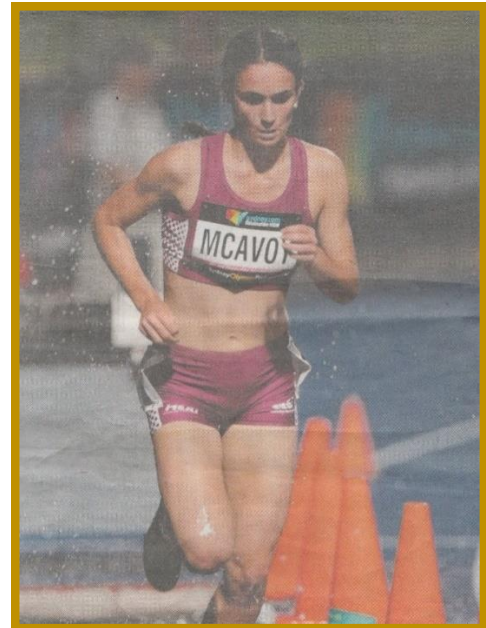
**August:** Montanna won the women's 5km event in the annual Bridge to Brisbane for the second year in succession.

**September:** She was awarded the Cassowary Coast PAYCE Sports Encouragement Bursary.

**November:** Montanna will attempt to get a third world juniors qualifying time at the Queensland 5000m championships.

**December:** She has been named Queensland female captain for the Pacific School Games in Adelaide as over the years she has not only worn maroon in athletics but also in football and cross country.

**Montanna, from all of us 56 Torchbearers we wish you the very best of luck with your sporting endeavours-we wish you heaps of success. Go lass.**



*Montanna McAvoy heading for national success in athletics.*

### **Joker's corner**



**Only the Irish have jokes like these.**

**One**

Brenda O'Malley is home as usual cooking dinner as usual when Tim Finnegan arrives at the door.

Brenda may I come in I have something to tell you. Of course you can come in but where is my husband? That is why I have come to tell you. There was an accident down at the Guinness Brewery.

Oh don't tell me that my husband is dead.

Yes Brenda I am so sorry to tell you that Shamus has passed away.

Finally Brenda looked up and said Tim how did it happen?

It was so terrible. He fell into a vat of Guinness and drowned.

Brenda replied that must have been horrible for him but tell me Tim did he at least go quickly.

Well Brenda no. He had to get out three times to have a pee.

## Two

A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church enters the confessional booth sits down and says nothing.

The priest coughs a couple of times to get his attention but the drunk continues to just sit there. Finally the priest knocks three times on the wall.

The drunk mumbles; no use knocking there is no paper on this side either.



## HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS



*Dummy tanks used in the second world war to trick German surveillance.*



*French resistance fighters with 18 year old Simone Segouin.*

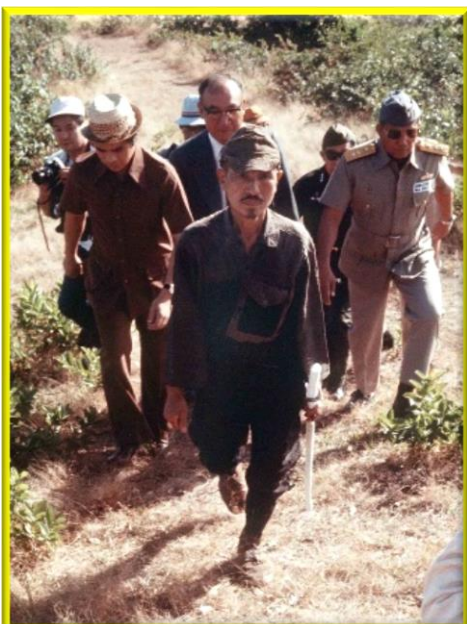




*The last US soldier to die in WW2 was hit by a carton of spam being parachuted to troops.*



*A non saluting German-the only one. Wonder what happened to him?. I suspect he would have been sent to the Eastern front never to be seen again!*



*The last Japanese soldier to surrender after remaining in the Borneo jungle for years following the end of WW2.*

I hope that you have all enjoyed the Torchbearer for 2017.

The editor has enjoyed bringing the various items in the newsletter to you all.

It is increasingly hard to bring items relating to athletics and Olympic Games thus the slight variations to historical pictures and famous people has helped fill the pages.

If members have any suggestions for variations to the subject matter please do not be shy in making those suggestions. They will be well appreciated.



**Take the champagne carefully!!**

**SLAINTE MHOR**

*Kind Regards*

*Dennis M Stevenson  
menafalls1@bigpond.com*

*"The Running Scotsman"*

