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Little Athletics Australian Teams Championship honours by the Knox Centre



With Little Athletics spreading to NSW and Western Australia in the late 1960's, Trevor Billingham proposed the very first Interstate Little Athletics competition. This was held at Olympic Park on a Wednesday night, 25th March 1970. There were 20 athletes selected in the Under 12 age group from each state, but at the time, NSW consisted of one Centre in Botany-Randwick and likewise Western Australia was only one Centre in Perry Lakes.



This event was known as the "Interstate Challenge" and thus began the process of the Australian Little Athletics Union to conduct future national competitions. Knox champion walker Bruce Beaton was selected for this first competition and the Victorian uniform was a navy blue T-Shirt. The Knox Centre has had athletes chosen for the Victorian team consistently every year since, only missing out in 1971, 1978, 1979 and 1991.

In the second "Interstate Challenge" in 1971 at the Hensley Athletics Field in Pagewood, NSW, Northern Territory competed for the first time.

The third "Interstate Challenge" was in Perth and prior to this, on 31st March 1972, the Australian Little Athletics Union was formed to unify development, sponsorship, Government recognition and to conduct the national teams championship. It was fitting that Alan Triscott, who had done so much in the spread of Little Athletics throughout Victoria and across Australia was named its first Secretary/Treasurer.

The 1974 Little Athletics Australian Teams Championship in Sydney included South Australia, Queensland and the Australia Capital Territory. Tasmania joined in 1975 in Perth to make it a truly national competition

The Knox Centre has a link in KLAC Life Member and VLAA Life Governor John Guerra who was Chairman of the ALAU in seasons 1988/89 and 1989/90.



Victoria's team leaders, Astra Vitols from Knox, and Steven Bull from Waverley, hold the Interstate shield and banners after being presented with them by Australian Test cricketer, Dennis Lillee.

In 1992, the South Australian Government passed a law that children less than 12 years are not to take part in competitive sporting activities. Because of this, the Australian Teams Championships, which were held for the Under 12's had been changed to Under 13's. Later, the U/15 Multi-Event was added to the program.

Today, each affiliated State Association has a team of 22 athletes (eleven boys and eleven girls) for the Under 13 Australian Teams Championships.

In 2001 the Victorian State Team introduced a State Squad for the U13's. That year they chose 14 girls and 14 boys to make up a squad which after several training sessions the team is selected, which eliminates 3 girls and 3 boys.

They also select 4 athletes (two boys and two girls) for the Under 15 Multi-Event Australian Championships. First and second place from the State Multi-Event Championships are automatic selection for the State Team. The third place is named as emergency and trains with the team up until departing for the nationals.

Below is a list of all Knox Athletes and Officials selected for the Victorian state team:

Year	Place	Person	Club	Notes
1970	Melbourne	Bruce Beaton	Bayswater	
1971	Sydney	No representatives	-----	
1972	Perth	Astra Vitols	St Josephs	Girls Team Captain
1973	Melbourne	Bill Dyer Don Brown - Official	St Josephs Manager	Boys Team Manager
1974	Sydney	Jay Bullen	Fairpark	Boys Team Captain
1975	Perth	Adam Peacock	Basin Heights	Boys Team Captain
1976	Adelaide	Justine Bennett David Salwowski	Rangeview Studfield	

