



## HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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### VALE JOYCE SUMMERS

I am very sad to have to inform readers of the death of VRWC life member Joyce Summers, who passed away on Saturday night, surrounded by her family and still at home.

Joyce had a number of serious health issues in recent years and it had been some time since we had last seen her at the walkers club, but we knew she was being well cared for by her extended and loving family.

Joyce had worked alongside her husband Harry within the Victorian Race Walking Club since the early 1960's. Joining our racewalking community as a young mother, she had enthusiastically thrown herself into club fundraising, organising club events such as dances, and supporting the walkers on race days.

For a period from the mid 1990s onwards, Barb Gardiner and Joyce were the sole ladies working behind the scenes, running the canteen, organising raceday barbeques and organising large social events such as club dinners. If not for their ongoing efforts, the club might well have fallen on very bad times when the old clubrooms were demolished and we went through a period of reduced club membership and considerable soul searching.

Much of the equipment we now take for granted has been purchased with funds raised by canteen sales. The goods were bought as cheaply as possible and then sold for a modest profit, gradually building up the canteen account. As soon as the account had a few thousand dollars in it, Joyce and Barb would pass it onto the committee to purchase something for the club.

They continued to work unceasingly for the club, even though they were well past any normal retirement age! In 2008, both ladies were awarded Honorary Life Memberships, a fitting recognition for their lifetimes of service to the club.

To Harry and Lyn and Barb and Sandy and all the family, we extend our heartfelt sympathies.



*Joyce behind the canteen counter at the VRWC clubrooms at Middle Park in 2011*

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. That is the 20<sup>h</sup> in a row and is as good as ever. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

***IT WOULD BE NICE IF THE LA 2028 RACE WALKS WERE HELD ON ERIN TAYLOR-TALCOTT AVENUE***

***By Paul F. DeMeester***

Will the 2028 Olympic race walkers compete on a road named for the pioneer race walker who brought gender equality to our discipline and ensured the survival of race walking at top level? Not yet but renaming the road on which the 2028 walks would take place would be a fitting tribute to Erin Taylor-Talcott, without whom there might not have been any walks left in the Olympics past Tokyo 2020.

No, this is not an exaggeration. While attending a reception at the Perth Zoo during the World Masters Athletics Championships in early November of 2016, I first heard the rumor about the 50K Race Walk Event disappearing from the Olympic program. By early April of 2017, we learned it was more than rumor. And we learned it right here. If it had not been for *Heel and Toe Online* blowing the whistle, the Tokyo Olympics might have included a race walk half-marathon and a 4 x 5000m relay only. Heap on the ridicule and judging controversies that we might have witnessed in these two events, and race walking would have been a prime candidate for departure from the Olympic scene after Tokyo. This may well have been the long-term plan IAAF President Seb Coe was harboring all along.

Where does Erin come in? Well, she had been there all along, fighting for the inclusion of women in the U.S. Olympic 50K Trials, an effort that paid off in 2012. Women could not be selected for the Olympics, but at least their U.S. 50K National Championship in Olympic years was now being held concurrently with the Men's selection race. Erin did not stop there. With legal help, she next tackled parity in prize money for women race walkers. She won that starting with the 2013 U.S. Nationals. Next up were the 2016 IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships. Erin petitioned the IAAF to let women participate in the 50K; after all, her 21 February 2016 50K time of 4:44:26 would have qualified her for Rome ... had she been a man. Erin won that fight too and was the only woman among 65 starters. She finished 39<sup>th</sup>. As a result of her legal fight, the IAAF turned the 50K into a Mixed Event, meaning women would be able to compete at the 2017 World Championships but only if they met the men's qualifying standard. Given that no woman had ever met the qualifying standard in the event, the gesture was meaningless. Worse, if one had made it, she would then have had to compete against the men for the win. To put that in perspective, if women would had to meet the men's qualifying standards for London 2017 in all of the athletics events, there would have been exactly two female participants, both in the marathon. Ridiculous, right? Well, it still took a lawsuit by Erin Taylor-Talcott in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to change that. Three weeks before the 50K was to be contested in front of Buckingham Palace, women got their own 50K World Championship. Erin's fights for Rome 2016 and London 2017 changed the attitude in the front office of the IAAF. The next Team Worlds included a Women's 50K, as did the next Worlds in Doha 2019. Before 2018 was over, the IAAF requested the IOC to include women in the Tokyo 50K. Erin was one of six walkers who lobbied the IAAF Council when it met in Monaco. But the sexists over at the IOC turned the IAAF down. This time, Erin was joined by five other women 50K walkers and one equality minded male walker in suing the IOC in CAS. The effort failed but then COVID-19 created perfect gender parity: no events for women but none for men either.



*Erin Taylor-Talcott's Favorite Pastime: Racing a 50K*

Lord Coe's 2017 efforts carried over into 2019 when he convinced the IAAF Race Walking Committee to endorse the elimination of the 50K. The IAAF Council was not happy to simply rubber stamp Coe's ideas. In the end, the Council kept two race walking events on the top competition schedule instead of just one and committed itself to gender equality. As things look now, the 2022 Eugene Worlds will have a 20K and a 35K, four separate races overall.

Had Erin not fought all these battles over all these years, there never would have been gender equality in the IAAF top 50K competitions. Without gender equality in the 50K, the 2019 take two effort to reduce race walking to one distance would probably have been successful, setting the stage for the eventual disappearance of race walking from the major competitions. Simply put, Erin has done more for race walking than anyone on this planet.

How do we properly honor that? Reading [insidethegames.biz](http://insidethegames.biz) earlier this week showed that it can be done. Some members of the Paris Council proposed that the 2024 venue hosting the Olympic badminton and taekwondo events be named after Alice Milliat, a French swimmer, hockey player and rower who in 1917 urged the IOC to recognize women's sports. (See *Paris 2024 venue to be named after women's sport activist Milliat*, at [insidethegames.biz](http://insidethegames.biz), 29 July 2020.) Better late than never. And so it is for Erin Taylor-Talcott. In 2017, Erin posted a 4:29:33 at age 38. Imagine what she could have walked in her twenties if there had been an Olympic and Worlds Women's 50K? A sub-4:10? A sub-4:05? We will never know because women race walkers were deprived of that equal opportunity.

In 2028, the Olympics are slated to be held in Los Angeles, in Erin's home country. What better way to celebrate gender equality than to name a venue after this pioneer who has done so much. It does not have to be a permanent naming. No, not at all. The 2028 Olympics are scheduled to run from July 21 through August 6. The walks are to be staged in Grand Park in front of Los Angeles City Hall. The street names around the park are an uninspiring lot: West 1st, North Broadway, North Hill, North Grand and West Temple. Why not name one of them, or one of the park trails, whichever one will have the start/finish, after Erin Taylor-Talcott for the duration of the Games? It would be an appropriate acknowledgement of Erin's contribution to race walking and to gender equality in sports.

### SARWC ROADWALKS, ADELAIDE PARKLANDS, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

Thanks to Kim Mottrom for this week's results from Adelaide. 30 walkers out today, including **Jared Tallent** for the first time. PB's for **Sebastian Richards, Cooper Rech, Johanna Saltis, Elizabeth Rieger, Orlando Grantham, Tarique Kamish, Zahra Kamish** and **Katie DeRevo**. Great conditions allowing for some great walks across the board, including a number of other seasons bests. Adelaide will be having their State Championships next week.

#### 8km Walk

1.	Jared Tallent	35:55
2.	Kim Mottrom	36:23
3.	Tristan Camilleri	38:38
4.	Olivia Sandery	41:43
5.	Kristie Goznik	42:17
6.	Mathew Bruniges	42:22
7.	Peter Crump	48:05

#### 1.5km Walk

1.	Archie Braithwaite	8:17
2.	Hannah Wilks	8:19
3.	Orlando Grantham	8:51
4.	Tarique Kamish	9:12
5.	Zahra Kamish	9:50
6.	Elizabeth Rieger	10:37
7.	Alexander Richards	11:09
8.	Edward Upton	11:28
9.	Xavier Upton	11:30
10.	Maliha Kamish	14:32

#### 4km Walk

1.	Sebastian Richards	21:06
2.	Nellie Langford	22:40
3.	Royrie Upton	24:36
4.	Zayden Kamish	24:58
5.	Katie DeRuvo	25:14
6.	Kitarni Upton	25:16
7.	Seth Upton	26:27
8.	Cooper Rech	27:12
9.	Adrian Upton	29:32
10.	Liz Downs	29:35
11.	Stephen Downs	31:34
12.	James Hoare	32:37
13.	Johanna Saltis	33:10
14.	Bill Starr	34:36
15.	Jake Vidler	DNF (3km 15:05)

### ACTRWC ROADWALKS, LAKE GINNINDERRA, CANBERRA, SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

Thanks to Val Chesterton for this week's results from Canberra.

#### 6km Walk

1.	Owen Toyne	32:49
2.	Kate Black	40:26
3.	Sidney Shaw	41:24
4.	Darcey Roberts	42:04
5.	Greg Durr	43:08
6.	Jim White	47:40
7.	Jennifer Gilchrist	48:22
8.	Rod Gilchrist	49:24
9.	Val Chesterton	53:24

#### 12km Walk

1.	John Kennedy	1:22:05
2.	Bob Parker	1:32:21
3.	Bryan Thomas	1:33:27
	Geoff Barker	DNF

#### 2km Walk

1.	Kodi Clarkson	09:54
2.	Jack Thackray	17:59
3.	Raine Thompson	19:34

**TRWC ROADWALKS, MONTROSE BAY FORESHORE, HOBART, SATURDAY 1 AUGUST**

Thanks to Wayne Fletcher for this week's results from Tasmania. He reports:

Today at Montrose Bay the walkers took to the foreshore course. With 17c and only a slight breeze it was a good day. It was even better as we had two new young girls turn up for their first road walk. **Lily Carr** and **Milah Hatten** completed a 1km. For the first 500m, **Alice Randall** walked with them, giving encouragement. Alice went on to do a 5k. **Anna Blackwell** started in the 5k but pull up sore after 3k, jogging the last 2k back to the finish line. **Eugene Gerlach** and **Gabby Hay** had a good battle in the 2.5k event. The old boys **Ron Foster** and **Wayne Fletcher** showed their energy does not go away when they competed in a 10k event. Wayne led Ron until the 4k mark when Ron took the lead. Wayne hung on but could not catch up, both doing a reasonable time for 70 year olds. Ron time broke Wayne's Master M70 record set 2 years ago.

**5km Walk**

1.	Alice Randall	29.37
	Anna Blackwell	DNF

**1km Walk**

1.	Lily Carr	8.37
2.	Milah Hatten	9.32

**10km Walk**

1.	Ron Foster	78.48
2.	Wayne Fletcher	82.31

**2.5km Walk**

1.	Eugene Gerlach	17.37
2.	Gabby Hay	18.04



*Ron Foster, Lilly Carr, Gabby Hunt and Eugene Gerlach in action on Saturday in Tasmania (photos from Rosemary Coleman)*

**SAMA ROADWALKS, BONYTHON PARK, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 1 AUGUST**

Thanks to Colin Hainsworth for this week's results from the South Australian Masters in Adelaide. He comments: Calm, sunny arvo. Good walking weather. Good result for **George White**.

**10km Walk**

1.	GEORGE WHITE	1:00:18	M75	<b>91.25%</b>
2.	DAVID ROBERTSON	1:28:14	M87	76.30%
3.	BRIAN WITTY	1:14:45	M69	68.00%
4.	GIL MCINTOSH	1:10:26	M70	73.07%
5.	MARIE MAXTED	1:10:35	W60	73.37%

**5km Walk**

1.	MIKE VOWLES	0:38:53	M76	69.72%
2.	LIZ NEUBAUER	0:41:37	W69	66.72%
3.	EDNA BATES	0:45:17	W67	59.61%
4.	TREVOR BROWN	0:36:45	M71	69.01%
5.	ROGER LOWE	0:40:28	M77	67.96%
6.	HELEN SURIDGE	0:39:45	W69	69.85%
7.	HELEN BOWEN	0:44:01	W68	62.19%
8.	RODGER BARBER	0:41:04	M82	72.32%
9.	CATHIE HORE	0:44:46	W69	62.02%

10. MARGARET MCINTOSH	0:41:16	W67	65.41%
11. VALMAI PADGET	0:42:18	W76	73.42%
12. JEFFREY KENNETT	0:56:08	M70	44.62%

#### WARWC ROADWALKS, SHELLEY, PERTH, SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

Thanks to Terry Jones for this week's results from Western Australia. It is great to see such good numbers racing each week.

