

VALE BETTY NEWMAN

It is my very sad duty to report that long time VRWC member Betty Newman passed away on 4 September 2008 in Brisbane, exactly 6 years to the day since her long time partner Tom Daintry passed away.

Betty was born around 1935 so was in her mid eighties. She was a member of Footscray Women's Athletics Club as well as of the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club and become involved in coaching at an early age. She is first mentioned in our VRWC history in the 1957 AGM minutes where it comments that she acted as mentor for the girls and women and at the same time competed herself. She continued to race with the VAWC for the next 30 years, being one of the mainstays of the fledgling Victorian women's walking scene.



Racing at Albert Park Lake in 1973. Betty Newman is second from left. Others include Marion Parkinson, Shirley Jones, Maureen Clamp, Donna Caudry, Deborah Hughes, Stephanie Redman, Anne Williams, Sandra Skilton and Alison Nicholls

In 1976, her contributions to women's racewalking in Victoria were recognised when the Betty Newman Trophy was instituted as a V.A.A. Perpetual Trophy, to be awarded annually to the top women's walking club. It is still awarded to this day.



Betty and Tom in 1992 in Hobart at the Australian Veterans Championships

Her commitment to helping others with their walking continued unabated and she teamed up with Tom Daintry, a member of the Footscray Harriers and one of our top walkers in the pre-World War II period, to form a formidable coaching partnership. She and Tom became heavily involved in the newly formed Veterans movement in the late 1970s and were instrumental in helping many of our current Masters walkers in the early stages of their careers. The 2002

Australian Masters Record list recorded that Betty still held two W65 records, both set in 1990.

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| 2002 Aust Masters Records | 1500m | W65 | BETTY NEWMAN | VIC | 18:49 | 1990 |
| | 10km road | W65 | BETTY NEWMAN | VIC | 62:24 | 1990 |

In the late 1990's, Betty and Tom moved back to Queensland to be with Betty's family and our direct association with them ceased. But a number of club members did keep in contact and were able to report on their failing health as the ravages of time took their toll.

We pass on our condolences to Betty's family. She will be sadly missed by those of us who were privileged to know her.