Year	Place	Person	Club	Notes
1977	Melbourne	Jody Powell Deborah Walker Desmond Braithwaite Chris Vernon	Dorset Eastfield Knoxfield Studfield	
1978	Canberra	No representatives	-----	
1979	Perth	No representatives	-----	
1980	Darwin	Kylie Hibbert Ken Miller Alistair Dunkinson	Eastfield Dorset Studfield	Boys Team Captain
1981	Brisbane	Julie Styles	Rangeview	
1982	Hobart	Sharon Kennedy	Knoxfield	
1983	Canberra	Scott Fewson Travis Martin Jason Richardson	Rangeview Boronia West Dorset	
1984	Perth	Brett Styles Steven Roddis Chris Russell Brendan Farrell	Rangeview Bayswater Fairpark Fairpark	
1985	Melbourne	Bradley Skerke	Basin Heights	800m, 1500m
1986	Adelaide	Lisa Allen Fiona Dunkinson Fiona Vanstan	Boronia West Studfield Dorset	200m, HJ,LJ Hurdles, 100m, TJ 1500m W, HJ
1987	Darwin	Nicole Draffin	Rangeview ?	
1988	Sydney	Cindy-Lee Gabbett Andrew Michel	Eastfield Knoxfield	LJ LJ
1989	Brisbane	Tamara Hudson Jacklyn Beer	Wantirna Wantirna	
1990	Launceston	Sarah Gathercole Bradley Flynn Stepenie Smyth Adam Germaine	Knoxfield Club? Club? Scoresby Striders	
1991	Canberra	No representatives	-----	
1992	Perth	Chris Beattie	Studfield	
1993	Melbourne	Hayden Lacy	Bayswater	

Year	Place	Person	Club	Notes
1994	Adelaide	Ben Sword Kellie Wapshott	Bayswater Eastfield	
1995	Darwin	Peta Hodgkinson Nikolaus Wachter	Bayswater Dorset	
1996	Brisbane	Kaira McDonald David Crosbie	Knoxfield Eastfield/Studfield	
1997	Sydney (Olympic Park)	Lindel Hodgkinson Hayley Bottin Sasha Miller Sarah Foster Bradley Attwood	Bayswater Fairpark Dorset Knoxfield Rowville Lakes	Girls Team Captain U/15 Multi-Event
1998	Hobart	Rebecca Wilkie	Knoxfield	
1999	Canberra	Katija Nemic	Scoresby Striders	
2000	Perth	Liam Heard Kieran Lunt Kyle Rasti Mark Woodford	Eastfield/Studfield Knoxfield Rowville Knoxfield	
2001	Melbourne	Olivia Goder Marnie D'Ademo	Rowville Fairpark	Squad Member only Emergency (U/15)
2002	Adelaide	Kyle Rasti Troy Duncan	Rowville Rowville Lakes	Emergency (U/15) Squad Member only
2003	Gold Coast	Emma Thompson Olivia Goder Stacey Dietrich	Rowville Rowville Rangeview	U/15 Multi-Event U/15 Multi-Event
2004	Sydney	Amanda Ibbotson Rhydian Cowley Breanna Bartlett	Dorset Rowville Scoresby Striders	U/15 Multi-Event
2005	Hobart	Carly Dymond Jordan Williamsz Callan Rauchfuss Kayla Bunevicius Rachael Watts	Rowville Rangeview Knoxfield Boronia West Fairpark	Squad Member only Squad Member only U/15 Multi-Event
2006	Canberra	Brooke Stratton Beth Alexander Ellie McDonald Ann Goder – Official Steve Cowburn – Official	Wantirna Rowville Fairpark Team Manager Coach	Girls Team Captain Squad Member only Squad Member only

Year	Place	Person	Club	Notes
2007	Perth	Callan Rauchfuss Ann Goder – Official Steve Cowburn – Official	Knoxfield Team Manager Coach/Co-ordinator	U/15 Multi-Event
2008	Melbourne Nunawading	Tayla Kearns Tim O'Brien Kristy Stratton Amelia Finnegan Verity Cooper Tegan Dymond Brooke Stratton Ellie McDonald Ann Goder – Official Steve Cowburn – Official Rosemary Merrigan - Official	Rowville Rowville Lakes Wantirna Scoresby Striders Eastfield/Studfield Rowville Wantirna Fairpark Team Manager Coach/Co-ordinator Coach	Boys Vice Captain Girls Vice Captain Squad Member only Squad Member only U/15 Multi-Event U/15 Multi-Event
2009	Adelaide	Rebecca Fredricksen Steve Cowburn – Official Rosemary Merrigan - Official	Rowville Lakes Overall Co-ordinator Girls Coach	

Researched and compiled by
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Please email
info@klac23.org.au if you
know the clubs the 1990
athlete belonged to?