

## THE EARLY DAYS – COBURG HARRIERS ARCHIVES

One of the earliest of the athletics clubs to be formed in Australia was the Coburg Harriers Club and history shows the early runs to be based on the cross-country concept of harriering.

In 1890, Melbourne Harriers and Melbourne University, the first of the Victorian clubs, were formed. Hawthorn Harriers, Wesley College and Melbourne Church of England Grammar School (Collegians) quickly followed in 1891. These clubs became the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1891, six years earlier than the formation of the Amateur Athletics Association of Australia (8<sup>th</sup> October 1987). The first Track and Field Championships were conducted on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1892. Ballaarat (now Ballarat) Harriers also formed in 1891 with Malvern Harriers following in 1892.

At the Association's opening run in 1895, 15 clubs took their place:

Collegians Harriers  
Albert Park Harriers  
Ballaarat Hare and Hound  
Melbourne Harriers  
Kew Harriers  
Ballaarat Harriers  
Malvem Harriers  
Baroodara Harriers  
Melbourne Hare and Hounds  
Hawthorn Harriers  
East Melbourne Harriers  
St Lukes Harriers  
Medical School Harriers  
Ballaarat East Harriers  
Prahran Harriers

The **Walkers Club**, Clifton and Northcote Harriers and Bendigo Harriers also formed in 1895 while Coburg Harriers, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1896, just pipped Carlton Harriers with a formation date of 13<sup>th</sup> May 1896. It is interesting to note how many of these clubs still exist either in their own right or as part of amalgamations.

Coburg now ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> oldest of the continuous Victorian clubs.

To this day the Coburg Harriers Club maintains the traditions and aims laid down at the time the Club was founded. Nowhere has this been better expressed than by the Club motto

**NOT THE QUARRY BUT THE CHASE, NOT THE TROPIIY BUT THE RACE**