



Home / Local Sport / Local Footy

'An incredible woman': why Jack's mum is the inspiration for this extraordinary effort



By [Tyler Welch](#)

Updated June 12 2026 - 9:50am, first published 9:45am

Save

Share

0

When Wollongong local Jack Buckley laces up his runners at 4am on Friday, June 12, he'll be thinking of his late mother, Keryn. When he's done running 58 hours later on Sunday, June 14, she'll still be on his mind.

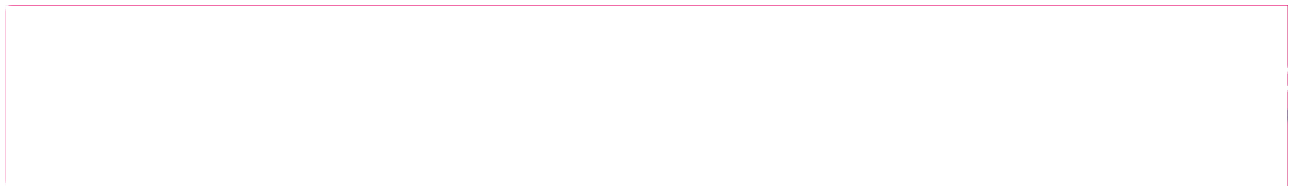
"My mum was an incredible woman," Buckley said. "She put everyone before herself to make sure things were better for others."



📷 Jack Buckley will run for 58 hours straight starting at 4am on Friday, June 12, in honor of his mother. Picture by Adam McLean

Buckley, 31, lost his mother to a stroke in February 2025, when she was 58 years old. Not long after his mother's passing, Buckley knew he wanted to do a fundraiser for stroke awareness.

ADVERTISEMENT



In his grief, he turned to running, something that had given him purpose over the past five years of his life. That inspired his first challenge: [58 half-marathons in 58 days](#).

"I wanted to do something to give back," Buckley said. "I was just trying to figure out how to do that, and I went back to running."

Buckley began his campaign, which benefited the [Stroke Foundation](#), on August 10, 2025 after a few months of training. Over the course of his 58 half-marathons, Buckley raised more than \$30,000 for the foundation.

"It was pretty overwhelming, but it was really nice to know there's people out there that want to support you and want to support

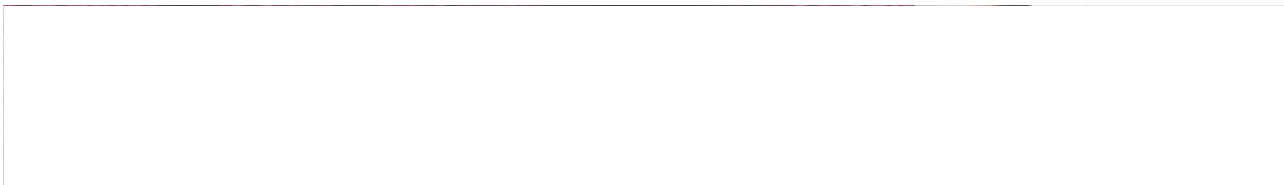
someone in the community that's gone through hardship," Buckley said.

On Friday, two days after his mother would have celebrated her 60th birthday. Buckley will begin his 58-hour run, which will be completed in six-kilometre loops, at Eco Community Fitness in Bellambi.



WATCH: Socceroos next gen ready for World Cup moments

ADVERTISEMENT



He hopes to run a loop every hour, taking minimal breaks for power naps and refueling. Should he attain his goal, Buckley will run 348

kilometres in a two-and-a-half day span.

"I don't plan on sleeping too much," Buckley said. "The ultimate goal is to do it every hour on the hour, if I can manage it."

According to the Stroke Foundation, an Australian dies of a stroke once every 11 minutes, and is the fourth-leading cause of death in the country.

Buckley's next challenge has a goal of [\\$10,000](#), which will aid stroke prevention and recovery efforts. The support has already begun, both monetarily and physically, with members of the Wollongong community pledging to run alongside him.

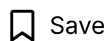
"I think we live in a very special community in Wollongong," Buckley said. "Everyone gets around everyone when someone struggles or someone wants to do something extraordinary."

Read More:

15-year-old missing from Towradgi now located by NSW police



The Mercury on June 12, 2015: Punks band together to oppose war memorial vandalism



Save



Share



0



Tyler Welch
Sports Intern



Tyler Welch covers sports news for the Illawarra Mercury. All the way from Dallas, Texas, Tyler is spending the summer as an intern in Wollongong. He's excited to cover new sports and leagues in Australia. You can email Tyler at...