##### 14km Handicap

1. Andrew Duncan	1:14:08
2. Ben Reid	1:17:34
3. Karyn Tolardo	1:32:08
4. Wendy Farrow	1:38:13
5. Victor Munoz	1:32:17

##### 10km Handicap

1. Brad Mann	57.27
2. Emily Bogaers	1:28.24
3. Marcela Ruiz	1:21.21
4. 5K Handicap	
5. Xavier Bernard	29.12
6. John Ronan	25.46
7. Ashlyn Spence	29.13
8. Sylvia Byers	46.23
9. Steve Travell	46.23

##### 3km Handicap

1. Riley Wood	16.19
2. Glenys Duncan	26.12

##### 1.5km Handicap

1. Layla Dabala	8.28
2. Luke Lawrence	8.29
3. Linkin Lawrence	9.53
4. Coral McCooey	13.17
5. Ella-Jayde Coleman	10.28
6. Kaytee Bogaers	8.00
7. Annabelle Van Sprengel	8.51
8. Lataya Lawrence	7.47
9. Gracie Dabala	9.27
10. Xavier Bernard	7.59
11. Ashlyn Spence	8.23
12. John Ronan	7.54

#### QRWC ROADWALKS, LOGAN RIVER PARKLANDS, BEENLEIGH, SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

Thanks to Robyn Wales for this week's results from Queensland. She reports: There were less people in attendance possibly due to covid outbreak not far away from the race location. It was a beautiful sunny day.

##### 10km Walk

1. Peter Bennett	1:07.48
1. Brenda Gannon	1:03.47
2. Jennifer Stuckey	1:08.55
3. Jasmine-Rose McRoberts	1:14.10
4. Noela McKinven	1:25.55

##### 5km Walk

1. Sam McCure	24.51
2. Alex Bradley	28.18
1. Jayda Anderson	24:39
2. Ashanti Heap	27.27
3. Lyla Williams	28.38
4. Summer Millard	30.00
5. Phoebe Chadwick	36.24

##### 3km Walk

1. Bailey Housden	14.43
2. Blake Gee	21.02
1. Tamika Gee	16.06
2. Destinee Pickvance	17.44

##### 1km Walk

E1. Knox Anderson	5:56
E1. Hunter Sibenaler	5:56
3. Noah Wheeley	6.23
1. Isabella Gee	5.44

#### GREEK U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS, LARISA, GREECE, 25-26 JULY

Thanks to Zoe Gkini for these results from Greece. The email came through just after I had sent out last week's newsletter, so apologies for the delay in reporting. Zoe explains:

The Greek U18 T&F Championships were held last weekend in the city of Larissa, some 350km north of Athens. The championships were the first large athletic event to be held in Greece in our current covid world. It was a very hot weekend, with the temperature around 38C each morning. **Anastasia Antonopoulou** (2004), the 2020 Balkans champion, won the women's 5000m walk with 24.40.74, just outside the 24:40 standard set for the European U18 Champs in Rieti. **Alexandros Mortzakis**, the 2019 Greek champion, won the men's 10,000m walk with 46.57.25. He has already qualified for Rieti. A very tough first race back for the youngsters, with conditions torrid.

##### 5000m U18 Women

1. ANTONOPOULOU ANASTASIA	16	IKAROS NEAS IONIAS	24.40.74
2. ARVANITAKOU CHRISANTHI	16	FOKIANOS KARDITSAS	26:10.68

3.	TSIMIGATOU MARIA MYRTO	15	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	26:19.21
4.	ADAMI ANNA	15	AW OLYMPIAS PATRAS	26:26.06
5.	VALIONTI SOFIA IOANNA	16	ATHLOKINISI MYTILINI	26:46.78
6.	PALMOU MALENA IRENE	16	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	26:58.64
7.	PAPA KIRIAKI	17	IKAROS NEAS IONIAS	27:06.02
8.	TZATIMAKI VASILIKI	17	IKAROS NEAS IONIAS	27:34.47
9.	THEODOSIOU MARIA	17	ARION MYTILINI	27:53.12
10.	TZIMA, AGGELIKI	15	VIKELAS VERIAS	28:19.05
11.	PAPASTAMATIOU MARGARITA	15	THERSIPOS PERISTERIOU	29:02.63
	FLOROU PANAGIOTA	17	FOKIANOS KARDITSAS	DNF

#### 10,000m U18 Men

1.	MORTZAKIS ALEXANDROS	17	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	46:57.25
2.	MPACHOS ANDREAS ELEFTERIOS	17	ATHINODOROS AEGIEFS	47:09.43
3.	MPOUSDAS ARISTOTELIS	17	FOKIANOS KARDITSAS	48:22.17
4.	VOUGIOUKAS STYLIANOS	17	AO ARISVEOS	49:06.10
5.	PAPASTERGIOU ANDREAS	17	EA PIGASOS LARISAS	49:23.59
6.	KEEPOURIS MICHAEL	17	VIKELAS VERIAS	49:29.78
7.	KPITOULIS GEORGIOS	16	EFIVOS CHIOS	52:22.42
8.	MAGALOS PERIKLIS	17	OLYMPIAS PATRAS	54:44.47
9.	KONIDARIS DIMITRIOS	15	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	



*Alexandros Mortzakis*



*Anastasia Antonopoulou*



*Men,'s podium finishers in action*



*Part of the U19 women's field (all photos Zoe Gkini)*

## FRENCH ROUNDUP

Thanks to Emmanuel Tardi for his reports from French racewalks held last week in Poitiers and Balma, as part of T&F meets in those two cities.

### T&F Meeting, Poitiers, France, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July

First to Poitiers where local walkers **Maxime Faiteau** and **Laury Cerantola** easily won their respective 3000m track walks.

#### 3000m Women

1.	CERANTOLA Laury	SEF/92	Entente Poitiers Athle 86	14:13.06
2.	BERTON Laurence	VEF/76	Sa Fontenay-le-comte	16:42.25
3.	GIRAUD Line	VEF/72	Sa Fontenay-le-comte	19:04.86

#### 3000m Men

1.	FAITEAU Maxime	SEM/90	Entente Poitiers Athle 86	13:38.84
2.	MARTEAU Mael	JUM/01	Sa Fontenay-le-comte	15:22.12
3.	FRITSCH Serge	VEM/64	Sa Fontenay-le-comte	16:28.00
4.	LEPREUX Thomas	ESM/98	Sa Fontenay-le-comte	18:15.69



*Maxime Faiteau leads Laury Cerantola in Poitiers (photo sent by Emmanuel Tardi)*

### T&F Meeting, Balma, France, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July

Next to Balma, a suburb of Toulouse, where Emmanuel was judging last Thursday evening. It was a super hot day with the temperature peaking around 40° but, by the time the 5000m walks started at 8:45PM, it had dropped to 33°. Local walker **Kyrian Vallée** led for most of the race before junior **Martin Madeline-Degy** passed him, winning with a time of 21:45.12. **Elisabeth Brunet** walked strongly to win the women's race with 24:40. Her next goal is to walk a strong 50km in Tilburg on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Photo gallery at [https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPrujNM0UNOfpESpiwkGnxiTv\\_o1MnFA5mZxD\\_8XvP7ZALVpaqQ3NEIE18IA2lyw?pli=1&key=MzF1ZUc1MHUxQTNzUjJjWmhtSEtCTVVFWm15RG5B](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPrujNM0UNOfpESpiwkGnxiTv_o1MnFA5mZxD_8XvP7ZALVpaqQ3NEIE18IA2lyw?pli=1&key=MzF1ZUc1MHUxQTNzUjJjWmhtSEtCTVVFWm15RG5B)

#### 5000m Men

1.	MADELINE-DEGY Martin	JUM/01	Ecla Albi	21:45.12
2.	VALLEE Kyrian	SEM/94	Ca Balma	21:54.87
3.	RODRIGUEZ Remi	SEM/89	Ca Balma	22:06.51
4.	GLOAGUEN Thomas	SEM/96	Aix Athle Provence	22:48.63
5.	DURAND-PICHARD David	VEM/72	Athlétisme Metz Métropole	25:37.62
6.	CUTILLAS Sylvain	SEM/87	Ca Balma	27:12.98
7.	PATIN John	VEM/60	Athletic Club Salonais	29:30.00
8.	FARAGO Bela	VEM/48	Ecla Albi	31:37.38
9.	LAFFONT Daniel	VEM/53	Ca Balma	31:47.86
10.	LASSUS Marc	VEM/50	Us Bazas	32:52.23
11.	SEN Gerard	VEM/48	Us Bazas	35:01.44
12.	JORDANA Alexis	VEM/37	Blagnac Sc	35:27.44

### 5000m Women

1.	BRUNET Elisabeth	SEF/86	Tarbes Pyrénées Athlétisme	24:40.87
2.	CHAPILLON Roseline	VEF/68	Ca Balma	26:25.22
3.	SANIEZ Zelie	CAF/04	Us Talence	29:56.05
4.	LANASPEZE Christel	VEF/70	Athlé 632	31:58.35
5.	SEN Lucie	VEF/50	Us Bazas	35:30.00
6.	LABRUE Sarah	VEF/84	Blagnac Sc	37:43.40
	ORTIZ Mylene	VEF/79	Us Tourcoing	DNF

Judges : Emmanuel Tardi, Patrice Brochot, Emilie Bessas, Eric Bouviala and Steve Gilbert



5000m walkers in Balma: Kyrian Vallee, Martin Madeline-Degy and Elizabeth Brunet



Emmanuel Tardi (centre) with the Balma judging panel

## MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 8 press releases for us this week

- Sun 2 Aug - Results of Budapest Open track walks  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3833](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3833)



- Sat 1 Aug - Stats update: All Italian medals in the important international events 1912-2019  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3832](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3832)
- Fri 31 Jul - World Athletics date changes and rescheduling for major meets  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3831](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3831)
- Wed 29 Jul - Jinzhou (CHN): Victories of Wang Kaihua, Sun Song e Yang Jiayu  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3830](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3830)
- Tue 28 Jul - From 1.9.2020 the qualification system for the Olympic Games changes  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3829](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3829)
- Tue 28 Jul - Larisa (GRE): Greek U18 National Championships  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3828](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3828)
- Mon 27 Jul - Budapest (HUN): Bence Venyercsan and Viktoria Madarasz win the 36th Hungarian Cup  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3827](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3827)
- Tue 28 Jul - Ostia (ITA): A beautiful and complete 20km test  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3826](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3826)

while Omarchador has a whopping 14 press releases.

- Sun 2 Aug - Results of the XII Mitin Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain)  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/08/a-marcha-no-xii-mitin-santa-cruz-de.html>
- Sat 1 Aug - Preview of Portuguese U18 and U20 National Championships  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/08/campeonatos-nacionais-sub-18-e-sub-20.html>
- Sat 1 Aug - World Athletics major date changes  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/08/world-athletics-indica-nova-data-para-o.html>
- Fri 31 Jul - Madarász and Venyercsán win walks in the 2020 Honvéd Cup (Budapest, Hungary)  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/madarasz-e-venyercsan-vencem-marcha-na.html>
- Fri 31 Jul - The return to competition in Greece  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/o-retorno-as-competicoes-na-grecia.html>
- Thu 30 Jul - Llopart brought the first Olympic medal in athletics to Spain 40 years ago  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/ha-40-anos-llopart-trazia-para-espanha.html>
- Thu 30 Jul - Robert Korzeniowski on his birthday  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/robert-korzeniowski-no-dia-do-seu.html>
- Thu 30 Jul - Úradník and Czaková win in the second round of clubs in Slovakia  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/uradnik-e-czakova-vencem-na-segunda.html>
- Wed 29 Jul - Jiayu Yang wins Jinzhou Cup 20km walk  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/jiayu-yang-venceu-os-20-km-marcha-de.html>
- Wed 29 Jul - Kaihua Wang and Song Sun win in the 20km and 35km walks in Jinzhou (China)  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/kaihua-wang-e-song-sun-vencem-nos-20-e.html>
- Tue 28 Jul - Qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics re-commences on September 1  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/marcha-com-qualificacao-direta-para.html>
- Tue 28 Jul - Elite Chinese athletes compete tomorrow in Jinzhou  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/atletas-chineses-de-elite-competem.html>
- Mon 27 Jul - Sofia Avoila's gold medal 25 years ago  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/medalha-de-ouro-de-sofia-avoila-foi-ha.html>
- Mon 27 Jul - China 2020 tour canceled  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/tour-da-china-2020-cancelado.html>

## OUT AND ABOUT

- Not officially announced yet, but the word is that the electronic shoe has been dropped by IAAF because of the development costs. Yeh sure! I believe the real reason is that they could not work out a proper set of criteria under which it could work. Another failure for the now disbanded IAAF Race Walking Committee. Read how the project limped slowly along before finally dying of natural causes: <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwcWARules2.shtml>.
- Not officially announced as yet but the Birmingham Commonwealth Games racewalks in 2022 are expected to host 10,000m track walks. Gosh, don't people study history nowadays! The 10,000m Track Walk was dropped from the Olympics after the 1952 Games and replaced with the 20km, specifically because it was impossible to judge properly and consistently over such a short distance race. When the IAAF recently talked about replacing the 20k/50k with possibilities including a 10,000m track walk, it was based on the premise of electronic shoes. With the electronic shoe now gone for good, why is the Commonwealth Games Assn mandating a 10,000m walk to be scheduled. Don't they talk to anyone!
- World Athletics will push for cross country to return to the Olympics in the form of a mixed relay (2 men and 2 women) at the 2024 Games in Paris. I'm sorry but I feel that every additional team sport added to the Olympics detracts from the original concept which was an individual striving according to the Olympic motto "*Citius, Altius, Fortius*". Now it's more about corporate sponsorship and commercialisation and medal counts per country. This is just one more step in that adulterated direction. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096852/world-athletics-cross-country-paris-2024>
- Following the completion of the 2019/20 Summer Season, Athletics Victoria has recognised the achievements of Victorian T&F athletes. In doing so, a new awards series has been established to acknowledge those athletes who display athletic excellence in their pursuit of a Victorian T&F Championship. Athletics Well done to **Jemima Montag** (Melbourne University Athletics Club), who is the winner of the Open Female category! With a performance of 21:34.19 in the Open Women's 5000m Walk at the 2020 Victorian T&F Championships, Jemima earned 1104 points using the IAAF scoring tables.



