

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 70

“56ers Torchbearers Club Inc”

PO Box 2148, CAIRNS Q 4870

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President's Comments

Greetings once again Torch Bearers and Partners.

Quite a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since our last newsletter. The word “normal” seems to have taken on a different meaning, but our health is our number 1 priority and I sincerely hope our members do what they do best, stay safe and keep on keeping on.

Kind regards

Jim Vallely
President



EARLY NOTICE NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES

29th April – 2nd May 2022, Townsville

The North Queensland Games postponed in 2020 due to COVID19 outbreak has been rescheduled to be held in the new Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville.



Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville.

The 1956 Olympics Torchbearers club are again scheduled to sponsor the men's and women's 1500 metres events at the games with prize money of \$2000 to commemorate the mile run by Torchbearers down the coast from Cairns in 1956.

It is usual for members of the club to participate in the opening ceremony for the games and be on hand for presentations to the event winners.

Further details will be circulated closer to the event.

ANNUAL MEETING

6th November 2021

The club will hold its Annual Meeting commencing at 11.30am Saturday 6th November at the Cairns RSL. (Please see attached.)

If unable to attend, could you consider providing a proxy to ensure there is sufficient representation for a quorum.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Annual Anniversary Lunch will take place commencing at 12.30pm at which wives and guests are welcome.

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM

Charles Michael “Chilla” Porter

Chilla Porter was born in Brisbane, the son of a Queensland State Liberal MP who served in the Joh Bjelke-Petersen ministry.

Porter was a high jumper who utilized the straddle technique & won a silver medal in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics with a jump of 2.10 metres more than 5 cm higher than his previous personal best. He was beaten by Charles Dumas of the United States with a jump of 2.12, an Olympic Record on the day.

1952 to 1956 saw the introduction and development of the straddle jump until 1968 where Dick Fosbury introduced the Fosbury Flop.

Between 1955 and 1961, he won seven straight Australian high jump titles and held the national

record for six years. He also won silver medals in the 1958 and 1962 Commonwealth Games.

In 1960 he moved to Perth, Western Australia and married Nerida Chater. He worked for the Liberal Party and a director of a marketing agency into the 1990s where he became chairman of the Western Australia Institute of Sport among other pursuits. His son Christian is a member of the Federal Parliament of Western Australia.



Australian high jumper, Charles ("Chilla") Porter, in action.

Chilla Porter was inducted into the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame in 2011 & passed away in August 2020.

Anthony Arthur Crampton "Tony" Blue

Born in Dubbo and an Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) 'Old Boy' in his senior year of 1953, Tony was a Prefect of the School, Cross Country Champion and a member of the Firsts teams for both Cricket and Rugby.



Here Tony Blue (Left) seen finishing a close second to Herb Elliott in an 880.

A middle-distance runner, Tony competed for Australia in the 800 metres at the 1960 and 1964 Summer Olympics. He won a bronze medal in the 880 yards at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

In his career, Tony was an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Tony passed away in October 2020.

Montanna's progress

The President contacted the McAvoy family to see how Montana is progressing. Montanna McAvoy is back from America, Ohio State University & in Queensland.

Last newsletter we reported that she was well recovered from a fractured foot and now report that she has recovered from a broken leg playing football over 6 months past.

Studying Business Management at James Cook University she has been concentrating her training in Cross Country endurance running and recently won the Women's Open 9km Castle Hill Trail Run 2021 in Townsville.

Montana has enjoyed her cross country running with success and she expressed there was hope that the World Athletics Committee will be successful in their bid to have a new cross country running event included in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and her aspirations would be to contest in this event. It would celebrate 100 years where cross country running was last contested at the Olympics in Paris 1924.

Disappointing recent news, it was rejected by the IOC. The World Athletics Committee have expressed their commitment to the event and are working with the IOC to have cross country running as an official Olympic event soon.

There is no doubt Montana will continue to set high goals and we always wish her all the best.

Montanna is always grateful to the 56ers for their financial assistance during her junior years which helped her in achieving outcomes which afforded her wonderful opportunities.

