

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA PRIMARY TRACK & FIELD EXCHANGE

A BRIEF HISTORY

The School Sport Australia Track & Field Exchange had its beginnings in 1971 as a two state Exchange between Queensland and New South Wales. Each state would take it in turns to host a team from the other state to compete in their State Primary Schools Athletics Championships. The visiting team competed by invitation, but enjoyed the hospitality of the host families and schools.

In 1975 the inaugural Australia Primary Schools Athletics Championships was hosted by NSWPSA at Lysaght's Recreation Reserve. Three states competed in this Championship - New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

ACT and NT joined the competition in 1977 with Victoria coming on board in 1978. Unfortunately, SA & NT were not able to field teams at all Championships/Exchanges during the late 1980's and early 1990's (except for Pacific School Games). However, after the 1996 Pacific School Games, six states/territories have regularly attended the Exchange and 2001 a team from Tasmania competed for the first time.

Pacific School Games came into being in 1982, which saw every state & territory field a team. In Pacific School Games years, the regular Primary Championship/Exchange was incorporated as part of the Pacific School Games.

Events contested regularly have been 100m, 200m, 800m, Relay, Long Jump, High Jump and Shot Put. Discus was introduced in 1995, the 1500m in 1998 and the Medley Relay and Multi Event in 2001. The 1500m was only contested in 1998 as it was felt that the event was not suited to the Exchange format.

In 1995, the Australian Schools Sports Council (ASSC) appointed a National Track & Field Secretary to oversee the Rules & Guidelines for the sport & represent the sport at ASSC Conferences and with the National body.

In 2003, events for Athletes with a Disability (AWD) were introduced into the program. These were initially for 10-12yrs in one age group in 100m, 200m, 800m, Long Jump and Shot Put. It was very quickly seen that these events would expand and events were separated into 10, 11 and 12 years age groups for both boys and girls. Relays, both 4x100m and Medley, were also added and Discus was added in 2008.

In 2002, the event underwent a change of title from 'Primary' to '12 years and under' to acknowledge that 12 years competing at the Exchange could come from either a primary or a secondary school. In 2009, the event became a Championship.

Many children who represented their States/Territories at these Championship/Exchanges have gone onto represent Australia in Track & Field or branch out and play other sports at an elite level (e.g. AFL, NRL, Netball) demonstrating the solid grounding athletics gives children to participate in any sport.

ROLL OF HONOUR:

Diane Holden (NSW, 1975)
Angus Wadell (QLD, Aths & Swimming 1975, 1976)
Kerry Johnson (QLD, 1976)
Jodi Nykvist (QLD, 1978)
Sandra Bondello (QLD - Basketball, 1980)
Sandra Dawson (QLD, 1980, 1981)
Damien Marsh (QLD, 1981)
Sophie Scamps (NSW, 1981)
Melinda Gainsford (NSW, 1982)
Nova Peris (NT, Aths & Hockey, 1992, 1984)
Catherine Freeman (QLD, 1983, 84)
Anthony Koutafides (VIC - AFL, 1983)
Mark Holcombe (VIC, 1983, 1984, 1985)
Chad Stephenson (NSW, 1983, 1984)
Rod Zuderwyk (QLD, 1983),
Joseph Ischia (VIC, 1984, 1985)
Denise Passmore (VIC, 1984)
Susie Walsham (NSW, 1984, 1985)
Kelly McKellar (QLD - Softball, 1984, 1985)
Daryl White (NT - AFL, 1984)
Tania Modra (SA - Paralympic Cycling, 1985, 1986)
Bindee Goon Chew (QLD, 1985, 1986, 1987)
Jagan Hames (SA, 1985, 1986, 1987)
Paul Byrne (VIC, 1986, 1987, 1988)
Matt Beckenham (NSW, 1986, 1987)
Jane Jamieson (NSW, 1986)
Peter Vardy (SA - AFL, 1986)
Ryan Fitzgerald (SA - AFL, 1986, 1987)
Paul Di Bella (QLD, 1987, 1988, 1989)
Susie Howie (VIC - Netball, 1987)
Nathan Steinberner (SA - AFL, 1987, 1989)
Sandy Bowen (VIC - Volleyball, 1988)
Lisa Bruty (VIC, 1988)
Michael Power (VIC, 1988)
Grant Cremer (NSW, 1988)
Paul Green (NSW, 1988)
Anthony Rocca (VIC - AFL, 1988)
Benita Willis (QLD, 1989)
Brett Burton (SA - AFL, 1989, 1990)
Sharon Cripps (QLD, 1989)
Justin Anlezark (QLD, 1990)
Brooke Krueger (SA, 1990, 1992)
Rosemary Hayward (NSW, 1991)
Mindy Slomka (NSW, 1991)
Patrick Jesser (NT, 1992)
Brett Moyle (VIC - AFL, 1992)
Ian Prendergast (VIC - AFL, 1992)
Tamsyn Lewis (VIC, 1991)
Liesel Ischia (VIC - Diving, 1992)
Tim Clarke (VIC - AFL, 1992)
Royce Vardy (VIC - AFL, 1992)
Deborah Lovely (QLD, Aths & Weight Lifting 1993, 1995)
Georgie Clark (VIC, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996)
Crystal Attenborough (NT, 2000)
Morgan McAllister (QLD, IPC Aths, 2004)

SUMMARY:

Date: 5 -6 November 1971
Name: Interstate Athletics Exchange
Host State: NSW, QLD
Participating States: NSW, QLD
Venue: Sydney Sports Ground

Date: 16 - 17 November 1972
Name: Interstate Athletics Exchange
Host State: QSPSSA
Participating States: NSW, QLD
Venue: Lang Park, QLD

