

Application for Vice President – Australian Ultra Trail Running Association Committee

Jess Short – Trail runner | women’s health advocate | community leader

I’m writing to express my interest in joining the Australian Ultra Trail Running Association Committee as Vice President.

Trail running has shaped much of my life, not only through competition, but through the role it plays in building confidence, connection, and resilience. I’m motivated by the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth of the sport in Australia, particularly in a way that strengthens participation, supports athletes across all levels, and ensures more people feel they belong in trail running.

Over the past decade, I’ve been actively involved in the Australian and international trail running community, competing successfully in events including Shotover Vertical Kilometre, Hounslow Monster, Marathon du Mont Blanc VK, and UTMB Trans Lantau. I’ve also represented Australia at the Hyrox World Championships in 2024, placing second in my age category, and won the Sky Running Masters World Championship Vertical Kilometre race in Bulgaria in 2025.

These experiences have given me a grounded understanding of the sport across different contexts, from elite racing environments to grassroots participation. They’ve also shown me the importance of strong structures, clear pathways, and a sense of community in sustaining and growing the sport nationally.

In parallel, I’ve founded and led the Alpine Multi Skill Group (AMSG), a community organisation in regional Victoria that delivers women’s health, movement and education programs. Through this, we’ve launched a Women’s Health Initiative focused on building strength, wellbeing and connection — often using trail running and outdoor activity as a foundation. We’re also developing running and strength programs aimed at making the sport more accessible to women, particularly in regional communities. This experience has given me practical insight into participation challenges, particularly for women, and a clear view of what is required to grow the sport in a way that is inclusive, accessible, and sustainable.

In addition, I currently serve as Secretary of the Bright United Men’s Shed, where I’ve led a governance reset, strengthened communication processes, and supported the operational running of the organisation. This role has developed my capability in committee governance, policy development, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making.

Professionally, I work as a Strategic Planner in local government, where I manage complex projects, coordinate an consult with stakeholders, and support strategic planning and delivery across departments. This has strengthened my ability to contribute at both a strategic and operational level, ensuring that ideas translate into practical outcomes.

I bring a combination of lived experience in the sport, community leadership, and governance capability. I’m comfortable working across strategy and delivery, and I understand the importance of clarity, consistency, and accountability in committee roles.

I see strong alignment between my experience and AUTRA’s focus on growing trail running participation, supporting athletes, and strengthening the national trail running ecosystem. I would value the opportunity to contribute to that work and support the continued development of the sport in Australia.

Thank you for your consideration.