

= Mark Kerry =

Mark Anthony Kerry (born 4 August 1959) is an Australian former backstroke and freestyle swimmer of the 1970s and 1980s , who won three Olympic medals , including a gold in the 4 × 100 m medley relay at the 1980 Summer Olympics as the backstroker for the Quietly Confident Quartet . During his career , he won twelve Australian Championships .

Initially trained by his mother , Kerry enjoyed success in swimming and surf lifesaving as a teenager . His swimming career progressed to senior Australian standards after he switched to the tutelage of John Rigby and moved to Queensland . He made his debut at the 1976 Australian Championships and promptly won the 200 m freestyle and backstroke events to win selection for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal at the age of 16 . At the Olympics , Kerry reached the final in two events , coming seventh and fifth in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke respectively . Kerry was disappointed with his performances , but they attracted the attention of American coach Doc Counsilman , who invited Kerry to swim under him at the Indiana University . Kerry set Australian records while in the United States , but his international career hit trouble when he was expelled from the 1978 Commonwealth Games team for breaking a curfew .

Kerry returned to Australia in 1980 for the national championships and gained selection for the Moscow Olympics by winning the backstroke double . Kerry declined financial inducements and resisted political pressure from the government of Australia to boycott the Olympics in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan . He went on to win bronze in the 200 m backstroke after missing the final in the 100 m . The peak of his career came in the 4 × 100 m medley relay , where he led off the winning team . The race remains the only time that the United States did not win the event at the Olympics . After the games , Kerry took an extended break from the sport , before returning for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles . He claimed a bronze in the medley relay and came fifth in the 100 m backstroke . He then retired and took up a television and modelling career in the United States . After returning to Australia , he ran and owned Dunhill Management , one of the largest recruiting firms in the nation , with his brother . In 2001 , the Kerry brothers sold Dunhill for A \$ 22 @. @ 7 million , with up to A \$ 13 @. @ 8 million in additional payments depending on the success of the company . They later founded a new recruitment firm , K2 .

= = Early years = =

Born in Temora , New South Wales , near the regional centre of Wagga Wagga , Kerry was one of two sons born to a car salesman . Kerry 's mother was a swimming teacher who ran her own aquatic school . Kerry was taught to swim by his mother , whom he regarded as a perfectionist who emphasised technique and turned him to backstroke . Kerry grew up participating in a wide range of sports , representing Wollongong High School in tennis , athletics and swimming . He also competed four times in the state cross @-@ country championships . Once his family had moved to the seaside city of Wollongong , Kerry developed a love of the surf . He found the ocean water much more exciting due to its unpredictability . Kerry steadily rose through the surf lifesaving ranks , competing at the state and national championships . In 1974 , Kerry won the Cadet Malibu event in the Australian Championships , and in 1975 he came second in the surf race at the Australian Open Surfing Championships . In the pool , Kerry had his first competitive race at the age of 12 in 1971 . At the time , Brad Cooper ? who went on to win the 400 m freestyle at the 1972 Summer Olympics ? was living in Wollongong and he and Kerry trained together on a regular basis . In 1974 , Kerry competed in the Australian Age Championships in freestyle , before moving north to train with John Rigby in Brisbane , Queensland in the following year . At the time of his move , Kerry was ranked around 200th in the world in backstroke .

= = International debut : 1976 Olympics = =

Kerry had improved to such an extent that by November 1975 , his times in the 200 m backstroke had dropped from around 2 m 10 s to around 2 m 3 @. @ 0 s , ranking him third in the world . As a

result of his strong performances in the pool , Kerry retired from surf racing . Kerry made his debut at the 1976 Australian Championships , winning the 200 m freestyle and backstroke events in 1 m 54 @. @ 33 s and 2 m 3 @. @ 58 s respectively , as well as the 4 x 200 m freestyle and the 4 x 100 m medley relays for New South Wales , leading off both relays . Aged 16 , Kerry won selection for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke , the 200 m freestyle , the 4 x 200 m freestyle relay and the 4 x 100 m medley relay .

