

To the members of AUTRA

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

(Nelson Henderson, Canadian farmer)

I have been a passionate member of the trail and ultra running communities – yes, we can be both! – for the last 10 years.

From my observations, there are a few core motivations that I see in runners who only participate in track ultras, and those who might seek out half marathons on trails.

We seek adventure. We want to test our physical and mental limits. These events are not just about the outcomes or the PBs, but the journey we undertake during the race itself or the whole weekend.

We typically don't just grab our medal at the finish line and jump on the next bus home. We cheer on our friends and strangers alike. We take on volunteer roles. We hang around to absorb and extend the vibe of the community.

These motivations are the common threads that tie ultra and trail runners together.

If appointed to the role of Governance Officer, I would seek to build on the excellent foundational work completed by previous office holders in this relatively new Committee position.

In my professional life, policies and compliance are a constant focus for our small financial planning practice in which I am a Responsible Manager reporting to ASIC.

In the context of AUTRA, I firmly believe that we start with setting clear and consistent goalposts for all members and participants – whether they be elite athletes, race directors, weekend warriors, coaches or our all-important volunteer brigade.

At the same time, we need to cater for those situations where people with experience and passion for our sport can be trusted to make decisions in the best interests of the Association and its members.

Creating trust is no easy task, but it is an objective we should not shy away from.

I look forward to seeing you online at the AGM as we work together towards a brighter AUTRA future.

Best regards

Jeremy Rankin
Normanhurst, NSW