John Landy

Athletes' Oath Melbourne 1956

The Hallelujah Chorus, sung by the choir, was the cue for the flag bearers of all the teams to form a semi-circle around the rostrum.



Landy takes the Oath.

The oath was taken by the captain of the Athletic Section of the Australian team, John Landy, the world mile record holder, Melbourne 1956.

Olympic Athlete Oath

"In the name of all competitors I promise that we will take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams."

The National Anthem was played by the Royal Australian Air Force band and sung by the choir. The march-out commenced. The athletes did not parade around the track as they had done when entering but marched forward, turned right and proceeded by the shortest route out of the arena.

32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo, 2020

Australia finished its campaign in Tokyo 6th on the medal tally with 17 gold medals, the equal most of any Olympic Games along with Athens 2004. After languishing in London and Rio, it was certainly an enjoyable Olympic Games to witness.

Praise needs to be awarded to Japan, Japanese officials and volunteers, individual country team organisers and all athletes, organising a great spectacle for the rest of the world during the trying times of COVID restrictions.

Final top 10 medal tally

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States		39	41	33	113
China		38	32	18	88
Japan		27	14	17	58
Great Britain		22	21	22	65
ROC		20	28	23	71
Australia		17	7	22	46
Netherlands		10	12	14	36
France		10	12	11	33
Germany		10	11	16	37
Italy		10	10	20	40

A successful games for Australia ranking 5th best ever after Melbourne 1956, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 & Rome 1960.

Top 10 Olympic Games Australia

Games		Athletes	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank
Melbourne 1956		314	13	8	14	35	3
Sydney 2000		630	16	25	17	58	4
Athens 2004		482	17	16	17	50	4
Rome 1960		188	8	8	6	22	5
Tokyo 2020		470	17	7	22	46	6
Beijing 2008		433	14	15	17	46	6
Munich 1972		173	8	7	2	17	6
Atlanta 1996		424	9	9	23	41	7
London 2012		410	8	15	12	35	8
Tokyo 1964		234	6	2	10	18	8

Melbourne 1956, still to this day, ranks as Australia's most successful Olympic Games. It also set the new standard inspiring many great Australian Athletes in the following years, a testament to all those involved.

Bermuda, the Philippines and Qatar won their first-ever Olympic gold medals, while Burkina Faso (West Africa), San Marino, and Turkmenistan won their first-ever medals.

Track & Field, Tokyo, 2020

Following we feature some of the outstanding performances by Australian athletes in track & field events at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Nicola McDermott

Nicola McDermott has become the first Australian woman in 57 years to win an Olympic medal in high jump, claiming silver and setting a new national record in the process.

McDermott cleared 2.02m, a personal best, on her second attempt to finish behind Russian Olympic Committee's Mariya Lasitskene in the final of the Tokyo Olympics.

McDermott placed 3rd at the Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast, 2018, jumping 1.91m, her previous PB.



Nicola McDermott (left) celebrating her silver medal jump and (right) proudly holding aloft her silver medal.

McDermott is of maternal Croatian ancestry, hailing from the island of Korcula. McDermott had always been tall for her age, and says that she was not good at sports in her early years due to a lack of coordination. After she was introduced to athletics at school at age of seven and won the majority of the events from shotput to 200m, her parents got her involved with Little Athletics.

Ashley Moloney

He became the first Australian decathlete to win an Olympic medal placing 3rd with a PB of 8649 points.

Moloney needed to complete the final 1500m no less than several seconds behind his closest competitors for the bronze medal (The 1500m his 7th strongest of the 10 events). Into the picture enters his Australian team mate Cedric Dubler who finished 13th overall.

With American Garrett Scantling and Canada's Pierce LePage hunting him down, he needed to

finish within seven seconds of Scantling to ensure the medal.

Halfway through the race, it looked like Scantling was going to steal the medal from the Aussie's grasp. However, Dubler ran alongside Moloney and started yelling at him and motivating him to give it his all. The experienced Dubler was keeping track of what Moloney needed to do and he was well behind the pace.