Kerry was second in his heat of the 200 m freestyle heat in a time of 1 m 54 @. @ 86 s , but was four seconds off the pace and did not qualify for the final . His time was 2 @. @ 08 s behind the slowest qualifier , placing him 16th . Kerry did not get to swim in the 4 x 200 m freestyle relay . The fastest Australian in the corresponding individual event , he was rested in the qualifying round ; Australia came third in their heat and ninth overall to miss the final by 1 @. @ 88 s after Peter Dawson swam his split in a time four seconds slower than Kerry 's effort in the individual event . Had Kerry repeated his individual time in the relay in place of Dawson , Australia would have qualified fifth .

Kerry found more success in the 100 m backstroke , winning his heat in 57 @. @ 99 s to qualify third fastest for the semifinals . He then scraped into the final as the second slowest qualifier , after coming fourth in his semifinal in a time of 58 @. @ 04 s . His time of 57 @. @ 94 s placed him seventh in the final , ahead of fellow Australian Mark Tonelli , but more than two seconds behind the victorious John Naber of the United States . In the 200 m event , Kerry put in a personal best time of 2 m 3 @. @ 58 s in the first heat to qualify fourth fastest for the final , but swam slower in the decider to finish fifth in a time of 2 m 4 @. @ 07 s , one place behind Tonelli and 2 @. @ 72 s away from bronze . Kerry combined with Paul Jarvie , Neil Rogers and Peter Coughlan in the 4 x 100 m medley relay , placing sixth . The quartet qualified in sixth place , and Kerry had them in fourth place after posting a time of 57 @. @ 94 s in the first leg , but his teammates were unable to keep up with the leaders and finished more than four seconds out of medal contention .

Kerry was disappointed with his performances , feeling that he had failed to perform to his potential amid the pressure and excitement of an Olympics . However , he felt that his experience of racing against the likes of Naber and Roland Matthes would hold him in good stead . On a brighter note , Kerry 's performances impressed the leading American coach Doc Counsilman , who invited him to come and swim at Indiana University after Kerry finished his secondary schooling in Australia . Kerry successfully defended his 200 m backstroke national title in 1977 , but the time was more than four seconds slower than his effort in the previous year . He combined with his New South Wales teammates to win all three relays , again in times substantially slower than in the preceding Olympic year . The performances earned him selection for the Australian team for the Coca Cola Meet in London , but Kerry felt that he lacked motivation after the Olympics . Upon returning , he decided to absent himself from such events .

= = US college stint and expulsion for disciplinary issues = =

In January 1978 , Kerry arrived at Indiana University , studying theatre , drama and telecommunications . Based on the times that he recorded for Indiana , Kerry was named in the Australian squad for the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton , Canada . However , his international career appeared to be in disarray when along with two teammates , Tonelli and Joe Dixon , he was expelled from the Australian team for breaking a curfew on American Independence Day during a training camp in Honolulu , Hawaii . According to Tonelli , Kerry was late because he was courting a female he had met , while Tonelli and Dixon had been drinking . Tonelli also admitted to the officials that he had smoked marijuana ? not illegal under Hawaii law ? on the night . In the aftermath of the incident , Tonelli appeared on Australian television , strongly denying rumours that he had been involved in a drug @- @ fuelled orgy with teammates . He admitted to smoking marijuana , but defended his actions , saying that it was not illegal . Supporters in Australia , including future Prime Minister Bob Hawke , launched a petition for the reinstatement of the trio , which garnered thousands of signatures , but to no avail .

Kerry returned to Indiana and continued his training . He competed at the 1979 U.S. National

Championships at Fort Lauderdale , setting Australian records in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke in times of 56 @. @ 50 s and 2 m 2 @. @ 61 s respectively . Over time , Kerry became increasingly discontented with Counsilman , whom he felt was losing focus and becoming preoccupied with various business commitments and an attempt to swim across the English Channel . Kerry transferred to the University of Southern California , which was coached by Naber 's mentor Peter Daland .

= = 1980 Olympics = =

Kerry returned home to compete in the 1980 Australian Championships , winning both backstroke events , albeit in a slower time than his Australian records . Kerry added two titles as a member of the 4 × 100 m medley and freestyle relay teams for New South Wales . This earned Kerry his second trip to the Olympics , this time in Moscow . However , another obstacle arose with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan , which resulted in a boycott of the Games by a large part of the Western world , led by the United States . The Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser was also the patron of the Australian Olympic Committee , and significant political pressure came to bear on the athletes to boycott the Games . Kerry 's team @-@ mate Tonelli , however , realised that only the sportspeople would suffer from a boycott and that trade relations would continue unabated . He took a leadership role among the athletes to fight for their right to compete . Kerry was equally adamant that he was going to compete , unlike some other swimmers who made personal boycotts . He received offers from Australian government officials to boycott the Games in return for financial payments . He said :

I felt the biggest statement we could make was to go to Moscow and show the world . If there was a total boycott , fine , but trade was still going on . It was disgusting . Why should the athletes be made to suffer ?