- And talking of accolades, last week's Athletics Victoria AGM saw the awarding of AV Life Membership to Diamond Valley walker **David Armstrong** (the brains behind athsvic TV and the AVSL points system, amongst other things) . Well done David – well deserved!
- FIFA's reputation was dealt another blow as it emerged president Gianni Infantino faces a criminal inquiry into a secret meetings he held with the Swiss lawyer in charge of investigating corruption after Sepp Blatter's departure. Infantino's involvement in FIFA's attempts to restore credibility after Blatter has been called into question before. In 2017, the president ensured that the chairmen of the organisation's investigatory and judicial committees — Hans-Joachim Eckert and Cornel Borbély — were removed from their posts. This latest scandal ups the ante considerably. See <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-8576517/FIFA-President-Gianni-Infantino-criminal-proceedings-launched-against-Switzerland.html>.
- No Russian athletes should be allowed to take part in the postponed Tokyo Olympics next year, says former doping mastermind turned whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov. The architect of the country's infamous state-sponsored doping scandal told BBC Sport the country had not changed despite being banned from all major sporting events for four years in December for manipulating laboratory data. See <https://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/53546107>.

- News item from last Tuesday - Five days after USA Major League Baseball (MLB) began its attempt to stage a season amid the coronavirus pandemic, its plan was thrown into turmoil following an outbreak of positive tests on the Miami Marlins. An ESPN tweet says that the total number of cases in recent days is at least 14. What makes Baseball so susceptible to Covid – the players share equipment, throw the ball to each other and share spaces such as the locker room, bus and dugout. See <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2020/07/27/covid-19-coronavirus-outbreak-among-miami-marlins-postpones-their-baseball-home-opener/#12433012524c>.
- And it did not take long for that story to develop. By the weekend, new cases among the MLB's St. Louis Cardinals on Friday created an additional crisis and raised new questions about the season's viability amid a pandemic. See <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=mlb+baseball&atb=v157-1&ia=web>
- Let's see how many sports at the Tokyo Olympics involve balls or batons being passed from player to player: soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, badminton, volleyball, beach volleyball, hockey, water polo, basketball (5x5 and 3x3), handball, rugby, table tennis and athletics relays (batons); not to mention close contact sports such as boxing, wrestling, fencing, judo, taekwondo, and karate. Who knows what the safety factor is of all the swimming in close quarters? In other words, this does not leave much untouched. Paris 2024? Maybe ... if the IOC survives.
- Google has announced that it will keep its employees home until at least next July, making the search-engine giant the first major U.S. corporation to formalize such an extended timetable in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. The decision to extend the remote work policy well into next year indicates that one of the largest tech companies in the world is hunkering down for an extended pandemic. This brings next year's Olympics into focus once again - it is scheduled for July! See <https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-to-keep-employees-home-until-summer-2021-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-11595854201?mod=djemalertNEWS>.
- In a worrying development for elite athletes, Boston Red Sox pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez will miss the rest of the season as he recovers from a heart issue. Rodriguez has been diagnosed with myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart that the team believes is a result of the left-hander's recent bout with the coronavirus. He tested positive for COVID-19 before the start of summer camp. While he was cleared and returned to workouts on July 18, he was shut down a week later after an MRI revealed his ailment. See [https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/29579222/boston-red-sox-pitcher-eduardo-rodriguez-done-season-due-heart-issue](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/29579222/boston-red-sox-pitcher-eduardo-rodriguez-done-season-due-heart-issue).
- World Athletics will lift the suspension of the Tokyo Olympic qualification system for the marathon and race walk events from 1 September 2020, due to concerns over the lack of qualifying opportunities that may be available for road athletes before the qualification period finishes on 31 May 2021. The original suspension period, from 6 April to 30 November 2020, was introduced due to the competition and training disruption caused by the global pandemic, and remains in place for all other track and field events. See <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-releases/shoe-technology-rules-tokyo-qualification-roa>.
- South African 400m world record holder Wayde van Niekerk has tested positive for COVID-19 while training at his European residence in Gemona in Italy. In the Olympic final at Rio 2016, Van Niekerk ran the fastest time in history - 43.03sec. Van Niekerk is the most high-profile figure in athletics to contract the virus to date. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096901/wayde-van-niekerk-coronavirus>.
- Moroccan marathon runner El Mahjoub Dazza has been banned by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for four years after testing positive for a prohibited substance. Dazza, who set a national record of 2 hours 5min 26sec at the 2018 Valencia Marathon, won the Prague Marathon and Fukuoka Marathon last year before an AIU investigation found anomalies in his Athlete Biological Passport (ABP). See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096904/el-mahjoub-dazza-doping-aiu>.
- Kevin Castille, a former crack cocaine dealer who went on to hit the headlines as a masters world record holder, has received a four-year doping ban. Castille, a high school runner who was jailed in 2001 aged 29 for selling crack cocaine, became one of the most inspiring stories in running as he competed in the US Olympic trials and set numerous age-best world records. He is on the list of doping violations issued for July by the Athletics Integrity Unit after testing positive for the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone at the USATF Masters 10K Championships in Dedham, Massachusetts on April 28 last year, which he won by 90 seconds in 30min 47sec. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096920/kevin-castille-four-year-ban-us-masters>.
- World Athletics is working on contingency plans for a 2021 season where competition continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in a similar way as 2020. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096862/world-athletics-2021-season-covid-plan>.

#### WORLD ATHLETICS MAJOR DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The World Athletics Council has approved new dates for a number of major events impacted by COVID, as per an announcement last week at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-release/new-dates-world-u20-championships> .

- **The World U20 Championships** will now be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 22 August, 2021, one week after the Tokyo Olympic Games. Under the competition's rules, athletes aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 years on 31 December, 2021 will be

eligible to compete. That means that athletes who were 19 in 2020, when the event was to be held, now miss out altogether. What a bummer for them!

- **The World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships** have been rescheduled for 23-24 April 2022 in Minsk, Belarus. This is word semantics. What it really means is that the 2020 Race Walking Team Championships have been cancelled, and the next scheduled ones in 2022 will take place in Belarus. Why don't they tell it like it is!
- **The 2020 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships** in Yangzhou have had a small date change, moving back one week, from 20 March, 2022, to 27 March 2022.

Also, the 2021 World Cross Country Championships now look likely to be effected also.

- Bathurst, in Australia, host of next year's World Athletics Cross Country Championships, has requested a postponement from the current scheduled date of March 20 because of travel restrictions currently in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096826/world-athletics-council-bathurst-covid>.

#### AUSTRALIAN 20KM / 50KM RANKINGS

Here's a statistic I try to keep up to date – the best Australian 20km / 50km doubles, as per the IAAF Point Scoring Tables. All points are taken from the 2017 tables. As expected, Nathan Deakes and Jared Tallent top the list.

RANK	NAME	STATE	DOB	50KM TIME	IAAF POINTS	20KM TIME	IAAF POINTS	TOTAL
1	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17/08/1977	3:35:47	1249	1:17.33	1245	2494
2	Jared Tallent	VIC	17/01/1984	3:36:53	1243	1:19.15	1207	2450
3	Luke Adams	NSW	22/10/1976	3:43:39	1201	1:19.15	1207	2408
4	Simon Baker	VIC	06/02/1958	3:43:13	1204	1:21.19	1163	2367
5	Dion Russell	VIC	08/05/1975	3:47:34	1178	1:20.49	1174	2352
6	Willi Sawall	VIC	07/11/1941	3:46:34	1184	1:21.36	1157	2341
7	Rhydian Cowley	VIC	01/04/1991	3:52:58	1145	1:20.19	1184	2329
8	Andrew Jachno	VIC	13/04/1962	3:53:23	1143	1:20.43	1176	2319
9	Chris Erickson	VIC	01/12/1981	3:48:40	1171	1:22.08	1145	2316
10	Adam Rutter	NSW	24/12/1986	3:52:49	1146	1:21.49	1152	2298
11	Duane Cousins	VIC	13/07/1973	3:53:19	1143	1:24.20	1099	2242
12	Liam Murphy	SA	05/06/1979	3:54:37	1136	1:24.11	1102	2238
13	Ian Rayson	NSW	04/02/1988	3:55:17	1132	1:24.25	1097	2229
14	Brendon Reading	ACT	26-01-1989	3:55:03	1133	1:24.37	1093	2226
15	Darren Bown	SA	03/06/1974	3:55:05	1133	1:24.56	1087	2220
16	Michael Harvey	VIC	05/12/1962	3:57:20	1120	1:25.34	1074	2194
17	Dominic McGrath	VIC	04/06/1972	3:57:51	1117	1:27.19	1038	2155
18	Tim Erickson	VIC	23/11/1950	4:03:17	1085	1:27.12	1040	2125
19	Craig Brill	VIC	10/11/1967	4:00:21	1102	1:29.23	997	2099
20	Dariusz Wojcik	VIC	24/09/1959	3:58:30	1113	1:31.00	965	2078

#### AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1981 - 1984

My next review follows on from my previous articles which have detailed the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1980.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1961-1966.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1967-1970.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1971-1976.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1977-1980.pdf](#)

Australian sport marked a significant milestone on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1981, with the official opening of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra. The need for such an establishment had been discussed in the early 1970s but the concept came of age in 1976 when the Australian Olympic team failed to win a gold medal at the Montreal Olympics, something which was regarded as a national embarrassment for Australia.

Athletics was one of the 8 founding sports when the residential program was setup to attract top athletes to Canberra. Racewalkers Sue Cook and Anne Miller were included in the initial Track & Field scholarship intake, with Sue's husband Bruce as the AIS walks coach for the first 2 years, before Craig Hilliard took over the coaching mantle.

For a period of 32 years, from 1981 to 2012, the AIS was a strong supporter of walking in Australia via its scholarship program and many Australian walkers benefited from it. The Institute's well-funded program has been regarded as a major reason for Australia's recent success in international sporting competitions.

### New Zealand Games

#### Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 1981 - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 1981

An invitation had been issued for Australia to send 3 walkers to compete in a New Zealand Games 20km roadwalk, held in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Conference Games in Christchurch on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Willi Sawall, David Smith and Tim Erickson were initially selected. Sawall was an eventual scratching, due to injury, so Bill Dyer was selected in his place.

The race, which was held on a block course near the Queen Elizabeth II Park in Christchurch, saw **David Smith** go in as a firm favourite and he was untroubled in winning with 1:26:16, ahead of **Tim Erickson** with 1:28:59 and **Michael Parker** with 1:31:26.

NZ Games 20km Walk, Christchurch, Sunday 1 Feb 1981			
1.	David Smith	AUS	1:26:15.6
2.	Tim Erickson	AUS	1:28:58.4
3.	Michael Parker	NZL	1:31:25.3
4.	Graham Seater	NZL	1:34:53.9
5.	Bill Dyer	AUS	1:37:21.5

### Australian Track & Field Championships 1980-81

#### Olympic Park Sports Field, Adelaide, SA, 19-22 March 1981

The 1981 Australian T&F Championship 3000m track walk looked an interesting one on paper. **David Smith** had won the Victorian title with 11:49, ahead of **Willi Sawall** who was second with 12:01, while **Tim Erickson**, who had suffered a race disqualification, had also been in fine form, recording summer PBs of 5:36 (1500m), 11:53 (3000m) and 1:27:12 (20km). Smith had followed this win with a new Australian 3000m track walk record of 11:11.5 in the annual Alcoa Meet in Sydney in early March.

Brimming with confidence, Smith went straight to the lead in the National 3000m walk and was still in front with 2 laps to go when disqualified. He stormed off the track before the chief judge could serve the disqualification, took off his Victorian singlet and threw it on the ground in a show of disgust, then promptly accused one of the judges of having a person vendetta against him. His actions were referred to the Victorian team management and it looked likely at one stage that disciplinary action might be taken against him.

