

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2247

Saxby, Kerry

(1961 -)

Born 19610602, Young New South Wales

Occupation Race walker, Track and Field Athlete

Summary

Kerry Saxby became the most prolific world-record breaker in athletic history in Melbourne in February 1991 when she set a new record of 11 minutes 51.26 seconds in the 3 kilometer walk event. This took her number of world bests to thirty, which was one better than the previous mark, created by the distance runner Paavo Nurmi. Her world records have been established across a range of distances and venues, sometimes at mixed competitions. Saxby regularly trained with and competed against men and believes this contributed to her success. In the decade of competition when she was at her peak, she never finished outside the top five, and was only disqualified for losing foot contact with the track once.

Saxby's sporting achievements include representing Australia 24 times in major international competitions. She won 13 individual international medals, won a record 27 Australian National Championships, set 32 world records or world bests, and at 38 years of age she was the oldest athlete to win a medal at world level in 1999. She retired from competition in 2001, but not before achieving a very creditable 7th place in the 20 kilometer walk at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. In 2006, the Australian Institute of Sport selected her as one of their twenty-five 'Best of the Best'.

Details

Kerry Saxby was born in young NSW in 1961 and moved to Ballina in northern New South Wales when she was thirteen. Initially a swimmer and middle distance running, Kerry changed to walking in 1981 competing with the Ballina Athletic Club. She won a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport in 1986 and was a scholarship holder until September 2001 when she retired from athletics.

Saxby has lived in Canberra since 1986, when she first moved there. She married Ray Junna, an assistant coach for soccer at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Since her retirement, Kerry has coached junior walkers in the Australian Capital Territory. In 2004 she became a director of the Bendigo Bank in Canberra.

Events

1990 - 1990

Athletics – 10km Road Walk

1994 - 1994

Athletics – 10km Walk

1996 - 1996

Set the world record of 20:03.00 for the 5000 meter race walk. The record still stands (2007)

Published resources

Edited Book

The Oxford Companion to Australian Sport, Vamplew, Vray; Moore, Katharine; O'Hara, John; Cashman, Richard; Jobling, Ian, 1997

Site Exhibition

She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html>

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Sport Information Centre

[Kerry Saxby File](#)

Author Details

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Created 4 January 2007

Last modified 20 November 2018