

Sharon Schnyder

1991	Racewalking World Cup	San Jose	10 km	72 nd	54:58
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Sharon Schnyder, born 1st July 1964 and a resident of country Victoria, started her career late and her early efforts were over the longer distances just coming into vogue in the last 1980's.



Sharon leads Lorraine Jachno in Interclub competition in Melbourne

In 1986, she had her first try at the national level and came 4th in the Australian 20 km title in **1:53:59**. In 1987, she improved to 3rd with **1:47:17** and then further improved to 2nd in **1:44:01** the following year in the 1988 Australian title. 1988 also saw her win her first Victorian title, the 10 km roadwalk.

In 1989, she was 4th in the Australian 5000m title in Brisbane in **23:47**, won the Victorian 20 km title in **1:42:10**, won the AFRWC 10 km title and came 2nd in the Australian 20 km again, this time in **1:46:32**.

At this stage, she had to put her late career on hold as she had her first child Jason in May 1990. But like many mothers before her, she bounced back stronger and surprised with a fine **48:18** for 2nd in the February 1991 trial for the Racewalking World Cup. She then won the Victorian 5000m title in **23:26** and gained 3rd place in the National 5000m title in **23:51**. It was an amazing comeback after childbirth and gained her selection in her first Australian team.

In San Jose in June 1991, Sharon came home slowly in the hot conditions for 72nd place in **54:58** but bounced back from this disappointment with her first National title, the Australian 20 km. Her time of **1:40:36** was her best time so far. In 1991 she also placed 3rd in the Australian 10 km road championship in a career best of **47:25**. It was her best year of walking.

In 1993, her second child Kaitlyn was born and her career was on hold once again between 1992 and 1994.

In 1994, she resumed training but now with the commitments that come with looking after a young family. Over the next few years, she maintained a high standard but was content to restrict her racing to Victorian State League and Victorian Country Title races.



Sharon with baby Jason in 1992. Still racing but with family commitments.

In 1997 she showed she was still able to mix it with the best, recording **49:18** for 11th place in the Australian 10 km roadwalk title. She followed this in 1998 with a win in the Victorian Country 10 km title in **50:39** and 3rd in the Victorian 10 km road title in **49:39**.

In 1998 she joined the Veteran movement and was immediately successful, being a class above the others in her 35+ division.

Sharon's personal bests are impressive and show that she developed into a fine racewalker during her broken career. Nowadays, with family and work commitment, she is seldom seen on the racing circuit.