With Smith removing himself from the track, the gold was gifted to **Willi Sawall** who won his fifth straight National T&F walk title with a time of 11:49.80, ahead of **Tim Erickson** and **Michael Woods**.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 22 March 1981			
1	Willi Sawall	VIC	11:49.80
2	Tim Erickson	VIC	12:13.73
3	Michael Woods	NSW	12:29.37
4	Alan Muir	NSW	12:36.46
5	Mark Wall	VIC	12:44.45
6	Duncan Knox	VIC	12:48.59
7	Bruce Cook	VIC	13:04.53
8	Rod Huxley	NSW	13:13.85
9	Barrie Birtchnell	VIC	13:38.62
-	Bill Dyer	VIC	DQ (13.01.90)
-	David Smith	VIC	DQ

While Willi Sawall and David Smith lined up for the winter season, Tim Erickson was a notable absentee, walking away from the sport and announcing that he had had enough. It seemed that his cut from the 1080 Olympic team had taken a toll on him. He spent the next few months doing the fun run circuit (fun runs were huge at that time, with events scheduled literally every weekend), and it was not until late May that he finally turned his mind again to racewalking. After a couple of low key races at Albert Park, he joined the fray in the LBG Carnival.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

#### Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1981

The LBG Carnival continued to grow in popularity, with the Women's 5km walk attracting a record 52 entrants and the Men's 20 Mile attracting its usual big field of nearly 40 entrants. **Willi Sawall** continued his domination with yet another superb time of 2:22:04, ahead of **Tim Erickson** who walked 2:27:23 for second. A young **Bill Dyer** showed great maturity to take third with his own sub

2:40:00 walk. Victorian women **Shiela Miller** and **Marlaine Stanway** both started the 20 mile event but only Shiela completed the event. Her time was an excellent 3:14:08. **David Smith** was a DNF, obviously not ready yet for the longer distances.

<b>LBG Carnival 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 7 June 1981</b>			
1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	2:22:14
2.	Tim Erickson	VIC	2:27:23
3.	Bill Dyer	VIC	2:39:56
4.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:44:13
5.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:45:48
6.	John Sheard	VIC	2:47:45
7.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:50:14
8.	John Smith	NSW	2:51:11
9.	Colin Donald	VIC	2:51:37
10.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:51:54
11.	Duncan Knox	VIC	2:53:02
12.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:53:40
13.	Mark Wall	VIC	2:55:23
14.	Ian Jack	VIC	2:56:35
15.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	2:57:51
16.	David Cash	VIC	2:59:04
17.	John Cust	VIC	3:05:13
18.	Bruce Cook	ACT	3:07:12
19.	Peter McCullagh	ACT	3:09:37
20.	Claude Martin	VIC	3:10:18
21.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:10:18
22.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	3:12:02
23.	Roy McFadden	SA	3:13:16
24.	Shiela Miller (F)	VIC	3:14:08
25.	Alan Hancock	NSW	3:14:47
26.	William Cook	QLD	3:17:23
27.	Fred Sawyer	NSW	3:18:56
28.	L Alderton	NSW	3:19:42
29.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:26:41
30.	Bill Gould	ACT	3:27:03
31.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:27:18
32.	Ron Whitham	NSW	3:31:40
33.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:37:50
34.	Bill Starr	SA	3:43:49
35.	Tony Michelson	NSW	3:52:04
36.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:54:10
-	Barry Birtchenell	VIC	DNF
-	David Smith	VIC	DNF
-	Marlaine Stanway (F)	VIC	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	Willi Sawall, Tim Erickson, Bill Dyer	
2.	NSW	Keith Knox, Rod Huxley, John Smith	
3.	VIC No 2	Clarrie Jack, Colin Donald, Harry Summers	

The 1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup was to be held in Valencia in Spain on 3-4 October, with the men to contest the usual 20km and 50km (billed as the Lugano Cup) and the women to contest 5km (separately billed as the Eschborn Cup). The Australian trial dates were set for July 1981 and, after the great first up World Cup performances in 1979, there were high expectations.

#### **1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup - Australian 20km trial West Lakes, Adelaide, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 1981**

The first trial was the men's 20km, set for Adelaide on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1981. **David Smith** and **Willi Sawall** stormed away from the rest of the field and battled side by side for most of the race. Smith had done a Commonwealth best of 1:21:39 in May and eventually broke away to win the trial, recording 1:23:31 as against Sawall's time of 1:25:56 (a PB at 39 years of age!). 20 year old **Bill Dyer** and 18 year old **Michael Harvey** were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively and were obviously going to be in contention for spots in the final team, as was **Tim Erickson** who finished 4<sup>th</sup> with 1:32:58. **Keith Knox** of NSW finished 6<sup>th</sup> in 1:34:47 but was subsequently disqualified. However, luck was on his side because, when the selectors finally met after all the trials had been completed, he found himself one of the four walkers selected in the 20km team. The fact that 9 of the first 10 places in the trial were Victorian indicated the depth of the sport in that State and the dearth in the other States.

IAAF RW Cup 20km Trial, Adelaide, Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 1981			
1.	David Smith	VIC	1:23:31
2.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:23:56
3.	Bill Dyer	VIC	1:32:24
4.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:32:58
5.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:33:32
6.	Peter Fullager	SA	1:35:39
7.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:35:45
8.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:36:43
9.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:38:09
10.	John Sheard	VIC	1:39:04
-	David Cash	VIC	DQ
-	Barrie Birthnell	VIC	DQ
-	Mark Wall	VIC	DQ
-	Keith Knox	NSW	DQ
-	Ian Jack	VIC	DQ

**1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup - Australian 50km and 5km trials and Australian Championships  
Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 1981**

The men's 50km and women's 5km trials were held 2 weeks later at Fisherman's Bend in Melbourne, as part of the Australian Roadwalk Championships. As usual over the longer distance, Willi **Sawall** was in a class of his own, winning in 3:53:55 although complaining of hamstring trouble. **Tim Erickson**, who had been expected to feature highly, was a surprise retirement at the 7.5km mark. This left **Peter Fullager** comfortably holding second spot until bad blisters forced him to retire at around the 35km mark. But he had done enough to satisfy the selectors and was subsequently selected in the 50km team. The lack of real depth in this event was seen in the fact that the eventual second place was 35 minutes behind the winner, recording 4:29:16. **Harry Summers**, at 46 years of age, took 3<sup>rd</sup>, a bare 3 seconds ahead of **Keith Knox**, and hence found himself in his first Australian team after 25 years of trying. He rated this selection as the "*personal highlight of my career*". At 46 years of age, he was the oldest athlete ever to represent Australia. He had finally gained his first international selection after 29 years of competitive walking.

IAAF RW Cup 50km Trial, Adelaide, Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 1981			
1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	3:53:55
2.	John Sheard	VIC	4:29:16
3.	Harry Summers	VIC	4:33:11
4.	Keith Knox	NSW	4:33:14
5.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	4:39:20
6.	Terry Jones	WA	4:47:21
7.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	4:48:52
8.	Frank Overton	NSW	5:07:09
9.	Alan Hancock	NSW	5:13:01
10.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	5:31:24
-	Peter Fullager	SA	DNF
-	Tim Erickson	VIC	DNF

Teams 1. VIC 6 2. NSW 15

The women's 5km trial was a more straight forward affair. **Sue Cook**, **Sally Pierson** and **Lorraine Young**, who had all repped in 1979, were once again to the fore, with young NSW walker **Ann Ryan** picking up the all important 4<sup>th</sup> spot. The results for the first 4 determined the team makeup

IAAF RW Cup 5km Trial, Adelaide, Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 1981			
1.	Sue Cook	VIC	22:58
2.	Sally Pierson	VIC	23:04
3.	Lorraine Young	VIC	24:14
4.	Ann Ryan	NSW	? (check AA books)

With Tim Erickson still ambivalent about the sport and declaring himself unavailable, the selectors simply worked their way down the trial results and named the following teams

20km:	David Smith (VIC)	Bill Dyer (VIC)	Michael Harvey (VIC)	Keith Knox(NSW)
50km:	Willi Sawall (VIC)	John Sheard (VIC)	Harry Summers (VIC)	Peter Fullager (SA)
5km:	Sue Cook (VIC)	Sally Pierson (VIC)	Lorraine Young, (VIC)	Anne Ryan (NSW)

Erickson disappeared from the local walking scene once again, returning to the Victorian fun run circuit.

## The European Zone Qualifiers

Most Europeans had an even tougher path to Valencia. Not only did they have to make their own national teams. They also had to participate in preliminary rounds, based on 3 regional zones. The first 2 countries from each zone were to go through to the final where they would meet Mexico, the Soviet Republic, East Germany, Italy, USA, Canada, Australia, China and Spain, the host country.

The results of the zone qualifiers were as shown below but that hardly does justice to the efforts put in by Norway to secure second spot in zone 2. Their top three walkers, Erling Andersson, Lars Ove Moen and Tore Stromoy, walked the 50km event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and then walked the 20km event on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Andersson's individual effort was truly amazing – first he won the 50km event in 4:05:23 and then, after a break of only 15 hours, he shared the lead in the 20km event for most of the race, only fading in the final few kilometres to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1:28:33.

Zone 1: St. Aubin-les-Elbeuf, France	05-06/09/81	FRA 77, SWE 75, SUI 39, NED 27, BEL 24
Zone 2: Helsinki, Finland	29-30/08/81	GBR 49, NOR 44, FRG 37, FIN 28
Zone 3: Zolnik, Hungary	29-30/08/81	TCH 73, POL 64, HUN 56, GRE 23, AUT 14

The makeup of the final was now decided – the participating countries would be MEX, URS, GDR, ITA, USA, CAN, AUS, CHN, ESP, FRA, SWE, GBR, NOR, TCH and POL – 15 in total.

## Federation Carnival, including Alexander Cup 20km Davies Park, Brisbane, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 1981

Alas, another carnival for which results are limited. Luckily, I found Bert Gardiner's handwritten note with the results of the Alexander Cup 20km (see below). The VAWC Annual Report for the 1980/1981 Year, indicates that, due to the distance, cost and the impending trip to Spain, none of the the top Victorians attended. In fact, very few Victorians attended overall, mainly for the same reasons, and only one VAWC senior competitor travelled to Brisbane at all to compete in the 20km. The report continues:

The setup of Federation events, I feel, should be revised. To start with, a few years ago the events were transferred from the May School holidays to August. I think this has ruined the value of the events to senior competitors, who previously may have been able to use the events as a buildup to other events during the winter. It has also changed things for some under 20 and under 17 competitors who are reluctant to travel interstate in August as they are concentrating on studies. Besides, the season is over by the end of August, and most walkers are having a let-down before starting the inter-club season. Also the schedule of events leaves something to be desired. Very few senior walkers to whom I have spoken would travel interstate to compete in a 10km event, particularly in August. However, they would be happy to go interstate to compete in a 20km in May.

### Alexander Cup 20km, Brisbane, Saturday 29 August 1981

1.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:38:57.6
2.	Michael DeClifford	ACT	1:40:11.8
3.	John Harris	QLD	1:40:38.8
4.	Greg Rowe	NSW	1:41:51
5.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:44:26
6.	Robin Whyte	ACT	1:44:26
7.	Bruce Cook	QLD	1:49:03
8.	Paul Lilley	NSW	1:55:39
9.	William Cook	QLD	1:55:26
10.	D. Savage	NSW	1:56:19
11.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:57:23
12.	Graeme Strachan	NSW	1:58:32
13.	M.Truswell	NSW	1:59:11
14.	Peter Waddell	ACT	2:00:13
15.	John Tormey	QLD	2:03:55
16.	Tony Andrews	ACT	2:05:08
17.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	2:07:44
18.	Noel Philpott	VIC	2:10:43
19.	Keith Heness	QLD	2:11:51
22.	Reg Tarte	NSW	2:12:06
23.	K or P Davis	QLD	2:19:29
24.	Tony Michelson	NSW	2:21:45

### Teams

1.	NSW 10	2. QLD 18	3. ACT 22
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**1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup  
Valencia, Spain, 3-4 October 1981**

Now onto the 1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup which was the last major meet for the year for Australian walkers.

Weather conditions were hot and windy on the first day of competition in Valencia so definitely not conducive to fast times. The women's 5km led off on the Saturday morning, with **Sally Pierson** (still only 18 years old) and **Sue Cook** walking superbly for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places respectively. Both had beaten 23 minutes regularly in the leadup to the event and Australians had perhaps expected even greater things but the world stage is a tough arena. **Lorraine Young** collapsed from heat exhaustion in the last 100m when in 15<sup>th</sup> spot, but **Ann Ryan** held on well behind her to come 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 finishers. The relatively high positions of the first 3 Australians meant that they took third behind the Soviets (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) and Sweden (1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) in the Teams event, one place better than their fourth in the Teams in 1979.

