

Marathon job for exercise science graduate!



Ryan McDonald

Ryan McDonald's **double degree in exercise science and business** has put him on track for an interesting and varied career in the world of sport.

Currently working as the **Athlete Services Manager for Queensland Events Gold Coast**, Ryan works as part of small team of 14 who organise the annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon and the biennial Pan Pacific Masters Games.

Fielding over 20,000 domestic and international competitors in the marathon, half marathon and 10 kilometre run, the Gold Coast Airport Marathon also incorporates championship events for organisations such as the Oceania Athletics Association and Queensland Athletics.

Ryan's responsibilities include managing the elite athlete and pace runner programs, timing and results services, race photography, and more.

"In any major event like this, the seeding and priority start program is very important. One of my responsibilities is to identify those athletes in the elite and sub-elite levels who have the potential to run well and place them accordingly for the race start."

Using his exercise science knowledge and skills, Ryan also took on the role of writing training advice for participants and providing pre-event training sessions.

Ryan has found his business degree also provided good grounding in relevant skills such as marketing and finance.

Ryan was always a 'massive sports fan' and keen for a sports or exercise related career. His first jobs out of university included part time work with Waterpolo Queensland and a sports officer position with the Griffith University Student Guild.

While he is enjoying his work at Queensland Events Gold Coast and a job that is continually evolving, he has also considered future postgraduate study in the area of high performance sport.

A number of Ryan's friends, also exercise science graduates, are currently working with the Australian Institute of Sport, with various NRL teams, in sports management and in clinical roles.

Ryan received **Griffith Awards for Academic Excellence** in each year he was at University and was awarded the **Exercise Science Medal** at graduation for highest overall results from his program. 1/9/2008