Upon leaving the US for the Olympics , Kerry was threatened with the cancellation of his US visa . Kerry arrived in Moscow facing a four event schedule : he was nominated in both backstroke events and the 4 × 200 m freestyle relay and the 4 × 100 m medley relay . With the Americans and many other western swimmers absent , Australian officials were confident that their three entrants in the 100 m backstroke , Kerry , Tonelli and Glenn Patching , would all make the final and win medals . Kerry came third in both his heat and semi @-@ final , clocking 58 @. @ 08 s and 58 @. @ 07 s respectively , missing out on the final by just 0 @. @ 02 s . He was the ninth fastest in the closely run semifinals , with the third fastest qualifier being only 0 @. @ 18 s faster . Patching missed the final after slipping on the starting wall in his race , while Tonelli went on to finish seventh . Had Kerry matched his personal best of 65 @. @ 50 s , he would have won the gold medal ahead of Sweden 's Bengt Baron .

Kerry bounced back in the 200 m backstroke and won his heat to qualify third @-@ fastest , before claiming bronze in a time of 2 m 3 @. @ 14 s behind the Hungarian duo of Sándor Wladár and Zoltán Verrasztó . He edged out the Soviet Union 's Vladimir Shemetov by 0 @. @ 34 s , becoming the first Australian to win a medal in an individual backstroke event since David Theile in 1960 . In the 4 × 200 m freestyle relay , he combined with Tonelli , Graeme Brewer and Ron McKeon as Australia came seventh after qualifying fourth . The Australians were sixth at the halfway point when Kerry jumped in for the third leg . Kerry moved Australia into fifth by the end of his leg , just 0 @. @ 78 s from the bronze medal position , after posting a split time of 1 m 52 @. @ 64 s , the 18th fastest split in the race . However , McKeon could not keep pace with the opposition anchor swimmers , and Australia finished seventh , 1 @. @ 52 s outside the medals .

= = Relay victory = = =

The 4 × 100 m medley relay was the focal point of Kerry 's Moscow campaign . The event had always been won by the United States since its inception at Olympic level in 1960 , and their boycott had opened up the field in the event . In the five times the event had been contested , Australia 's best result was a silver in the inaugural race . A bronze in 1964 was the only other medal success

and the 1976 edition of the medley relay had seen Australia eliminated in the heats . This time , Australia was regarded as a medal chance , but was not seen as the main threats ? Sweden , Great Britain and the Soviet Union were seen as the most likely winners . The hosts 's team included the silver medallists in the 100 m backstroke and breaststroke , and their butterflyer had come fifth ; their freestyler would later place fourth . The British had Duncan Goodhew , the breaststroke gold medallist , while Sweden 's butterflyer and backstroker had won their respective events and their freestyle swimmer would come second in the 100 m . Australia 's team paled in comparison on paper . Neil Brooks , the freestyler , later came 14th overall after having an asthma attack , and Peter Evans was the only individual medallist in the corresponding individual event . Kerry had been eliminated in the backstroke semifinals , while Tonelli was swimming as a makeshift butterflyer , despite having performed better than Kerry in the 100 m backstroke . Adding to the pressure was the fact that Australia won no gold medals at the 1976 Olympics in any sport , and were yet to win in Moscow , so the public were still awaiting their first victory since Munich in 1972 . Coming into the Olympics , Australia were ranked seventh out of the thirteen competing countries .

Australia 's prospects improved after the morning heats in which Sweden was disqualified . Tonelli , the eldest swimmer in the quartet at the age of 23 , convened the team as its de facto leader . He asked his team @-@ mates to commit to swimming their legs in a certain time ; Kerry vowed to swim the backstroke in 57 s , Evans the breaststroke in 63 s flat , Tonelli the butterfly in 54 s and Brooks promised to anchor the team in 49 @.@ 8 s , even though he had never gone faster than 51 s . Tonelli named the foursome as the Quietly Confident Quartet , and they exhibited a quiet confidence as they lined up for the race .

