



Calling Australians Everywhere.

The Australian Senate's Legal and Constitutional References Committee has opened a **Parliamentary Inquiry into Australian Expatriates**. The Committee's terms of reference are as follows:

- (a) the extent of the Australian diaspora;
- (b) the variety of factors driving more Australians to live overseas;
- (c) the costs, benefits and opportunities presented by the phenomenon;
- (d) the needs and concerns of overseas Australians;
- (e) the measures taken by other comparable countries to respond to the needs of their expatriates; and
- (f) ways in which Australia could better use its expatriates to promote our economic, social and cultural interests.

Some one million Australians live abroad. That's equivalent to 5% of Australia's resident population. Yet never before in Australia's history has the Government formally examined our diaspora. Whether you are an Australian overseas or an Australian at home, this is a unique opportunity to put forward your thoughts, experiences, views and concerns. Through your participation in this inquiry, you can help shape and enrich the future of our country so that Australian expatriates can become better connected and integrated into the life of our nation, for the benefit of all Australians.

Whether you contribute three lines or a thesis, make sure your voice is heard. Ideas, background reading, and an e-mail template in which you can compose your submission and send it direct to the Committee can be found at:

www.southern-cross-group.org

Or make your submission directly to:

The Secretariat
Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: +61 2 6277 3560 Fax: +61 2 6277 5794
E-mail: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Closing Date: Friday 27 February 2004

Australia. Have your say. It's your country too.

(Jack PENNINGTON)
PHON 26241-5797 A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

In connection with this LEAFLET allow me to introduce myself. I am in permanent contact for 20 years after I live Australia (enclosed Address) I am athletic coach and during my life in Australia I do very much for Canberra athletic (CALL MR. Jack Pennington) Now I live in small tourist city about 9 tourist citizens I coaching a small Athletic club 10-15 years or older Americans many times to that kids, to bring them about nice Australia, if some of them needs some ^{things} for the school I lend them because I have a lot books about Australia and explain them. I am veteran athlete and still compet for Australia. Yours very sincerely

(Antonio) ANTONIOTESI

LATEST WORLD RECORD HOLDER LIVES IN CROATIA

BRYAN THOMAS keeps us up to date with the number of past and current world record holders within the club.

During the 1970s and early 80s Anton Tesija was a prominent and talented hammer thrower and coach within the local athletics community. He had been actively involved in veteran athletics from its earliest days, having represented Australia (along with Jack Pennington and Hal Dalheim) at the first major international track and field meet for veteran athletes, Cologne 1972. As our first M70 competitor Anton demonstrated his outstanding ability to hurl the hammer a long way by winning gold at national championships and setting ACT and Australian Records.

In mid 1984 Anton and his wife returned to Croatia. Although they went through some difficult times readjusting to their new life Anton continued his active involvement in athletics. He has enjoyed considerable success as a national hammer throws coach, especially of junior athletes; for example, his squad from his little home town club won nine medals (two gold, four silver and three bronze) in the recent Croatian Under 15 Championships.

Over the years our patron Jack Pennington, fellow competitor, coach and friend has maintained regular and close contact with Anton. Because Anton is always interested to hear about veteran athletes he befriended during his time in

Canberra Jack keeps him well informed of their activities. Jack even sent him a copy of our special edition of Vetranner (June 2000) celebrating the 100 Monthly Throwing Handicaps. Anton enjoyed reading of the history and the many anecdotes associated with this popular competition.

Jack passes on some of Anton's letters to people he knows would be interested and that is how I became aware of two wonderful and related stories that other members might enjoy.

On July 15 in Varazdin, Croatia, Anton participated in the "International Championship of Throwers", a competition in the four throwing disciplines for male and female athletes from 13 years to veterans. As Jack had recently renewed Anton's ACTVAC membership Anton proudly competed wearing our club uniform. Anton was in superb hammer throwing form sending the steel ball out to 28.01m for a new M85 world record. (This betters the existing WR of 27.51 held by John Fraser, Victoria). Being so proud of his ACT connection Anton had "Anton Tesija of Canberra, Australia" recorded on the diploma acknowledging his performance. All the necessary paper work for Anton's claim for the WR has been forwarded to club statistician Quentin Anthony.

Australia's champion hammer thrower Stuart Rendell was in Europe training and

competing as part of his preparation towards the Sydney Olympics when he spotted an older thrower wearing the ACTVAC uniform. Of course he was surprised to see a Canberra Veterans T shirt being worn so far from home. Stuart approached the older athlete and was amazed to learn that Anton had been a "regular" at the Masson Street Throwing Fields in Canberra long before he had even considered picking up a throwing implement. But from that moment both champion athletes enjoyed each others' company reminiscing about Canberra, their sport and of course their mutual friends such as Jack, Charlie Rann and Atilla Spaits etc. As a successful coach Anton viewed Stuart's throwing technique with considerable interest and expertise, even offering the young Aussie Olympian some advice on style.

Congratulations Anton you join a small elite group of eight club members to be a World Record holder. ACTVAC members who have been or are current world record holders are:

Joan Hooper W50 5000W (1987)
Irene Mitchell W45 hammer (87)
Quentin Anthony M55 Australian 4x400 team (87)
Tony Murray M40 mile (88)
Trish Thomas W40 hammer (89)
Margaret Taylor W50 triple jump (99)
Elaine Cooper W40 steeplechase (2000)
Anton Tesija M85 hammer (2000)