

GERRARD GOSENS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gerrard's Motto – *“Success is a journey not a destination”*

Gerrard Gosens is recognised as one of the most outstanding young people in Australia today.

Congenitally blind, Gerrard became Queensland's youngest Guide Dog recipient at age sixteen. Using a lap top computer with speech output to assist his studies, Gerrard achieved an exceptional TE score and gained entrance to the Bachelor of Business course at Queensland University of Technology. Gerrard's commendable academic achievements are matched by his skill and success at sport.

Gerrard represented Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics in the team sport Goalball, which is specifically for the vision impaired. After the Games, Gerrard decided to return to his former sporting love – running and represented Australia at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games in the 5000 metres, 10,000 metres and marathon, placing sixth in both the 5km and 10km, and seventh in the marathon. At the 2006 Athletics World Championships in the Netherlands, Gerrard placed fourth in the 1500m.

He's certainly no stranger to the long distances. In 1989, after months of planning and hard work Gerrard, with the support of soldiers from the First Signal Regiment, ran the 2000km journey from Port Douglas to the Gold Coast to raise money for charity.

After the success of "Mirage 2000", Gerrard and the soldiers from the First Signal Regiment went on to complete four further 2000km runs from Cairns to Brisbane. The hard work and dedication of Gerrard and the soldiers has seen much needed funds raised for the community through the success of the 2000km ultra marathon.

Gerrard's many achievements; strength and determination to succeed at whatever he does, saw him named Young Queenslanders of the Year in 1995, and a finalist in the Young Australian of the Year.

Meanwhile, Gerrard is busily continuing writing his book called "My Eyes had a Wet Nose", which illustrates many of the unique and entertaining experiences that Gerrard encountered with his guide dogs, Joey, Anchor and now Summit. The book will provide the community with a valuable insight into the experiences of a person with a disability, and the achievements that can be obtained, regardless. Gerrard certainly believes that "success is a journey, not a destination".

MAJOR PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

2007 Selected as an Australia Day Ambassador

GERRARD GOSENS

- 2006** Placed 5th in the 1,500 metres at the IPC Athletics World Championships
Placed 11th in the Q1 Run to the Sun Stair Climb, 73 storey stair climb
Selected as an Australia Day Ambassador
- 2005** Published in the "Queensland – A Great State of Mind"
Top 100 Queenslanders
Co-piloted ultralight motor glider around Queensland

Climbed to Mt Everest Camp 3 – 7300m
Worlds first climb by congenitally blind person through Everest Ice Fall
Competed in the 2005 National Longboard Championship Tandem event
- 2004** Co-piloted ultralight motor glider around Queensland
- 2003** Co-piloted ultralight motor glider around Queensland

Climbed to Everest Base Camp

Centenary of Federation Medal - for service to sport
- 2002** Melbourne Marathon 10km – 2nd place overall

Athletics Australia Nationals 2002 – 1st place in 1,500m, 5,000m and 10,000m
IPC Athletics World Championships, Paris – 4th place 1,500m; 6th place 5,000m
- 2001** Athletics Australia Nationals 2001 – 1st place in both 5,000m and 10,000m

Gold Coast Marathon – completed 10,000m

Queensland Police Service Certificate of Appreciation

Queensland Police Games, Cross Country - Silver Medal 5,000m
- 2000** Ansvar Athlete of the Year

Selected in the Sydney 2000 Australian Paralympic Team in Marathon, 10,000m and 5,000m
Broke Australian Records in both the 5,000m and 10,000m
- 1999** Competed in the New Zealand National Track & Field Championships – Australian Record; 10,000m
Melbourne Marathon

Selected in the Paralympic Squad for Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

Athletics Australia National Track and Field Championships – Australian Record; 10,000m & 5,000m
- 1998** Competed in the Melbourne Marathon

GERRARD GOSENS

Competed at Athletics Australia National Championships – Established Australian record for 5klm

Competed in 1998 World Marathon Championships – Japan

1997 Awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award – a dedication to humanitarian service.

Selected for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Squad – Marathon.

1996 1996 Australia Day Sports Administrator Award.

Selected in the 1996 Australian Paralympic Team – in the Goalball team.

1995 Young Australian of the Year – Top Three Finalist for the Career Achievement Category.

1995 Queensland Young Achiever of the Year.

Queensland Young Achiever of the Year – Category Winner – Career State Finalist – Career Achievement – 1995 Australian of the Year Awards.

Outstanding Business Person – The Rotary Club Sumner Park.

High Achievers Award, highly recommended overall award Logan City Special Honour Award – Rotary Shine-On Awards.

Selected in the Australian Goalball Team to attend the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games.

Selected to attend the Johnson & Johnson New Leaders Forum.

1993 Selection as an Australian Representative in the Goalball Team to attend the World Cup. Rated Number One Centre Player.

“Shine-On” Award – Rotary International.

1991 Gold Coast Half Marathon - Winner of Special Athlete Award for courage, dedication and perseverance.

Nescafe Big Break Award – Certificate of Excellence.

1990 Australia Day Young Achievers Award.

Junior Citizens Award.

1989 4KQ Community Achiever Award.

1988 Winner Rostrum Plain English Speaking Award.

Lions Prudential Youth of the Year Quest (Regional Finalist).

Copier Courage Award.

Metway Young Achiever Award.

Superwalk Queensland – “Helps Spastic People”.

1987 Jeans West/Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year (State Finalist).

Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program.

1985 Fully conceived and implemented Skating Marathon for Ethiopian Famine

* * * * *