<b>Eschborn Cup 5km walk for Women, Saturday 3 October 1981</b>			
1.	Siw Gustavsson	SWE	22:56.0
2.	Aleksandra Deverinskaya	URS	23:17.2
3.	Lyudmila Khrustyeva	URS	23:25.4
	...		
<b>6.</b>	<b>Sally Pierson</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>23:51.3</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Sue Cook</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>24:04.9</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Ann Ryan</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>25:14.2</b>
-	<b>Lorraine Young</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DNF</b>

The men's 20km was held later in the day and, although the weather was very hot at the start, the temperature dropped a few degrees in the last half hour as the sun went down. Times were slow overall as a war of attrition was waged at the front. The one Australian who might have been able to challenge, **David Smith**, retired at the half way mark with stomach cramps and that left the other 3 Australians on their own further back in the field. **Bill Dyer** reproduced another 1:32 minute walk to finish 29<sup>th</sup> out of the 59 starters but **Keith Knox** and **Michael Harvey** struggled in the conditions and finished well back. Little did anyone think that the inauspicious last place for a young Michael Harvey would be the start of an international career which would see him participate in a record 10 World Cups. The Australians were off to the worst possible start in the men's Team Event with 15 points and in dead last place.

<b>Lugano Cup 20km walk for Men, Saturday 3 October 1981</b>			
1.	Ernesto Canto	MEX	1:23:52
2.	Roland Weiser	GDR	1:24:12
3.	Alessandro Pezzatini	ITA	1:24:24
	...		
<b>29.</b>	<b>Bill Dyer</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:32:52</b>
<b>41.</b>	<b>Keith Knox</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:37:41</b>
<b>49.</b>	<b>Mike Harvey</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:46:17</b>
-	<b>David Smith</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DNF</b>

The men's 50km was held on the Sunday morning, with conditions warm at the start and becoming hotter as the morning progressed. The combination of heat, wind and changing surfaces caused a large number of retirements and saw only 6 walkers finishing under 4 hours, compared to 20 in 1979. **Willi Sawall** was troubled by the changing surfaces and retired at the 35km mark with shin soreness, while in 12<sup>th</sup> place. As with David Smith in the 20km event, Australia had lost its top gun. When **Peter Fullager** was disqualified, things went from bad to worse and it was left to **John Sheard** and **Harry Summers** to claw back a bit of honour with their finishes. We were one of a number of countries to suffer in this way and ended up in 11<sup>th</sup> place in the 50 km Teams event.

<b>Lugano Cup 50km walk for Men, Sunday 4 October 1981</b>			
1.	Raul Gonzales	MEX	3:48:30
2.	Hartwig Gauder	GDR	3:52:18
3.	Sandro Bellucci	ITA	3:54:57
	...		
<b>33</b>	<b>John Sheard</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>4:38:48</b>
<b>38.</b>	<b>Harry Summers</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>4:43:43</b>
-	<b>Peter Fullager</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DQ</b>
-	<b>Willi Sawall</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DNF</b>

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1981-82  
QEII Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland, 18-21 March 1982**

David Smith and Willi Sawall continued to battle over the 1981/1982 summer, with Smith now the dominant walker - it was a case of youth eventually winning out. Sawall, now 40 years of age, continued to defy the years, winning the VAWC Christmas 20km with 1:26:55 and coming second to Smith in the Victorian T&F 3000m (11:38) and the Victorian 10,000m (41:17). But on each occasion, Smith was even faster, with 11:30 and 40:58 (this was a new Australian record).

With Sawall choosing to bypass the Australian T&F Championships in Brisbane, it was an easy victory for **David Smith** in hot and humid conditions, the first of 6 National track titles in a row. Second place went to 19 year old **Andrew Jachno**, but this was not a real surprise. At that time, he held the Australian Junior records for 1500m (5:37), 5000m (21:30.5), 10km (44:24) and 20km (1:30:32) so was a class walker. He had a great battle with **Michael Woods**, eventually beating him by just under 1 second. Another youngster in **Alan Muir** finished just behind them but found out after the event that he had been disqualified, as had **Tim Erickson** in fifth place.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 21 March 1982				
1	David Smith	VIC	12:00.00	
2	Andrew Jachno	VIC	12:09.95	
3	Michael Woods	NSW	12:10.94	
4	Mike Harvey	VIC	12:40.38	
5	Clark Stone	NSW	12:46.29	
6	Bruce Cook	ACT	12:49.30	
7	Mark Wall	VIC	13:30.28	
8	Dean Cruise	VIC	13:34.33	
-	Alan Muir	NSW	DQ	(12.12.82)
-	Tim Erickson	VIC	DQ	(12.26.68)
-	John Smith	NSW	DQ	

### 16<sup>th</sup> Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1982

The main reason that Willi Sawall had not travelled to Brisbane for the National T&F Championships was because he had taken extended long service leave from work and had committed himself fully to walking. As the winter season started, he moved up a notch and had his most convincing ever winter season start, with a string of high quality wins in the leadup to the LBG Carnival, including the Victorian 15km (1:04:55 – David Smith was sick and did not start the race), a VAWC 10km handicap (40:53), the Victorian 30 km (2:08:00.4) and a VAWC 10km (40:04).

**Willi Sawall** then won his seventh LBG title in a row, with his second fastest ever time of 2:18:18. With Tim Erickson racing overseas in Canada, the minor medals went to **Bill Dyer** and **Keith Knox**, both producing PBs. **David Smith** had been expected to be in the mix until he was disqualified. But this event is memorable for a very different reason – with Victorian walker **Mark Wall** being hit by a car and seriously injured when in sight of home. Mark described the scenario as follows:

*It was near the start of the last mile and I was walking a stormer. I had passed Andrew Jachno at about 30 km, I was in fifth place, Rod Huxley in 4<sup>th</sup>, Bruce Cook 3<sup>rd</sup> in easy view. They apparently were bobbing like corks with fatigue. Rod was spent from trying to break away from me, I might even have got both, or so I believe. The bugger of the thing was that I had done the extreme Carbo depletion/ load, so I will never know if it works....ha ha !*

*The facts are these, it was the Commonwealth Drive Roundabout in Russell. It was uncontrolled and the motorist was looking only for traffic coming in from the normal direction. I took some evasive action but did not lift my left leg in time and ruptured ligaments. It was essentially the old 1 lap course with some bike paths, it did cause a change in subsequent years.*

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13 June 1982				
1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	2:18:18	
2.	Bill Dyer	VIC	2:36:52	
3.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:37:27	
4.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:40:20	
5.	Bruce Cook	ACT	2:42:12	
6.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:45:07	
7.	Duncan Knox	VIC	2:48:12	
8.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:49:01	
9.	Dave Cash	VIC	2:50:16	
10.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:53:08	
11.	Greg Rowe	NSW	2:59:25	
12.	William Cook	QLD	3:04:05	
13.	Ian Fay	SA	3:06:15	
14.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:08:29	
15.	John Harris	QLD	3:24:41	
16.	Roy McFadden	SA	3:26:34	
17.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:27:15	
18.	Paul Woodhouse	NSW	3:27:15	
19.	Marlaine Stanway (F)	VIC	3:27:48	
20.	John McPherson	QLD	3:31:27	
21.	Dan Reavey	SA	3:33:40	
22.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:36:56	
23.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:37:40	

24.	Peter Bethune	VIC	3:37:56
25.	Bill Starr	SA	3:44:08
26.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:47:52
-	Mark Wall	VIC	DNF
-	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DNF
-	Ian Jack	VIC	DNF
-	Colin Donald	VIC	DNF
-	Terry O'Neill	VIC	DNF
-	Ron Pilcher	VIC	DNF
-	Harold Van Beek	ACT	DQ
-	Robin Whyte	ACT	DQ
-	David Smith	VIC	DQ
Teams			
1.	VIC	Willi Sawall, Bill Dyer, Duncan Knox	
2.	NSW	Keith Knox, Rod Huxley, Greg Rowe	
3.	QLD	William Cook, John Harris, John McPherson	

### Australian 20km Championship Brisbane, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1982

Up till now, the Australian 20km Championship had been scheduled every second year. From 1982, it became an annual event.

**Willi Sawall** was proving to be unbeatable in 1982. Following on from his LBG win, he won the Victorian 20km title in early July with a PB 1:21:36, over 3 minutes ahead of David Smith who took second with 1:24:43, with Tim Erickson further back in third with 1:29:15. Three weeks later, he easily won the Australian 20km championship in Brisbane, ahead of **Keith Knox** and **Duncan Knox**.

Australian 20km Championship, Brisbane, Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> July 1982			
1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:29:02
2.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:35:02
3.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:35:17
4.	Michael De Clifford	ACT	1:36:45
5.	Bruce Cook	ACT	1:38:34
6.	George White	SA	1:38:46
7.	Terry Jones	WA	1:40:35
8.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:40:39
9.	Peter Vysma	VIC	1:40:39
10.	Richard Everson	SA	1:43:20
11.	John Harris	QLD	1:44;17
12.	David Cash	VIC	1:45:33
13.	Ian Fay	SA	1:46:05
14.	David Brazel	SA	1:48:40
15.	Robin Chapman	ACT	1:49:06
16.	Ron Pilcher	QLD	1:50:28
17.	Paul Lilley	NSW	1:51:50
18.	John McPherson	QLD	1:51:57
19.	Peter Waddell	ACT	1:52:03
20.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:55:36
21.	Paul Woodhouse	NSW	1:58:16
Teams 1. VIC 22 2. ACT 37 3. SA 38 4. NSW 39			

### 1982 Commonwealth Games - Australian 30km Walk Trial Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 1982

The long awaited 1982 Commonwealth Games 30km trial was scheduled for mid August, with the main players as follows:

**Willi Sawall**, now 40 years of age but still keen to improve on his silver medal in Edmonton, was unbeaten so far in the winter and looked the man to beat.

**Tim Erickson**, also keen on a second Commonwealth berth, was finally back in good form, with 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Victorian 30km in 2:19:40, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Victorian 20km (1:29:15) and 1<sup>st</sup> in a VRWC 35km in 2:47:22 (with a 30km split of 2:17:22).

**David Smith**, better known for his 20km walking, had more speed than anyone else, with superb 10km and 20km times on the board. Could he hold his form sufficiently to challenge in the 30km.

Raceday saw Erickson absent, at home with influenza (1982 was a particularly bad flu year with a new variant called 1982 Hong Kong Flu). It now became a two man struggle between Smith and Sawall, and it was Smith who took the bull by the horns, striding to the front and leading until disqualified at the 22km mark (with 5 cautions and 4 reports, it was a clearcut decision). This left Sawall on his own well out in front and he powered home to win in 2:08:28. Coming off 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 1982 Victorian 30km title in 2:24:04, 20 year old **Andrew Jachno** surprised his senior opponents with a solid performance to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2:19:55 while 19 year old **Michael Harvey** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:22:04. The first three were all under the Commonwealth Games qualifying standard of 2:25:00.

Harvey favoured his chances of selection, having taken third and broken the qualifying standard in the trial but the selectors chose Erickson in preference alongside Jachno and Sawall. Jachno, a Physical Education student at Footscray Tech, said that the selection was “*a dream come true. I never expected it to come so quickly.*”

**Commonwealth Games 10 Miles Trial, Melbourne, 15 Aug 1982**

1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	2:08:28
2.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	2:17:52
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:22:04
4.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:25:30
5.	Bill Dyer	VIC	2:26:00

**Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 10km  
Richmond, NSW, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 1982**

Alas, I have been unable to find much at all on this Federation meet, held in Richmond, NSW, during the Second Term School Holidays. All I have is the first 4 placings in the Glover Shield and the Teams results for a couple of the races, but no more at this stage. Once again, **Willi Sawall** won, continuing his unbeaten winter, with a PB 40:08, while Commonwealth Games team mate **Andrew Jachno**, nursing a leg injury, finished further back in the field in around 48 minutes. Erickson, still out of action with the aftermath of his flu, was not able to compete at all and was recuperating at home.

**Glover Shield 10km, Richmond, Saturday 28 August 1982**

1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	40:08
2.	Bill Dyer	VIC	43:40
3.	Keith Knox	NSW	44:00
4.	Michael Woods	NSW	

**Teams**

1.	NSW	Keith Knox, Michael Wood, Rod Huxley
2.	VIC	Will Sawall, Bill Dyer, Andrew Jachno

**1982 Commonwealth Games 30km Walk  
Wynnum-Manly, Brisbane, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 1982**

The 30km event was held on the Wynnum-Manly foreshore and started in cool morning conditions with a slight breeze fanning the 19 competitors, but by the finish it was quite humid and steamy. Thousands of spectators lined the 2.5 km course and cheered the competitors on throughout the event.

