

## 2014 Coburg 24 Hour Championships

The 2014 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, held at Coburg on 5-6 April, saw what was undoubtedly the highest quality 24 Hour Track race ever staged in Australia.

The carnival hosted the annual AURA 24 Hour Track Championships and the two new National Champions did themselves proud, producing huge results. In the men's run, Victorian runner **Barry Loveday** started conservatively but took the lead after several hours and, from then on, was never headed, passing the half way mark in around 132km and then actually negative splitting to produce a huge PB distance of 165.000km. This is the second longest ever by an Australian behind that of the the great Yiannis Kouros and was a 22km PB for Barry. In the women's run, WA runner **Bernadette Benson** ran similarly, starting conservatively in the warm and sunny Saturday conditions but eventually outdistancing the opposition with her new Australian record of 238.261km, more than 9km further than Helen Stanger's previous record of 229.080km. Congratulations to our AURA medallists Barry Loveday, Ewan Horsborough, Matthew Eckford, Bernadette Benson, Jodie Osborne and Nikki Wynd.

Since most places were reserved for the runners, only small walk fields contested this year's carnival but the third major highlight of the meet went to one of the walkers with Victorian **Michelle Thompson** setting a whole swathe of new Australian intermediate records and a final record breaking total of 190.984km.

Overall, the meet produced some 32 new records, run and walk, Australian and Canadian, Open and Age, and set a new high for Australia. Of the 48 starters, 6 achieved distances greater than 230km, 15 were in excess of 200km and 27 were in excess of 100 miles. Such depth and quality have never been seen so abundantly before.

2014 saw the Coburg Harriers team drop its manual lapscore system in favour of a fully automated chip system, compliments of Brett and Robyn Saxon of Trails+ in Melbourne (see <http://www.trailsplus.com.au>). And it worked like a treat! Thanks also to our other major sponsor Phil van Duren of Top Ten Treks ([www.toptentreks.com.au](http://www.toptentreks.com.au)) and thanks to the large team of loyal event supporters who laboured behind the scenes once again to ensure this iconic event ran so smoothly.

Full results read as follows:

### **FEMALE 24hr WALK**

1	Michelle THOMPSON	190.984 km
2	Dawn PARRIS	136.589
3	Sandra HOWORTH	72.573

### **MALE 24hr WALK**

1	Steve JORDAN	135.631 km
2	Saul RICHARDSON	103.810
3	Ken CARTER	42.714

### **FEMALE 24hr RUN**

1	Bernadette BENSON	238.261 km
2	Jodie OBORNE	212.432
3	Nikki WYND	208.292
4	Sharon SCHOLZ	205.170
5	Larissa TICHON	202.028
6	Nicole BARKER	193.213
7	Sabina HAMATY	177.757
8	Raelene BENDALL	169.279
9	Felicity COPP	155.804
10	Cassie SMITH	148.950
11	Annabel HEPWORTH	106.800

### **MALE 24hr RUN**

1	Barry LOVEDAY	265.000 km
2	Ewan HORSBURGH	245.012
3	Matthew ECKFORD	241.475
4	John PEARSON	234.393
5	Martin HACK	230.917
6	David OVEREND	215.232
7	Rick COOKE	210.280
8	Barry McBRIDE	204.685

9	David KENNEDY	202.423
10	Trevor ALLEN	202.268
11	Daragh O'LOUGHLIN	194.537
12	Kevin MULLER	187.200
13	Gary MULLINS	183.208
14	Tristan MELCHIORI	167.697
15	Trevor MARSH	164.199
16	Steven TITMUS	163.883
17	Michael HARVEY	162.648
18	Joe LEWIS	161.774
19	Dean METCALF	153.395
20	Robert KNOWLES	150.700
21	Wayne CRASE	146.871
22	Sam WEIR	144.182
23	Peter MULLINS	121.200
24	Mick THWAITES	120.400
25	David JONES	112.332
26	John NUTTALL	102.800
27	Billy PEARCE	100.000
28	Nick GLEESON	97.851
29	Paul WRIGHT	77.200
30	Peter GRAY	73.175
31	Jevvan McPHEE	61.200

Tim Erickson  
Race Director, Coburg 24 Hour Carnival  
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