

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this statement as my formal nomination for the Secretary position with AUTRA.

I've been proudly involved in the Australian running community for over 15 years—as a professional athlete, endurance coach, community organiser, and charity founder.

I've raced and crewed at events across almost every state and territory, and I've built strong connections across our diverse running landscape—from grassroots clubs to elite competitors.

Some relevant experience includes:

Professional Athlete: Over 30 ultra-distance races completed, including multi-day runs across Australia (Brisbane to Sydney 2016), podium finishes at local and international events, and national-level representation.

Founder & Head Coach, Joe Ward Coaching and Manly Beach Running Club: Coaching hundreds of runners of all levels, from first-time 10K finishers to elite ultramarathoners, with a strong focus on ethics, holistic and mental health, and long-term athlete development.

Community Builder: Founder of Shelly Swim Club, co-organiser of free community events and fundraisers, and mentor to young and emerging endurance athletes.

Event and Crew Support: Extensive experience volunteering and crewing at endurance events including GNW100s, Coast to Kosciuszko, and grassroots trail races—always with an emphasis on safety, fairness, and athlete well-being.

Administrative Strengths: Background in small business ownership, customer service, and program development, all of which require clear communication, record-keeping, and collaborative leadership. I'm deeply committed to the values of transparency, accountability, and service.

As Secretary, I would aim to be a steady and reliable voice within AUTRA—ensuring accurate and accessible communication, supporting efficient committee processes, and listening closely to the needs of our members.

AUTRA plays a critical role in shaping the future of ultra and trail running in Australia. It would be an honour to help steward that mission in a more official capacity.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to contribute.

Warm regards,

Joe Ward

0433 819 514

Manly Beach Running Club / Joe Ward Coaching