

## AMY BURREN – 2007 TOM DAINTRY TROPHY WINNER

It is often the case that a number of top walkers appear in the same age group and it is certainly true at the moment in the Victorian Under 14 Girls division where we have four talented girls leading from the front.

Amy Burren	13 years old
Cassie Raselli	13 years old
Ebony Whiley	12 years old
Amelia Finnegan	12 years old



**Amy Burren, Cassie Raselli, Ebony Whiley and Amelia Finnegan – four our our best**

Amy and Cassie are actually one age group higher than Ebony and Amelia but, because of the way AV age groups works, they are all classed as U14. All four girls have had their share of successes over the last two years but it is currently Amy Burren who is leading the pack and who won the 2007 Tom Daintry Trophy as the Best Athletics Victoria Under 14 Girl Walker.

In the Little Athletics Under 9 thru Under 12 age groups, Amy was unchallenged, winning the Victorian Little Athletics walk titles four years in row (2003-2006), just as her mother Joanne had done in 1979-1982. That makes a unique mother-daughter double that we are unlikely to see for a long time to come.



**Amy and Joanne compare their collection of state medals (Berwick News, Thursday 23 March 2006)**

Amy also won the Pacific Schools U12 1500m walk in December 2005 in **7:39** against some hot competition, confirming her place at the top of the pack.

But come the 2006 winter season, she had to lower her colours to Cassie Raselli who literally came from nowhere and took a whole string of titles including the Victorian U14 3 km roadwalk (15:46), the Victorian U14 All Schools 3 km (15:50) and the RWA U12 2 km in Canberra (9:47). For her efforts, Cassie won the 2006 Norm Goble Trophy as the

best Under 14 walker in Victoria.

Cassie continued this great form into the 2006/2007 Summer season, beating Amy in the AV U14 1500m walk and the VLAA U13 15000m walk. On that occasion, the two girls were timed at 6:53 (Cassie) and **6:58** (Amy), indicating the high quality of their walking.

To her credit, Amy bounced back, winning the Little Athletics U13 1500m Australian championship in Perth in April 2007 in **6:56** and then winning the Victorian U14 All Schools 3 km roadwalk (**15:26**) and the Victorian U14 3 km roadwalk (**15:20**) before storming home to win the Australian U14 3 km roadwalking title in Perth in a huge PB time of **14:28**. Cassie, who battled injuries for most of the 2007 winter, did some good walks that included 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Racewalking Australia U14 2 km roadwalk in Canberra in 9:56 but she was not able to reign Amy in when it counted.

So overall, it was Amy who took the Tom Daintry Award this winter. It was no easy task to take the mantle back from Cassie but she did it in fine style.

To give some idea of the quality in this age group, Amy was subsequently beaten by Ebony Whiley in the Victorian All Schools U14 1500m in November 1007, recording **7:08** against Ebony's time of 7:04. Amy then bounced back to win the Australian U14 All Schools 1500m walk in Sydney in a PB time of **6:51.2**, with Ebony second in 7:04 and fellow Victorian walker Amelia Finnegan third in 7:07.

With Amy, Cassie, Ebony and Amelia all currently working hard at their walking and a lot more talented young girls snapping at their heels, the future is indeed bright and I look forward to watching the next few years unfold.