



Athletics International Ron Clarke Scholarship

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the scholarship is to provide support for a middle distance/distance athlete to achieve their athletic and educational potential. The recipient will be expected to uphold those values demonstrated by Ron over his life: commitment to his athletic career, his education and his subsequent working life; support of the athletics community; and dedication to his family and other important relationships.

RON'S CAREER

Ron Clarke was truly a “renaissance man”. His lifetime achievements include being a successful businessman, an environmental crusader, Mayor of the Gold Coast for eight years, a philanthropist and a devoted family man.

But it is as a runner that Ron is best known. Ron showed that distance runners could race hard, race fearlessly and race anyone. His assault on performance barriers was stunning: in his halcyon days Ron took almost 40 seconds off the world record for 10,000 metres between December 1963 and July 1965 (36 seconds in one race), and 18 seconds off the world record for 5000 between January 1965 and July 1966. Ron won an Olympic bronze medal at 10,000 in Tokyo in 1964 and silver medals at three miles at the Perth Commonwealth Games in 1962, at three and six miles in Kingston Jamaica in 1966 and at 10,000 metres in Edinburgh in 1970. In all, he set 17 world records over the period 1963 to 1968, in events ranging from 2 miles to one hour.

RON'S CONTRIBUTION TO ATHLETICS INTERNATIONAL

In the late 1960s, there was a dearth of international competition in Australia. Glenhuntly Athletics Club, of which Ron was always a proud member, went guarantor for several meets at Olympic Park in 1968. In part, this led to several of our very top athletes at the time, including Ron, establishing Athletics International (AI). Ron became the AI Patron, a position he held until he passed away in June 2015. AI's aim was to provide international competition for Australia's athletes, and to help bring Australia's coaching standards and facilities up to international level. Profits from the track meets and sales of *Athletics the Australian Way* (produced by AI and edited by Ron) provided the capital to establish the Athletics International Trust. Today, this Trust funds AI's initiatives to help young and emerging athletes, including the travel grants programs, and the **Athletics International Ron Clarke Scholarship**. Luke Mathews was the inaugural Ron Clarke Scholarship holder in 2016, with subsequent recipients being Lora Storey (2017), Georgia Griffith (2018), Matthew Clarke (2019), Matthew Ramsden (2020), Rose Davies (2021) and Isaac Heyne (2022), Cara Feain-Ryan (2023), Luke Boyes (2024).

In all Ron, through both his athletic profile and desire to put something back into the sport of athletics, played a vital part in AI getting off the ground.

THE RON CLARKE SCHOLARSHIP

1. Funding and associated obligations

The Athletics International Trust has allocated up to \$7,000 each year for this scholarship. The AI Awards Committee will oversee the awarding of the scholarship payments. The successful athlete will receive \$3,500 at the start of the first semester of study of their scholarship period. The Ron Clarke Scholarship holder will receive a second \$3,500 at the start of the second semester, following receipt by the AI Awards Committee of:

- *Evidence of successful completion of the requirements of the first semester; and*
- *A progress report on how the Scholarship has assisted the holder to progress both their educational and athletic goals.*



At the completion of the scholarship period, the Ron Clarke Scholarship holder must:

- *Provide to AI a final report indicating how the \$7,000 assisted them to progress in their education of choice and their athletic career.*
- *The Scholarship holder will, where practical, be asked to give a short presentation at an AI function on their progress over the past year, and aspirations for the future.*

2. Criteria

The scholarship criteria best reflect many of the characteristics Ron held dear. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate they:

- *are an Australian citizen*
- *are a promising runner in a distance from 800m to the marathon, including the 3km steeplechase*
- *can demonstrate a commitment to athletics, as shown through participation over several seasons, including currently*
- *have demonstrated improvement over recent years, with potential to achieve elite status*
- *are a student attending a post-secondary education institution in Australia and undertaking, as a minimum, a 50 per cent but preferably a 75 per cent load*
- *do not receive significant financial support from Athletics Australia/NASS, State Institutes of Sport or other sponsors*

Closing date: Sunday 16th of March, 2025

Application form

The completed application form should be emailed to: terrificater800@gmail.com