Date: 7 - 8 November 1973
Name: Interstate Athletics Exchange
Host State: NSW, QLD
Participating States: NSW, QLD
Venue: Sydney Sports Ground

Date: 17 - 18 October 1974
Name: Interstate Athletics Exchange
Host State: QSPSSA
Participating States: NSW, QLD
Venue: Lang Park, QLD

Date: Thursday 4 December 1975
Venue: Inaugural Australian State Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NSW PSSA
Participating States: NSW, SA, QLD
Venue: Lysaght's Recreation Centre, NSW

Date: 2 December 1976
Name: Australian State Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: QSPSSA
Participating States: NSW, QLD, SA
Venue: Mt Gravatt Sports Complex, Brisbane

Date: 2 December 1977
Name: Australian State Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NSW PSSA
Participating States: ACT?, NSW, NT, QLD, SA?
Venue: Narrabeen Sports & recreation Centre, Sydney

Date: 30 November 1978
Name: Australian State Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: ACT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT?, QLD, SA?, VIC
Venue: AIS TRACK

Date: 29 November 1979
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: QSPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, VIC
Venue: Q.E II Centre, Nathan, QLD

Date: 27 November 1980
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: VPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: 3 December 1981
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NSW PSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: ES Marks Memorial Athletics Field, Sydney

Date: 26 - 30 August 1982
Name: Pacific School Games, QLD
Incorporating the Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: QLD
Participating States: All
Venue: QE II Stadium, Brisbane

Date: 7 - 8 December 1983
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NSWPSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Sydney Athletic Field

Date: November 1984
Name: Pacific School Games, VIC
Incorporating the Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: VIC
Participating States: All
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: 30 November 1985
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: ACT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Bruce Stadium, Canberra

Date: 30 November 1986
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: SAPSASA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Adelaide Olympic Sports Field

Date: 29 November - 4 December 1987
Name: The Colgate-Palmolive Australian Primary Schools Track & Field Championships
Host State: QSPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: QE II, Brisbane

Date: December 1988
Name: Pacific School Games, NSW
Incorporating the Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NSW
Participating States: All
Venue: ES Marks Athletics Field, Sydney

Date: 3 - 8 December 1989
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: VPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: 2 - 7 December 1990
Name: Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: SAPSASA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Adelaide Olympic Sports Field

Date: 5 - 9 December 1991
Name: Australian Primary Schools Track & Field Exchange - The Colgate Cup
Host State: ACT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, VIC
Venue: AIS Athletic Field, Canberra

Date: April 1992
Name: Pacific School Games, NT
 Incorporating the Australian Primary Schools Athletics Championships
Host State: NTSSC
Participating States: All
Venue: Marrara Athletics Stadium, Darwin

Date: 6-10 December 1993
Name: The Colgate Palmolive National Track & Field Exchange
Host State: QPST&FA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC
Venue: QE II Jubilee Sports Centre, Brisbane

Date: 5 - 9 December 1994
Name: Australian Schools Sports Council Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: NSWPSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC
Venue: Sydney International Athletics Centre, Homebush

Date: 3 - 8 December 1995
Name: Australian Schools Sports Council Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: VPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, VIC
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: December 1996
Name: Pacific School Games, WA
 Incorporating Australian Schools Sports Council Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: WA
Participating States: All
Venue: Perry Lakes Athletics Stadium, Perth

Date: 7 - 11 December 1997
Name: School Sport Australia Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: ACTPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: AIS Athletic Field, Canberra

Date: 29 November - 4 December 1998
Name: School Sport Australia Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: SAPSASA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Santos Stadium, Adelaide

Date: 24 - 29 November 1999
Name: School Sport Australia Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: QPSS
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
Venue: Townsville Sports Reserve, Townsville

Date: May 2000
Name: Pacific School Games, NSW
 Incorporating School Sport Australia Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: NSW
Participating States: All
Venue: Sydney International Athletic Centre, Homebush

Date: 25 - 30 November 2001
Name: School Sport Australia Primary Track & Field Exchange
Host State: VPSSA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: 1-5 December 2002
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track & Field Exchange
Host State: SSACT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: AIS Athletic Centre, Canberra

Date: 11-15 September 2003
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track & Field Exchange
Host State: SSNT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Arafura Stadium, Darwin

Date: 29 November to 2 December 2004
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track & Field Exchange
Host State: SAPSASA
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Santos Stadium, Adelaide

Date: 25 November to 4 December 2005
Name: Pacific School Games, Melbourne, Victoria
 Incorporating School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track & Field Exchange
Host State: VIC
Participating States: All
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne

Date: 23 - 27 November 2006
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track & Field Exchange
Host State: QPSS
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Barlow Park, Cairns

Date: 29 November - 3 December 2007
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track and Field Exchange
Host State: Athletics Tasmania
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: St Leonards Athletic Centre, Launceston

Date: 29 November - 8 December 2008
Name: Pacific School Games, Canberra, ACT
Host State: ACT
Participating States: All
Venue: AIS Athletics Facility, Canberra

Date: 29 November - 2 December 2009
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track and Field Championship
Host State: NSW
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre, NSW

Date: 28 November - 2 December 2010
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track and Field Championship
Host State: VIC
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: La Trobe University Bendigo Athletics Centre, Bendigo, Victoria

Date: 15 - 19 September 2011
Name: School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under Track and Field Championship
Host State: NT
Participating States: ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Venue: Arafura Athletics Stadium, Darwin, Northern Territory

INFORMATION SOURCES:

- ❖ Geoff Hornibrook and Queensland Primary School Sports Association Annual Reports
- ❖ Past Championship/Exchange Programs and Reports
- ❖ Past and Present Team Managers and Coaches

COMPILED BY:

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