

Dear all members of Race Walking Australia,

As the sun sets on the 59th Edition of the LBG Race Walking Carnival, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all our members, volunteers, officials, supporters, and partners who contributed to making the weekend such a success.

Firstly, a huge thank you to **Kai Ryan**, who has been an absolute legend throughout the preparations leading up to and during the successful carnival on Sunday, 7 June 2026. His organisational expertise and experience were paramount to the success of the weekend. He constantly kept me on task, and I am incredibly grateful for everything he has committed to over the past nine months. Kai has also been the driving force behind the inclusion of additional events within the carnival, and I hope this marks the beginning of building even stronger relationships and opportunities for the future.

Thank you to the cast and crew from the **ACT Race and Fitness Walking Club**. Although Race Walking Australia assumed greater responsibility for the event this year, your support was outstanding and your execution of the day was exceptional.

Thank you to **Peter Crump** and **Peter Sharpe** for your continued support and for being actively involved in so many aspects of the planning and delivery of the carnival.

Thank you to **Jarrold Gibson** from Australian Athletics, who attended as their delegate to ensure we met all World Athletics accreditation requirements for our events.

Thank you to **Mark Donahoo**, our Meet Manager, who ensured every aspect of the carnival ran smoothly and on schedule throughout the day.

Thank you to the officials and volunteers from Capital Athletics, including **Norm Mackie, Gerard Ryan, Nigel England, Jordan Cowley, and David Boshier**. Your experience, professionalism, and willingness to assist throughout the carnival were outstanding. Your contribution played an important role in the smooth delivery and overall success of the event, and your support was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our amazing photographer, **Danielle Sibenaler**. We are all looking forward to reliving the event through the outstanding images captured through her lens.

Thank you to **Bob Cruise** and **Claire Chadwick** for collecting and collating results so efficiently, ensuring they could be uploaded and finalised in time for presentations.

Thank you to **Jaki Fraser** for liaising with the results team and preparing all presentations, and to **Tim Fraser** for assisting with the presentation of medals and awards.

Thank you to **Alex Dreyer**, the man on the microphone. His commentary and announcements were first-class, informative, and added greatly to the atmosphere of the event.

Thank you to **Zoe Eastwood-Bryson, Kirsten Crocker**, and their team of judges and judging assistants for their professionalism and commitment throughout the carnival.

Thank you to our volunteer coordinators from each state: **Claire Chadwick, Shondy Anderson, Jenny Lingley, Stu Cooper, Di Camilleri, and Andrew Duncan**. Your efforts in organising volunteers were greatly appreciated.

To every volunteer who assisted with Saturday afternoon setup, early Sunday morning preparations, lap scoring, timekeeping, call room duties, red card collection, pack down, and every other task required throughout the weekend—thank you. Events of this magnitude simply cannot happen without your willingness to contribute your time and expertise.

Thank you to our event sponsors: **Mercure Belconnen, The Running Company, and Impi**. Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to our education presenters **Mark Donahoo, Zoe Eastwood-Bryson, Kirsten Crocker, and David Beacroft** for generously giving their time to conduct coaching, judging, and training seminars on Saturday. Everyone I spoke with thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and found them highly informative and valuable.

Please accept my apologies if I have unintentionally missed anyone in this acknowledgement.

To all our members, volunteers, officials, and supporters, please accept my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your contribution to this year's LBG Carnival. Your support, expertise, dedication, and professionalism are invaluable. Sunday was a massive undertaking, and an event of this scale could not occur without the commitment of so many people working together toward a common goal.

As mentioned during the carnival, the LBG Carnival will be undergoing a name change. With this comes an exciting vision for the future as we continue to grow and develop this iconic event. Preparations for next year's milestone **60th Carnival** will commence very soon, and we look forward to building on the success of this year's event.

I look forward to seeing many of you again and encourage you to consider your availability for next year's Long Weekend Carnival in Canberra, scheduled for **Saturday 12 June and Sunday 13 June 2027**.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to Race Walking Australia.

With sincere thanks,

Shane Pearson
President
Race Walking Australia