

PATRICK ANDREW CLOHESSY, AM

Category: Honours & Elite

Classification: Sport - Athletics

Patrick Andrew Clohessy was born in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th May 1933. He resided in Muswellbrook between 1950 and 1956, when his father held the position of Postmaster. Pat received his tertiary qualifications while studying overseas. In 1962 he graduated BA History from Houston University, USA and obtained an MA from Austin, USA in 1964. On his return to Australia, he took up a teaching position at Oakleigh High School (Melbourne) from 1965 - 1967, and while there received a Diploma of Education from Monash University. He then moved to Xavier College (Melbourne) 1967 - 1983 and held the positions of Senior Teacher (History and Politics) and Housemaster from 1969 - 1983.

Pat has an impressive record on the international athletics scene. While in America during the early 1960s he was the NCAA champion over 3 miles in 1961 (Philadelphia) and 1962 (Eugene) and the AAU champion 3 miles in 1963 (St. Louis). He then represented Australia in the Commonwealth Games at Perth 1962 in both the 1 mile and 3 mile events. At the World Games in Helsinki (1963) he finished third in the 5,000 metres.

From the late 1970s to the present, Pat has been recognised as a talented and successful coach. He has coached runners to each Olympic team from 1976 to 2000. He was the Olympic Coach (800m to marathon) for Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984. He held the position of AOS and National Distance Coach from 1983 - 1994 and National Coach Marathon from 1984 - 2000. Pat has been Head Track Coach at the University of Queensland since 1998. Throughout his career, Pat has coached Australian record holders from 1500 metres to the marathon, including:

- Robert de Castella, World Marathon Champion, 1983
- Simon Doyle, 1,500m, 1 mile, 2,000m
- Shaun Creighton, 3,000m, 3,000m steeple chase, 10,000m
- Record Holders: Penny Just (1 mile), Krishna Wood (3,000m, 5,000m) and Susan Hobson (Marathon)

Pat has made presentations at the following International Symposiums: Los Angeles, USA, 1984; Stockholm, Sweden, 1985; Olympia, Greece, 1986; Tokyo, Japan 1989; Houston, USA, 1990; and Atlanta, USA, 1996.

Pat Clohessy has been the recipient of many awards. He received the Order of Australia Medal (AM) in 1988. He was AAU Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1983. He is a Life Member of the Glenhuntly Athletic Club and the ACT Cross Country Club. Pat was inducted into Sport Australia Hall of Fame, Melbourne as an Associate Member in 1997 and was awarded the Australia Sports Medal in 2000 from Muswellbrook Shire Council.

Pat is married to Moira and they have a daughter, Maria.

Inducted December 2001