As Patching had slipped earlier in the meet , Kerry decided to rub a sticky red substance onto the soles of his feet . The Soviet hosts had installed a carpet following the incidents , resulting in Kerry leaving red footprints in the stadium . Kerry led off in a time faster than his effort in the individual event , but it was still two seconds slower than his personal best time of 57 @.@ 87 s , leaving Australia in fourth place at the end of the first leg . Evans then swam a personal best of 63 @.@ 01 s , drawing Australia almost level with the host nation at the halfway mark . Tonelli swam his leg in 54 @.@ 94 s , almost two seconds faster than he had done over the distance . Tonelli did so with an uneven arm technique due to the uneven strength in his arms . He began to lose ground in the last 50 m and was a bodylength behind until a late surge brought him to within a metre by the end of his leg . Brooks then executed a powerful , well @-@ timed dive and surfaced almost even with his Soviet counterpart . He had drawn level by the halfway mark and made a superior turn to take the lead . The Soviet freestyler pulled level at the 25 m mark before Brooks again sprinted away to seal an Australian victory by 0 @.@ 22 s . Brooks had finished his leg in 49 @.@ 86 s as he had vowed to his teammates . The time of 3 m 45 @.@ 70 s sealed Australia 's first ever win in a medley relay at the Olympics , for men or women . The team then made a celebratory dive into the pool and were interviewed poolside . In 2000 , Kerry and the other members of the quartet were each awarded the Australian Sports Medal for their victory in Moscow .

= = Break and comeback = =

After the Olympics , Kerry took an extended break from competitive swimming . He was asked to return for the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane , so he made a comeback , but only did two weeks of solid training and missed selection , failing to win either of the backstroke events . In 1983 , he began preparing for the Olympics , but did not start serious work until October . Kerry was confident in his ability to perform at international standards with sporadic preparation after long sabbaticals . He attributed this to his technique and ability to keep his 190 cm , 80 kg body in shape while not training .

He returned to Australia in 1984 and after training in Brisbane , he was selected for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles despite winning neither backstroke event at the Australian Championships . Arriving in the United States , Kerry was scheduled to compete in the 100 m backstroke and 4 × 100 m medley relay . Kerry swam quickly to win his heat in the 100 m in a time of 57 @.@ 15 s , qualifying third fastest for the final . However , he was unable to improve his pace

in the final , finishing fifth in a time of 57 @. @ 18 s , 0 @. @ 69 s from the bronze medal . In the medley relay , Kerry and Evans joined Glenn Buchanan and Mark Stockwell , who swam the butterfly and freestyle respectively . They were no match for the Americans , who had three of the four gold medallists in the corresponding individual events and finished almost four seconds ahead . Kerry had Australia in third place at the first change , finishing his leg in a time of 57 @. @ 12 s , but by this point the Americans were already 1 @. @ 71 s ahead . Australia remained third at every change and were beaten by the second @- @ placed Canadians by just 0 @. @ 02 s .

= = After swimming = =

After the Games , Kerry retired from competitive swimming . He then worked in Los Angeles as a model and hosted a fashion show on cable television . According to Tonelli , Kerry 's mother told her son to " look after that face , [because] that 's all you 've got " . Tonelli disagreed , opining that " he was always much more than that " . Tonelli reported that Kerry was busy preening himself just before the start of their Olympic @- @ winning relay performance , claiming that although Australia was unlikely to win the race , he needed to look good because a prospective employer might be watching . Kerry went on to model on the catwalks of Milan and Paris .

Kerry married his American wife Lynda , and they split their time between Australia and the United States . They have two children , a son Tanner who is a semi @- @ professional basketball player , and a daughter Madison , who is an actress appearing on Home and Away . Along with his brother Phil , Kerry founded Dunhill Management , one of Australia 's largest recruiting firms . In 2001 , the brothers sold Dunhill to the British firm Robert Walters for A \$ 22 @. @ 7 million , with up to A \$ 13 @. @ 8 million in extra payments depending on the future success of the company . After this , Kerry worked as the managing director of another firm , before starting a new recruitment business with his brother , K2 Recruitment & Consulting .