

Athletics Wellington President's Profile

Personal Profile for Richard Willis - President



Richard Willis – President - *Elected in 2024*

Richard has a very long history with Wellington Athletics commencing when playing serious rugby in the late 60s, after moving to Wellington from Taranaki to attend University. As a sprinter he competed against the likes of Bevan Smith and Phil Kear while being heavily involved in representative rugby for Wellington. His involvement continued when he started taking his young family and oldest son Steve to Lower Hutt Club in the early 1980's where he served on the committee for many years.

Richard later helped Lance Jackson set up Hutt Valley Track & Field, then Annette Purvis with Valleys United for National League competitions. A team man he competed regularly in walk events of which his passion was ignited with the Norman Read era when a young kid in Taranaki. He has been an integral part of the walk's fraternity at Trentham United Harriers in recent years.

Richard is most known now for his regular announcing of track & field at the stadium which also began with children's meets in the 1980s including Colgate's, and National Championships and major events like the Team Ledger Harcourts Capital Classic.

Richard also enjoys following his New Zealand representative children in their endeavours having attended many Olympics and Commonwealth Games, and World Championships for Athletics and Rowing. He has two sons Stephen and Nick who are sub-4-minute milers, with Nick being a multiple Olympic Medallist over 1500 metres.