With his 2 outstanding 30km times and his similar split in the Canberra 20 miles, **Willi Sawall** had the 3 top ranking times in the Commonwealth and he was once again an unbackable favourite. But as in 1978, it was a case of a great season followed by a disappointing finale, as he was once again nursing injuries in the final weeks leading up to the Brisbane race and he entered the race a different walker.

**Steve Barry**, a plasterer from Cardiff in Wales, had been unlucky to miss selection for England in the 1980 Olympics but had shown great form since then over the shorter distances and was one of the minor medal chances behind favourite Sawall. Sawall headed off hard as usual with everyone else chasing. It was Barry who bridged the gap at the 7.5km mark and he was never headed after that, finishing in 2:10:16 to break the Games record by 12 minutes. His comment after the race “*Everything hurts now but I'm elated – I'll get plastered tonight.*”

Barry, whose father David was nine times Wales walk champion, crossed the finish line to the cheers of a large Welsh contingent, not only from the Games Village, but also including local residents who strung flags and signs out their windows.

The minor medals were taken by Canada with veteran **Marcel Jobin** taking silver in 2:12:16 and the young **Guillaume Leblanc** taking bronze in 2:14:56. Sawall struggled home in fourth with 2:14:56, knowing that any of his three 2:08 times would have secured him the gold. He commented “*Once I moved over a certain pace, I started to limp so it was all I could do to push through the pain and finish the race.*”

A second young Canadian, **Francois Lapointe**, was fifth in 2:17:02 while **Tim Erickson** struggled to finish 6<sup>th</sup> in 2:19:45, still not fully recovered from the effects of his bout of illness. **Andrew Jachno**, the third Australian, finished a creditable 9<sup>th</sup> in 2:24:15 after being forced to take a cordisone injection in the leadup for a troublesome leg injury.

1.	Steven Barry	Wales	2:10:16
2.	Marcel Jobin	Canada	2:12:24
3.	Guillaume Leblanc	Canada	2:14:56
4.	<b>Willi Sawall</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>2:15:23</b>
5.	Francois Lapointe	Canada	2:17:02
6.	<b>Tim Erickson</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>2:19:45</b>
7.	Roger Mills	England	2:21:54
8.	Murray Lambden	Isle of Man	2:22:18
9.	<b>Andrew Jackno</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>2:24:15</b>
10.	Robert Elliott	Guernsey	2:24:28
11.	Michael Parker	New Zealand	2:26:07
12.	Graham Young	Isle of Man	2:27:04
13.	Paul Blagg	England	2:30:42
14.	Mutai Kiplangat	Kenya	2:34:51
15.	Kevin Taylor	New Zealand	2:37:37
16.	Elisha Kasuku	Kenya	2:39:32
17.	John Mutinda	Kenya	2:50:54
-	Chand Ram	India	DNF
-	Robert Lambie	Isle of Man	DQ

#### **Australia vs Italy Challenge Match Olympic Park, Melbourne, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1982**

The top 3 walkers, **Willi Sawall**, **David Smith** and **Tim Erickson** were rewarded for their efforts in 1982, being selected to represent Australia in a track 10,000m walk at Olympic Park in Melbourne as part of an Australia vs Italy Challenge Match on 30<sup>th</sup> December. **Sawall** won, ahead of **Smith**, with **Erickson** fourth. **Michael Harvey** and **Bill Dyer** had been given permission to compete by invitation, and 20 year old Harvey walked excellently to take third overall.

1.	Willi Sawall	AUS	41:30.0
2.	David Smith	AUS	43:01.7
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	44:00.6
4.	Tim Erickson	AUS	44:21
5.	Raffiello Ducceshi	ITA	45:30
6.	Bill Dyer	VIC	45:50
7.	Paulo Ghedini	ITA	?
8.	Maurizio Chiarello	ITA	?

Overall, 1982 had been a forgettable year for David Smith and he was keen to make amends in 1983. He worked his way though the summer with a number of very fast track races but did have a few blips along the way. He was disqualified in the VAWC Christmas 20km walk, while 4 minutes ahead of Willi Sawall and on his last 2km lap and on target for around 1:21:00, and was disqualified in the Victorian 10,000m track championship around the 6000m mark while leading. He bounced back to win the Victorian 5000m track championship with a Commonwealth Record time of 20:01.0 and went into the National Championships as the favourite, provided he could satisfy the judges.

#### **Australian Track & Field Championships 1982-83 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 18-20 March 1983**

1983 saw the Australian T&F Walk distance change from 3000m to 5000m. This new distance walk would continue to be scheduled until 1998 when it was decommissioned in favour of a 20km road walk.

With Willi Sawall sidelined by a troublesome hamstring, **David Smith** was untroubled to win the 5000m walk with 20:39.46. The minor medals went to **Simon Baker** and **Andrew Jachno**, both walking PBs. Promising Victorian youngster **Martin Richardson** was fourth but he would soon disappear to concentrate on his medical studies.

1	David Smith	VIC	20:39.46
2	Simon Baker	VIC	20:51.48
3	Andrew Jachno	VIC	20:56.48

4	Martin Richardson	VIC	21:29.73
5	Alan Muir	NSW	21:33.78
6	Mike Harvey	VIC	22:19.94
7	Duncan Knox	VIC	22:28.99
8	George White	SA	22:34.52
9	Steve Richardson	VIC	22:54.40
10	Richard Pestell	WA	23:00.08
11	Richard Everson	SA	23:28.34
12	Peter Le Rossignol	WA	23:28.86
-	Bruce Cook	ACT	DQ
-	Bill Dyer	VIC	DQ
-	Michael De Clifford	WA	DQ

**17<sup>th</sup> Lake Burley Griffin Carnival**  
**Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1983**

As a result of the car accident the previous year, the 20 Mile start/finish was moved to Weston Park and a one lap course, utilising the lakeside cycle path, was used. This course was used right up till 2016 although, over the intervening years, various changes occurred. The carnival attracted a record 248 entries, with all of Australia's top walkers competing, except for Willi Sawall (injured) and Sue Cook (competing overseas).

With Sawall finally absent from Canberra, the stage was set for another winner to emerge and **David Smith** produced a time of 2:32:50 to win by some 3 minutes from a vastly improved **Duncan Knox**. This was the year when Smith finally emerged from the huge shadow cast by Sawall. As well as this Canberra win, he produced Commonwealth best times for 10km (39:41.7) and 20km (1:20:22.7) to match his Commonwealth leading track performances. The other faces to emerge were those of Victorian youngsters **Michael Harvey** and **Simon Baker** who took third and fourth.

<b>LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 12 June 1983</b>			
1.	David Smith	VIC	2:32:50
2.	Duncan Knox	VIC	2:35:39
3.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:36:44
4.	Simon Baker	VIC	2:38:47
5.	Bill Dyer	VIC	2:39:44
6.	Rod Huxley	NSW	2:43:47
7.	John Smith	NSW	2:45:24
8.	Ian Fay	SA	2:46:43
9.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:50:40
10.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:51:09
11.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:53:01
12.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:53:43
13.	Jim Bannan	VIC	2:55:53
14.	Mark Wall	VIC	2:57:10
15.	John Harris	QLD	3:00:41
16.	David Thomson	QLD	3:05:58
17.	Paul Woodhouse	NSW	3:07:00
18.	Logan Irwin	NSW	3:07:20
19.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:11:10
20.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:11:18
21.	Claude Martin	VIC	3:14:57
22.	Bob Chapman	ACT	3:16:43
23.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:17:13
24.	Graeme Strachan	NSW	3:20:49
25.	Daryl Biggin	VIC	3:22:48
26.	Robin Wood	VIC	3:25:47
27.	Ron Whitham	NSW	3:26:02
28.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:30:32
29.	M Truswell	NSW	3:33:31
30.	John Morrison	VIC	3:36:45
31.	Bill Starr	SA	3:36:48
32.	Brian Hamer	NSW	4:02:12
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DNF
-	Bruce Cook	ACT	DNF
-	Mark Donahoo	VIC	DNF
-	Barry Bitchnell	VIC	DNF
-	David Cash	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Rowe	NSW	DNF

-	Caleb Maybir	NSW	DNF
-	Tony Michelson	NSW	DNF
-	Roy McFadden	SA	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	David Smith, Bill Dyer, Michael Harvey	
2.	NSW	Rod Huxley, John Smith, Keith Knox	
3.	VIC No 2	Duncan Knox, Harry Summers, Clarrie Jack	

### 1983 Australian 10km Championship and IAAF Race Walking World Cup 10km Trial Adelaide, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 1983

The women's World Cup 10km trial was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 1983 in Adelaide, in conjunction with the Australian women's 10km roadwalk championship. **Sue Cook** and **Sally Pierson** had dominated the Australian walking scene for some years now, and they had no trouble taking the first two places. NSW youngsters **Ann Ryan** (20 years of age) and **Rachel Thompson** (also 20 years of age) were next to finish, confirming their places in the Eschborn Cup team alongside Cook and Pierson.

IAAF RW World Cup 10km Trial, Adelaide, Sat 25 June 1983			
1.	Sue Cook	VIC	47:24
2.	Sally Pierson	VIC	47:45
3.	Ann Ryan	NSW	48:47
4.	Rachel Thompson	NSW	

### 1983 Australian 20km Championship and IAAF Race Walking World Cup 20km Trial Adelaide, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 1983

The 1983 Australian 20km championship included the trials for the inaugural IAAF World Championships, to be held in Finland in August, and the IAAF Race Walking World Cup, to be held in Norway in October. There would be up to 3 spots on offer for the World Championships team and up to 4 spots for the World Cup team.

**David Smith** won comfortably with 1:26:00 and was selected for the IAAF World Championship and World Cup 20km events. He then travelled to Europe and completed a great series of races that included the British track title with a new British record of 11:36 and a super fast 20 km win in Luxemburg in 1:20:51. **Simon Baker** had signalled his intentions with a time of 1:28:51 in the Victorian 20km championship and people were starting to sit up and take notice of this tall lean walker with the long stride and fluent action. He walked a fine 2<sup>nd</sup> in Adelaide with 1:28:00, gaining spots in both the World Championships and World Cup teams. Interestingly, Baker had travelled from Melbourne to Adelaide via the overnight bus, but it did not seem to have any effect on his performance. **Willi Sawall** had finally overcome his hamstring issues and walked a conservative third place with 1:28:15, good enough to gain selection for the World Championships. He chose to bypass the World Cup, having spent too much time away from his work and family already. **Andrew Jachno** had finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Victorian 20km with 1:28:02 and followed it up with 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adelaide with, 1:29:23. This gained him selection in the 1983 World Walking Championships team. **Bill Dyer** and **Tim Erickson** filled the next two places (Erickson had just returned from another fun run sojourn and was obviously short on racewalking fitness) but both would fill spots in the World Cup 50km team.

Australian 20km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 26 June 1983			
1.	David Smith	VIC	1:25:59
2.	Simon Baker	VIC	1:28:00
3.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:28:15
4.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:29:23
5.	Bill Dyer	VIC	1:29:49
6.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:30:17
7.	Michael Woods	NSW	1:31:46
8.	George White	SA	1:33:05
9.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:35:07
10.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:35:32
11.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:35:58
12.	Peter Fullager	SA	1:36:40
13.	Ian Fay	SA	1:36:58
14.	Reginald Rowe	NSW	1:40:05
15.	Peter Ler Rossignol	WA	1:42:27
16.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	1:44:54
17.	Robin Chapman	ACT	1:47:05
18.	David Thompson	ACT	1:47:27
19.	Peter Vysma	VIC	1:50:54
20.	Paul Moritz	SA	1:52:45
-	Bruce Cook	ACT	DQ

-	Robin Whyte	ACT	DQ
-	Barrie Birtchnell	VIC	DQ
Teams 1. VIC 10 2. SA 26			

### IAAF Race Walking World Cup and IAAF World Championships 50km Trials Holdsworth Army Base, Sydney, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 1983

Two weeks later, walkers gathered in Sydney for the 50km trial to select competitors for the inaugural IAAF World Championships, to be held in Finland in August, and the IAAF Race Walking World Cup, to be held in Norway in October. There would be up to 3 spots on offer for the World Championships team and up to 4 spots for the World Cup team.

The course at the Holdsworth Army Base, Holdsworth, NSW, was a tough hilly one and performances were effected.

The pressure was on 20 year old **Michael Harvey**. He had finished well back in the 20km trial so his only chance of a team vest rested on his walk in the 50km trial. He started slowly but came through to pass **Tim Erickson** in the final laps and take the win. **Bill Dyer** and **Duncan Knox** took third and fourth places, ensuring an all Victorian team for the Lugano Cup 50km. Unfortunately, no performances were considered good enough for the World Championships.

Returning to Victoria on a high, Harvey won the Victorian 30 m title in 2:20:29. This was his first Victorian senior title after 9 fourth placings in a row!

