

Kerry Saxby-Junna Rewarded at AIS Birthday Celebrations

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) celebrated 25 years of sporting excellence in 2006 and staged a Birthday Gala Dinner last **Thursday 31 August 2006** to commemorate this important milestone. The event brought together past and present champions, as well as individuals integral to the success of the AIS, reaffirming Australia as a top sporting nation. The formal dinner was staged in the original AIS Indoor Sporting arena shared by 5 of the 8 foundations sports of the AIS, and accommodated over 1100 guests.

On the night, the AIS 25 Best of the Best athletes were revealed – a selection of sporting champions who represent ultimate success, both domestically and internationally. The announcement by the Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp included Basketballer Lauren Jackson, Cyclist Stuart O'Grady, Diver Chantelle Newbery and Race Walker **Kerry Saxby-Junna**.

The list was an extension of the 21 athletes named in 2002, when the AIS celebrated its 21st Birthday. These athletes are proudly displayed in the foyer of the Visitor Centre at the AIS

Kerry's list of achievements (courtesy of www.athletics.org.au)

International Competition

1985 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	10	10th 47:11.0
1987 World Championships	10 km Walk	2/35	2nd 44:23.0
1987 World Indoor	3,000 metres Walk		Disqualified
1987 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	4	4th 43:57.0
1989 World Indoor	3,000 metres Walk	1/15	Ht2 2nd 12:41.55; Final 1st 12:01.65
1989 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	2	2nd 43:12.0
1990 Commonwealth Games	10 km Walk	1/11	1st 45:03.0
1991 World Championships	10 km Walk	5/42	5th 44:02.0
1991 World Indoor	3,000 metres Walk	2/19	Ht2 4th 13:06.38; Final 2nd 12:03.21
1991 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	5/92	5th 44:49.0
1992 Olympic Games	10 km Walk	15/28	15th 46:01.0
1993 World Championships	10 km Walk		Did not finish (withdrew at 8km)
1993 World Indoor	3,000 metres Walk	2/17	SF2 2nd 12:16.90; Final 2nd 11:53.82
1993 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	5/98	5th 45:55.0
1994 Commonwealth Games	10 km Walk	1/14	1st 44:25.0
1995 World Championships	10 km Walk	9/45	9th 43:06.0
1995 Race Walking World Cup	10 km Walk	5/104	5th 42:58.0
1996 Olympic Games	10 km Walk	12/44	12th 43:59.0
1998 Commonwealth Games	10 km Walk	2/13	2nd 44:27.0
1999 World Championships	20 km Walk	3/51	3rd 1:31:18.0
1999 Race Walking World Cup	20 km Walk	21/123	21st 1:32:24.0
2000 Olympic Games	20 km Walk	7/57	7th 1:32:02.0
2001 World Championships	20 km Walk	42/42	Disqualified

National Competition

1982-83 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	2	24:25.09
1984 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	2	49:44.9
	20 km Walk	1	1:44:56.6
1984-85 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	2	23:19.33
1985 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	48:49.4
	20 km Walk	1	1:41:07.0
1985-86 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	22:29.25
1986 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	44:53.0
	20 km Walk	1	1:38:27.0
1986-87 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	21:31.06
1987 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	42:52.0
	20 km Walk	1	1:32:51.0
1987-88 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:45.32
1988 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	41:29.0
1988-89 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:32.75
1989 Aust. Walking	20 km Walk	1	1:32:44.0
1989-90 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:52.82
1990 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	43:31.0
1990-91 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	21:21.53

1991-92 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:53.31
1992-93 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:30.0
1993-94 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:45.03
1994 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	45:08.0
1994-95 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	21:21.16
1995 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	43:53.0
1995-96 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	20:47.5h
1996 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	42:49.0
1997-98 Aust. T & F	5,000 metres Walk	1	21:57.74
1999 Aust. Walking	10 km Walk	1	43:09.0
2000 Aust. Walking	20 km Walk	4 (2nd Aust.)	1:33:51.0
2001 Aust. Walking	20 km Walk	1	1:34:58.0

A nervous Kerry was on hand to accept her award and pay tribute to AIS Staff who helped along the way, her long time coach Craig Hilliard, and the AIS as the place where she met her husband Ray, who still is a coach with the AIS soccer/football program.



Kerry Chats with Craig Hilliard before the announcement

Craig Hilliard added later

"I'm delighted she has finally been recognised as one of the "best of best" AIS Athletes of the last 25 years. She was a three time winner of the AIS athlete of year award, and Kerry's list of achievements speak for themselves over her 16 years at the AIS"

Lots of other walkers were present at the auspicious occasion



VRWC's Kellie Whapshott and World Junior Long Jump Champion Robbie Crowther at the AIS 25th Birthday celebrations.



Past walkers Andrew and Loraine Jachno also put in an appearance

Club member John Morrison was recently holidaying in northern NSW and came across this sign in Ballina, the home town of Kerry Junna-Saxby. Good to see Kerry getting some local recognition. I know there is also a road at the AIS named after her.