It inspired Moloney to take it up a few gears and power home. As he crossed the finish line, and in the background you could see Dubler pumping his fist in the air, knowing his teammate had secured a medal.

This race was lauded by the Australian media as one of the most memorable moments of the Tokyo Olympics.

High Jump = 1st (2.11) PB | 400m 1st (46.29) | 100m 2nd (10.34) a PB | Long Jump 3rd (7.64) | 110m Hurdles 4th (14.08) PB | Pole Vault 7th | 1500m 12th PB | Javelin 13th | Discus Throw & Shot Put 15th (Field of 22)



Ashley Moloney (top left) celebrating after the final 1500m, (top right) placing 1st in high jump, (bottom left) 3rd in long jump and (bottom right) in action on the pole vault.

Kelsey-Lee Barber

Barber won bronze in the final at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, throwing 64.56m (1st 65.24).

With the Australian flag draped around her shoulders like a superhero cape, Kelsey-Lee Barber bounded towards the small contingent of

journalists waiting for her deep inside the Olympic Stadium. "How good's this?" she exclaimed.

2019 Barber won the Javelin World Athletics Championships with a throw of 66.56 and placed 3rd in the 2014 (Glasgow) and 2nd in the 2018 (Gold Coast) Commonwealth Games.

Born in East London, South Africa, Barber's family moved to Australia in 2000. It was this relocation that setup the career of Barber.

Barber arrived in Australia during the Sydney Olympics and lived in Corryong in Victoria. Her uncle and aunt owned a dairy farm and she competed in athletics at the school carnival. Her talent and success here realised her eventual progression onto the world stage.



Kelsey-Lee Barber throwing the javelin for 3rd place.

Rowan Browning

"Aussie young gun Rohan Browning shocked the athletics world at the Olympics on Saturday night after winning his 100m heat with a personal best time of 10.01."

He placed the = 5th best time in the heats, but required a time 10.00 or better in the semi's (running 10.09) to book a spot in the finals.

The time of 10.01 recorded at the Olympics places him the second fastest ever Australian at the 100m behind Patrick Johnston (Australian Indigenous and Irish) who ran an incredible 9.93 (+1.8w) the first (and still fastest) man of non-African descent to break 10.00 seconds. Matt Shirvington 3rd 10.03 1998.

"When you're in lane one, you don't get a personalised introduction and I was definitely trying to harness a bit of that underdog spirit today."

"I doubt any of these guys would have any idea who I am."



Rowan Browning running 1st place in heat 7, 100m.

Rohan Browning born 31st December 1997 in Crows Nest, currently studies a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Sydney.

Peter Bol

Peter Bol. The 27-year-old 800m runner who inspired a nation. When Bol broke the Australian Record in his heat (1:44.13) to book his place in the semi-final he caught our attention. Then he went on to win his semi-final in a new Australian record (1:44.11) and the whole nation was on its feet.

Peter Bol finished 4th in the final (1:45.92) First Kenyan Emmanuel Korir (1:45.06)

Bol born on 22nd Feb 1994 Khartoum, Sudan. His mother is Sudanese, and father from the now South Sudan. His family fled the civil war in Sudan when he was 4 to end up in Australia.



Peter Bol leading the way in the 800m final at Tokyo.

Jokes Corner

A turtle is crossing the road when he's mugged by two snails. When the police show up, they ask him what happened. The shaken turtle replies, "I don't know. It all happened so fast."

A car hit an elderly man. The paramedic says, "Are you comfortable?"

The man says, "I make a good living."

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie.

"I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the highway. Looking at the car, he was astounded to see that the elderly woman behind the wheel was knitting.

The trooper cranked down his window and yelled to the driver, "Pull over!"

"No!" the woman yelled back, "Cardigan!"

Doc, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'. He said: "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" I asked. "It's not unusual" he replied.



Kind Regards

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"The Running Scotsman"

co author. Andrew Cummings