IAAF RW World Cup 50km Trial, Sydney, Sat 9 July 1983			
1.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:18:09
2.	Tim Erickson	VIC	4:21:55
3.	Bill Dyer	VIC	4:27:07
4.	Duncan Knox	VIC	4:27:15
5.	Keith Knox	NSW	4:28:11
E6.	Ian Fay	SA	4:36:20
E6	Peter Fullager	SA	4:36:20
8.	Robin Whyte	ACT	4:37:19
9.	Colin Donald	VIC	4:43:51
10.	John Smith	NSW	4:44:07
11.	John Harris	QLD	4:53:42
12.	Tim Thompson	SA	4:55:29
13.	Frank Overton	NSW	4:59:47
14.	Greg Rowe	NSW	5:02:16
15.	Peter Waddell	ACT	5:25:34
16.	Steel Beveridge	NSW	5:32:04
17.	Ronald Whitham	NSW	6:01:14
-	Rod Huxley	NSW	DNF
-	Bruce Cook	ACT	DNF
-	David Thomson	ACT	DNF
-	David Cash	VIC	DNF
-	Graeme Strachan	NSW	DNF
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DNF
-	Clarrie Jack	VIC	DNF
-	Mark Wall	VIC	DNF

The team for the IAAF Race Walking World Cup was soon announced, with a good mix of experience and youth. The Victorian dominance was evident, with 9 of the 12 team members coming from that State. Harry Summers had been in the team in 1981. In 1983, he travelled as manager.

20km Men            Andrew Jachno (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC), Michael Woods (NSW), David Smith (VIC)  
50km Men            Bill Dyer (VIC), Duncan Knox (VIC), Tim Erickson (VIC), Michael Harvey (VIC)  
10km Women        Sue Cook (VIC), Sally Pierson (VIC), Rachel Thompson (NSW), Ann Ryan (NSW)  
Manager             Harry Summers (VIC)

The team for the IAAF World Championships was much smaller, with competitors in the men's 20km only. No women's walk was included, and it would be quite some time before this anomaly was rectified.

20km Men            Andrew Jachno (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC), Michael Woods (NSW), David Smith (VIC)



### 1983 IAAF World Championships Helsinki, Finland, 7-14 August 1983

The inaugural 1983 World Championships in Athletics were run under the auspices of the IAAF and were held at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki, Finland between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August 1983.

After some superb racing in Europe, **David Smith's** 15<sup>th</sup> place was perhaps disappointing, but at least he got an all clear from the judges. He, **Simon Baker** and **Willi Sawall** all walked similar races times to the trial in Adelaide, where it had perhaps been hoped that one or more of them would produce a faster time.

IAAF World Championship 20km Walk, Helsinki, 7 Aug 1983			
1	Ernesto Canto	MEX	1:20:49
2	Jozef Pribilinec	TCH	1:20:59
3	Yevgeniy Yevsyukov	URS	1:21:08
...			
15	<b>Dave Smith</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:25:23</b>
29	<b>Simon Baker</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:28:09</b>
30	<b>Willi Sawall</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:28:16</b>

### 1983 Australian 50km Championship Canning Vale, WA, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1983

Up till now, the Australian 50km Championship had been held every two years. From 1983 onwards, it became an annual championship.

The 1983 Australian Roadwalk Championships, which were held in Canning Vale, Western Australia, on 27-28 August, included the Australian 50km Championship. This was seen as a fairly open event as it was scheduled only a couple of weeks after the IAAF World Championships and a month before the 1983 World Cup, to which we were sending a large team. Consequently, all the top Australian walkers were missing from Perth. This, of course, created an opportunity for the remaining walkers. **Keith Knox** (4:28:20), **Ian Fay** (4:29:16) and **Colin Donald** (4:39:35) made the most of the opportunity, taking the championship medals.

Australian 50km Championship, WA, Sat 27 August 1983			
1.	Keith Knox	NSW	4:28:20
2.	Ian Fay	SA	4:29:16
3.	Colin Donald	VIC	4:39:35
4.	David Cash	VIC	4:41:06
5.	John Harris	QLD	4:42:16
6.	Richard Pestell	WA	4:43:50
7.	Robin Whyte	ACT	4:44:14
8.	Tim Thompson	SA	4:50:23
9.	Terry Jones	WA	4:55:16
10.	Frank Overton	NSW	4:57:21
11.	Harry Summers	VIC	4:59:13
12.	Peter Vysma	VIC	5:30:58
13.	Jim Turnbull	WA	5:33:11

### Federation Carnival including Alexander Cup 20km Adelaide, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1983

Held only a week after the Australian 50km in Western Australia, the Alexander Cup scheduling was a tough ask. **Willi Sawall** had recently returned from Europe and had no trouble winning with a time of 1:25:10. I am sure he was asking himself why he had not produced that sort of time in Helsinki. **Keith Knox** backed up well from his Australian 50km win the previous weekend, taking second behind Sawall with 1:37:30.

Sadly, that's all I have been able to find about this meet, apart from a couple of entries in my archives and some engravings for team winners on old perpetual trophies. South Australia seemed to consistently fail in its duty to forward results to member Federations.

Alexander Cup 20km Walk, Adelaide, Saturday 3 Sept 1983			
1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:25:10
2.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:37:30
Teams 1. VIC 8 2. NSW1 14 3. NSW2 25 4. QLD 31			

**1983 IAAF Race Walking World Cup  
Bergen, Norway, 24-25 September 1983**

David Smith and Simon Baker stayed in Europe after the World Championships and eventually joined the rest of the Australian World Cup team who had based themselves in London for a few weeks before travelling to Bergen, completing a number of warmup races around England.

And now on to the final big meet for the year, the 1983 IAAF World Cup, held in Bergen, Norway, on 24-25 September. The meet was full of great walking and exciting competition. The Soviet walkers were in great form and swept all before them in the two men's races but it was the women's race which caused the greatest excitement. Here, walkers from China, competing internationally for the first time, captured the team title and provided the individual winner. All the races were held in cold and sometimes windy conditions on a flat twisty circuit which had to be covered three times for every five kilometres.

The first of the races was the women's 10km, held on the Saturday morning. Victory went to Chinese walker Yong Ju Xu with a new world road best of 45:13.4. **Sue Cook** and **Sally Pierson** had been sitting in second and third positions but were passed by the Russian Natalya Sharypova who snatched silver, relegating Cook had to third and Pierson to fourth. The first 4 girls all bettered the existing road world best. With **Rachel Thompson** in 15<sup>th</sup> place and **Ann Ryan** in 20<sup>th</sup>, the Australian team finished in third place overall, only 4 points adrift of Russia in second. It was a historic team win for the Chinese women.

<b>Eschborn Cup 10km Women, Norway, Saturday 24 Sep 1983</b>			
1.	Xu Yongjiu	CHI	45:13.3
2.	Natalya Sharypova	RUS	45:25.2
3.	<b>Sue Cook</b>	AUS	<b>45:26.4</b>
4.	<b>Sally Pierson</b>	AUS	<b>45:39.4</b>
	...		
15.	<b>Rachel Thompson</b>	AUS	<b>47:50.5</b>
20.	<b>Ann Ryan</b>	AUS	<b>49:04.8</b>
62 finishers, 2 DQ			
Teams: 1. CHN 132 2. RUS 130 3. AUS 126			

The men's 20km was held on the Saturday afternoon, and the pace was on from the gun, with the lead group passing the 5km mark in 19:55, the fastest start ever in a major event. The pace continued relentlessly, with the halfway mark passed with 39:55. Shortly after 10km, **David Smith** opened up a small gap but was disqualified soon afterwards. By 15km, the leading group was down to six and it was soon reduced to three as Jozef Pribilinec, Ernesto Canto and Anatolij Solomin went for broke. It looked like a replay of Helsinki but, with just over a kilometre to go, Pribilinec put in a remarkable kick and Canto had to give way. The Czech had what appeared to be a winning lead but suddenly the Mexican responded and began to close the gap. But it was too late and Pribilinec hit the line first in a fantastic 1:19:29.6 - he had covered the last 5km in 19:27! Canto was second (1:19:40) but was almost caught by Solomin (1:19:42) who produced his finest walk since his third place in Prague 5 years previously.

The team event concluded with Russia (packing three in the first eight) winning from Italy with Czechoslovakia third. Mexico 4<sup>th</sup> and Australia an excellent 5<sup>th</sup>, even with the disqualification of Smith. **Simon Baker**, 14<sup>th</sup> with 1:24:42, **Andrew Jachno** 18<sup>th</sup> with 1:25:50 and **Michael Woods** 30<sup>th</sup> with 1:28:17, all played their parts. Baker's time was a 5 minute PB and both he and Jachno bettered the 1984 Olympic standard, which had been set for 1:26:00.

<b>Lugano Cup 20km Men, Norway, Saturday 24 September 1983</b>			
1.	Jozef Pribilinec	CZE	1:19:29.6
2.	Ernesto Canto	MEX	1:19:40.4
3.	Anatolij Solomin	RUS	1:19:42.2
	...		
14.	<b>Simon Baker</b>	AUS	<b>1:24:42.1</b>
18.	<b>Andrew Jachno</b>	AUS	<b>1:25:50.7</b>
30.	<b>Michael Woods</b>	AUS	<b>1:28:17.2</b>
-	<b>David Smith</b>	AUS	<b>DQ</b>
51 finishers, 4 DQ			
Teams: 1 RUS 113 2 ITA 107 3 CZE 101 5 AUS 73			

The final event, the men's 50km, was held on the Sunday morning and it provided a stage for Raul Gonzales to strut his stuff. He was a convincing winner with 3:45:36. It was his third World Cup victory and, although not as impressive as his majestic win in Valencia, it was still a fine walk. Sergey Jung's second place in 3:48:26 was achieved with a fine technique and, coupled with his Worlds bronze, more than compensated for his second last place finish (4:35:02) in Athens the previous year. The experienced Viktor Dorowski was 1:20 back in third place, the same position as in Eschborn 4 years before. Only 8 walkers broke 4 hours but one who narrowly failed was Chris Maddocks of Great Britain whose 4:02:38 was a new U.K road best.

**Michael Harvey's** second Lugano Cup appearance was a case of too hard early. After being well up in the first half of the race, he folded at 30km and eventually retired at 42km. **Tim Erickson** walked his usual solid race, coming home as the leading Australian

with 4:15:12. **Duncan Knox** was the only other Australian to finish, coming 39<sup>th</sup> with 4:35:12. **Bill Dyer** had won the Victorian 50km title in June in 4:31:11, then come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Lugano Cup trial with 4:27:05. His final hitout before Bergen was a 10km at Newmarket in England where he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in a PB of 43:18. His disqualification in Bergen was a great letdown for Bill. His progression up till that point had been continuous and impressive. The Australian team badly missed Willi Sawall and finished way back in 12<sup>th</sup> place.

<b>Lugano Cup 50km Men, Norway, Sunday 25 September 1983</b>			
1.	Raul Gonzales	MEX	3:45:36.2
2.	Sergey Jung	RUS	3:48:26
3.	Viktor Dorowski	RUS	3:49:46.9
	...		
<b>25</b>	<b>Tim Erickson</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>4:15:12.7</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Duncan Knox</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>4:35:12.2</b>
-	<b>Bill Dyer</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DQ</b>
-	<b>Michael Harvey</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DQ</b>
39 finishers, 6 DQ, 6 DNF			
Teams: 1 RUS 118 2 FRA 95 3 ESP 93 12 AUS 27			

The 1983/1984 Australian summer saw David Smith consolidate his position as Australia's top shorter distance walker. He set a new Commonwealth 5000m track record of 19:20.6 in October 1983 and reduced his 20km road time to 1:20:22.7 in December 1983. For good measure, he topped things off with a 10,000m Commonwealth record in winning the Victorian title in the time of 39:41.7 at the Clifton Hill track in February 1984. He was the firmest of favourites for the 1984 Olympic trial which was to be held in Sydney in early March.

Willi Sawall gamely chased him all summer, recording excellent times, as did the youngsters Andrew Jachno and Simon Baker. The one absentee was Tim Erickson, who had finally succumbed to a troublesome knee issue and had announced his retirement. This time it would be permanent!

#### **Australian 20 km championship (incorporating Olympic 20km trial) Centennial Park, Sydney, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 1984**

As expected, **David Smith** easily won the Olympic trial with 1:23:00, but the walk of the day was probably by 42 year old **Willi Sawall** who took second place with 1:23:56, less than 1 minute behind. **Simon Baker**, who was third with 1:25:06, was also under the Olympic qualifying standard of 1:26:00, so was also expected to be named in the Olympic team.

