

Vale Karen Wolfenden

It is with great sadness that the Association advises of the passing of much loved Little Athletics Queensland Life Member, Karen Wolfenden.

Karen's contribution as a volunteer to the growth and development of all facets of Little Athletics spanned over three decades. She immersed herself in all levels of our sport from grass roots to Board level.

She was involved with Caboolture Little Athletics Centre for 30 years. She served on the Committee at the Centre until 2017 holding numerous positions including (but not limited to) Centre Manager, Secretary, Coaching Co-ordinator, Officials Co-ordinator and PR Officer. Although she stepped down from the Caboolture LA's committee in 2017, she was still in the background offering advice and help whenever it was needed. Karen was also a regular at LAQ Conferences, acting as a delegate for her Centre. She was never afraid to stand up and debate a motion if she passionately believes something is for the good of the athletes or the Association.



Karen was a valued member of the LAQ Board of Directors for 8 years, including 3 years as Vice President. She also served on LAQ's Coaching and PR Committees. She was a respected and qualified official and coach who was extremely passionate about the Race Walking event.

Karen was an active Official, serving at Centre, Regional, State and National level. She held the position of Throws Referee at LAQ State Competitions for many years and was also one of our State's top Race Walking judges. Karen presented at many LAQ Officials courses throughout the State, where she was driven to help Centre members become educated and qualified as officials.

Karen was incredibly passionate about Coaching, in particular, the Race Walking event. She was a coach at numerous LAQ coaching camps and clinics held throughout the State. But her passion was to help the athletes at her Centre. To honour Karen's dedication, in October 2019 her Centre held a testimonial and fundraiser for her and the inaugural "Karen Wolfenden Walk" took place to honour her love of Race Walking.

She was passionate about the growth and development of Little Athletics in Queensland and believed that attracting more athletes to the sport would benefit the health of our children and have a positive impact on their future.

Karen's passion, dedication, commitment and outstanding contributions saw her recognised by LAQ with a Merit Award in 1997, Frank Knight Memorial Coach of the Year in 2002, LAQ Distinguished Merit Award in 2005 and the Alison Quirke Official of the Year in 2011. In 2012 she was awarded Life Membership of Little Athletics Queensland. She is also a Life Member of Caboolture Little Athletics.

Karen's positive and upbeat nature will be missed by many. LAQ extends our deepest sympathies to Karen's husband Kevin and the entire Wolfenden family during this incredibly difficult time.

Karen, you will be missed.

A memorial in Karen's honour will take place once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Arrangements will be advised once confirmed.

Throughout her 8 year cancer journey, Karen took comfort and support from the services offered by the Cancer Council. Karen's family have requested that in lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Council be made in her honour. Please click on this link for details:

https://www.doitforcancer.com.au/fundraisers/elizabethmarsh/do-it-for-mum?fbclid=IwAR0E2wnQdqZMsFir_vwEbstkVtrRzJRXwgVX0J9MKxT3Kk3tilqu_LfOqa4