<b>Australian 20km Championship, Sydney, Sunday 4 March 1984</b>			
1.	David Smith	VIC	1:23:00
2.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:23:56
3.	Simon Baker	VIC	1:25:06
4.	Michael Harvey	VIC	1:29:31
5.	Martin Richardson	VIC	1:32:23
6.	Michael Woods	NSW	1:34:34
7.	George White	SA	1:34:32
8.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	1:35:46
9.	Duncan Knox	VIC	1:35:46
10.	Ian Fay	SA	1:36:14
11.	Richard Everson	SA	1:36:56
12.	Keith Knox	NSW	1:36:57
13.	John Harris	QLD	1:37:34
14.	David Thompson	ACT	1:38:57
15.	Ben Cullen	NSW	1:39:56
16.	Colin Barnett	NSW	1:40:31
17.	Reginald Rowe	NSW	1:41:12
18.	Mark Wall	VIC	1:41:13
19.	Rod Huxley	NSW	1:42:07
20.	Peter Le Rossignol	WA	1:41:43
21.	Tomasz Kozak	WA	1:42:08
21.	Terry Jones	WA	1:43:18
23.	Tim Thompson	SA	1:44:33
24.	Alex Crawford	NSW	1:45:58
25.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	1:48:01
26.	Jack Grimaldes	NSW	1:48:32
27.	Hany El Saleh	WA	1:58:07
-	Bill Dyer	VIC	DQ
-	Per Neilsen	Denmark	DNF

-	Alan Muir	NSW	DNF
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
-	Steven Donald	NSW	DNF
Teams 1. VIC 10 2. NSW 35 3. SA 36 4. WA 55			

### Australian 50km Championship Adelaide, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 1984

**Andrew Jachno** had walked the 20km Olympic trial on painkillers and could only manage a disappointing 6<sup>th</sup> place with 1:35:46. That meant he would miss Olympic selection unless he tried for a 50km spot. Once his wisdom teeth had been taken out, he was back into training and he surprised everyone, winning the Australian 50km title in 4:01:02, 9 minutes under the Olympic qualifying standard and the second fastest time ever by an Australian. It was his first 50km event and an impressive debut. After the event, he said *"I was close to retiring from the event several times because of cramps in both legs. I had to stop very half kilometre to massage my hamstrings but I had a bit of reserve and was able to finish"*. **Michael Harvey** also walked a big PB of 4:04:00 for second place, well under the Olympic qualifying standard of 4:10:00.

Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 18 March 1984			
1.	Andrew Jachno	VIC	4:01:02
2.	Michael Harvey	VIC	4:04:00
3.	Keith Knox	NSW	4:21:27
4.	Duncan Knox	VIC	4:41:05
5.	Harry Summers	VIC	4:45:49
6.	Tim Thompson	SA	5:00:44
7.	Greg Rowe	NSW	5:02:19
8.	John Harris	QLD	5:05:40
9.	Con Kozak	WA	5:06:41
10.	George Audley	WA	5:17:10
11.	Frank Overton	NSW	5:44:33
12.	Bill Starr	SA	5:46:48
13.	Jim Turnbull	WA	5:59:59
Teams: VIC 7 NSW 16 WA 22			

There were no surprises in the Olympic selections, with the 5 Victorians all getting the nod. For Sawall and Smith, it was their second Olympics For Jachno, Baker and Harvey, it was their first.

20km Walk David Smith (VIC), Willi Sawall (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC)  
50km Walk Andrew Jachno (VIC), Willi Sawall (VIC), Michael Harvey (VIC)

### Australian Track & Field Championships 1983-84 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 30 March - 1 April 1984

Two weeks later, the walkers gathered in Melbourne for the Australian T&F 5000m track walk, which turned out to be the fastest ever seen in Australia. **David Smith** scored his third win in a row with 19:31.53. 42 year old **Willi Sawall** excelled with his second placed time of 19:45.65, while **Simon Baker** did a huge PB to take third with 19:57.68.

5,000m Track Walk - Men - Saturday 31 March 1984			
1	David Smith	VIC	19:31.53
2	Willi Sawall	VIC	19:45.65
3	Simon Baker	VIC	19:57.68
4	Mike Harvey	VIC	20:40.83
5	Alan Muir	NSW	21:11.77
6	Steve Richardson	VIC	21:25.35
7	Duncan Knox	VIC	21:43.83
8	Keith Knox	NSW	21:47.11
9	Richard Everson	SA	21:56.41
10	Mark Wall	VIC	22:24.38
11	Mark Dossetor	VIC	22:35.67
12	Mark Donahoo	VIC	22:41.20
13	Rob McFadden	SA	22:46.44
14	Peter Le Rossignol	VIC	22:55.01
-	George White	SA	DQ (21.33.47)
-	Per-Henrik Nielsen	Denmark	DQ

-	Bill Dyer	VIC	DQ
-	Richard Pestell	WA	DNF

**18<sup>th</sup> Lake Burley Carnival**  
**Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 1984**

**Simon Baker** and **Michael Harvey** improved their times from the 1983 LBG and were a long way ahead of anyone else. Their first and second placings heralded a new era and a passing of the baton from the Sawall / Erickson / Smith era of the late seventies / early eighties. A number of talented young walkers would emerge over the next few years and make their mark.

<b>LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 10 June 1984</b>			
1.	Simon Baker	VIC	2:28:00
2.	Michael Harvey	VIC	2:29:39
3.	Colin Barnett	NSW	2:43:49
4.	David Thomson	QLD	2:45:40
5.	Richard Everson	SA	2:46:02
6.	Keith Knox	NSW	2:46:15
7.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:46:34
8.	Mark Donahoo	VIC	2:47:22
9.	Dave Cash	VIC	2:47:37
10.	Duncan Knox	VIC	2:50:59
11.	John Harris	QLD	2:51:27
12.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:53:40
13.	Bruce Dudon	VIC	2:57:42
14.	Colin Donald	VIC	2:58:28
15.	Greg Rowe	NSW	3:01:03
16.	Robin Whyte	ACT	3:01:46
17.	Bill Cullen	VIC	3:07:13
18.	John Smith	NSW	3:09:48
19.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:12:38
20.	Roy McFadden	SA	3:15:19
21.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:18:39
22.	Theo Orr	VIC	3:25:14
23.	Paul Moritz	SA	3:27:59
24.	Colin Hainsworth	SA	3:29:14
25.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:35:45
26.	Bill Starr	SA	3:36:06
27.	Brian Hamer	NSW	3:53:51
-	Andrew Jachno	VIC	DNF
-	John Morrison	VIC	DNF
-	Jim Leppik	VIC	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	Simon Baker, Michael Harvey, Mark Donahoo	
2.	NSW	Keith Knox, Col Barnett, John Harrison	
3.	VIC 2	Clarrie Jack, Harry Summers, David Cash	

**1984 Olympic Games**  
**Los Angeles, California, 28<sup>th</sup> July - 12<sup>th</sup> August 1984**

The Olympic 20km walk, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, had an entry list of 42 competitors, of whom 38 started. It was not only a small field, but also one that lacked the usual depth, given the boycott led by Russia. Unlike the 1980 USA led boycott, which had not really effected the walks, this boycott meant that the strong walks countries like Russia, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc, were all missing. By way of balance, whereas there were a large number of DQs in 1980, this time all 38 walkers finished the race. That must have been a first!

**David Smith** was the best of the Australians, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> with 1:26:48, a reasonable performance but a bit of a disappointment, given his PB of 1:20:22 and his recent spate of record breaking walking. **Simon Baker**'s Olympic walk was a repeat of his 1983 World Cup walk – 14<sup>th</sup> place. His slower time of 1:27:43 reflected the hotter conditions. In the space of 2 years, Simon had come out of nowhere and was now amongst our top walkers. **Willi Sawall**, at 42 years of age, was struggling with recurrent injuries but still knew only one way to race – from the front. He led early and toughed it out to finish 16<sup>th</sup> with 1:28:24. I rate his performance as the best of the three Australians from a relative perspective.

<b>1984 Olympic 20km Walk, Los Angeles, USA, Fri 3 Aug 1984</b>			
1.	Ernesto CANTO	MEX	1:23:13
2.	Raul GONZALES	MEX	1:23:20
3.	Maurizio DAMILANO	ITA	1:23:26
...			
<b>10.</b>	<b>David SMITH</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:26:48</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Simon BAKER</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:27:43</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Willi SAWALL</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>1:28:24</b>
(38 finishers, 0 DNF, 0 DQ)			

The 50km field was even more decimated by the boycott and saw only 31 starters. If you were ever going to get a high place finish, this was the race for you. Well, except for the fact that you had to actually finish. The day was hot as the race started and it got hotter and hotter as the race progressed. On a course devoid of shade, world record holder Raul Gonzalez went out hard, taking his chances in the sauna like conditions and leaving the field in his wake. He powered through to win by almost six minutes, his time of 3:47:26 a superhuman effort in the conditions. Bo Gustafsson and Sandro Belluci took the minor medals with 3:53 performances. Overall, nearly half the field failed to finish, with 9 retirements and 5 DQs.

**Michael Harvey**, at only 21 year of age, was half the age of Willi Sawall but was already a seasoned international campaigner, having competed in 2 World Cups. Even though he went on to have an international career spanning 20 years and 10 World Cup representations, he ranks his effort at the 1984 Olympic 50km as his finest hour, finishing 11<sup>th</sup> in 4:09:18. Both **Willi Sawall** and **Andrew Jachno** succumbed to the conditions and were amongst the large list of retirees.

<b>1984 Olympic 50km Walk, Los Angeles, USA, Sat 11 Aug 1984</b>			
1.	Raul GONZALEZ	MEX	3:47:26
2.	Bo GUSTAFSSON	SWE	3:53:19
3.	Sandro BELLUCCI	ITA	3:53:45
...			
<b>11.</b>	<b>Michael HARVEY</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>4:09:18</b>
-	<b>Andrew JACHNO</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DNF</b>
-	<b>Willi SAWALL</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>DNF</b>
(17 finishers, 9 DNF, 5 DQ)			

#### **Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 10km Ballarat, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1984**

The heading on the results sheets indicates that the carnival was conducted by the Ballarat Athletic Centre for the VAWC and indicates the venue as Llanberris Track, Ballarat. Now I do not know if it was really a track based carnival, but I doubt it. The numbers in the individual events were large and would have required a huge team of lapscorers to control. **Keith Knox** walked one his best ever races to win with 44:39.3, ahead of **Duncan Knox** with 44:45 and **Richard Everson** with 47:03. None of the Olympic walkers participated, content to sit it out so soon after their races in Los Angeles.

<b>Glover Shield 10km Walk, Ballarat, Saturday 1 Sept 1984</b>			
1.	Keith Knox	NSW	44:39.3
2.	Duncan Knox	VIC	44:45
3.	Richard Everson	SA	47:03
4.	Dave Cash	VIC	47:50
5.	Steven Richardson	VIC	48:03
6.	Ian Fay	SA	48:05
7.	Mark Thomas	VIC	48:05
8.	John Harris	NSW	48:18
9.	Paul Kennedy	VIC	48:45
10.	Mark Wall	VIC	50:54
11.	Paul Nunn	VIC	51:10
12.	Michael Bodey	VIC	51:21
13.	Harry Summers	VIC	51:28
14.	Gerard Feain	VIC	51:51
15.	Robin Whyte	ACT	52:11
16.	Rod Huxley	NSW	52:11
17.	Keith Law	NSW	52:47
18.	Tim Thompson	SA	53:29
19.	P. Alderson	SA	53:57
20.	Daryl Biggin	VIC	53:58
21.	J. Young	NSW	54:12
22.	George Paton	VIC	54:24

23.	Paul Moritz		SA	54:49
24.	Frank Overton		NSW	55:23
25.	D. Hill		NSW	57:23
26.	Colin Hainsworth		SA	57:39
27.	R. Johnson		NSW	57:50
28.	Brian Hamer		ACT	62:41
<b>Teams</b>				
1.	VIC	11	D. Knox, D. Cash, S. Richardson	
2.	NSW	21	K. Knox, J. Harris, R. Huxley	
3.	SA	23	R. Everson, I. Fay, T. Thompson	

### DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

#### Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2020

Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (Now a Postal Event)  
 Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (Postponed - TBA)

#### International Dates

July 17-20, 2020 **18<sup>th</sup> World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED – TBA)  
 Sep 18 (Fri), 2020 46<sup>th</sup> International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (see <http://www.alytusfestival.lt/>)  
 Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)  
 Oct 10 (Sat), 2020 Podebrady Walks Meet, Podebrady, Czech Republic (see <https://www.podebrady-walking.cz/en/>)  
 Oct 20-22, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China (CANCELLED)  
 Nov 7 (Sat), 2020 NZ Road Walk Championships, Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland, New Zealand

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island (POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 2022)

July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 **32<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo**  
 July, 2021 **23<sup>rd</sup> World Masters T&F Championships**, Tampere, Finland  
 Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China

TBA, 2022 **9<sup>th</sup> World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada  
 July 15-24, 2022 **18<sup>th</sup> World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA  
 July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR  
 Aug 11-21, 2022 **European Athletics Championships**, Munich, GER

TBA, 2023 **24<sup>th</sup> World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden  
 Aug 2023 (TBC) **19<sup>th</sup> World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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