

ANDREW JAMIESON – MASTERS CHAMPION



Andrew sets a new M60 5000m world record in December 2006 – 22:52.0

Born 13 June 1946 (which now makes him 61 years of age), Andrew Jamieson started racewalking in 1962 as a Sub Junior (Under 17). He was unfortunate to play second fiddle to Ross Haywood during his junior career and he regularly chased Ross home in the various State championships. He joined Old Scotch Athletics club and is still a member. In fact, it remains his only athletics club.

After his secondary school education, he undertook a medical degree and worked for a number of years in the hospital system as a doctor. His walking training was haphazard at best as he rushed to fit everything into his busy lifestyle. Rick Keam remembers that, at one Interschool Championships, a young Andrew turned up a few minutes before the walk after quickly consuming a meat pie, then went on to win the 1500m walk.

He gave up racewalking in 1972 when he started his training as a specialist surgeon and had to mix this with his family duties. It was not until the World Veterans Championships were scheduled in Melbourne in 1987 that he returned to athletics and ran the marathon in the M45 age group. For the next few years, he continued as a runner until a foot injury in 1993 forced him to reconsider his options and he returned to racewalking.

His first serious effort on the world stage was in 1997 when he went to Durban for the World Veterans championships. Unfortunately a stress fracture 3 months before the event spoilt his preparation but he still took bronze in the 20 km walk and 5th in the 5000m walk in the M50 age group.

Around this time, he started training with Dominic McGrath and Marcus Dwyer and this lifted Andrew to a new level of fitness and speed. He set a whole new swag of Australian M50 walking records and improved to silver in the 5000m walk at the 1999 Worlds Veterans Games in Gateshead. World records were still out of his reach at this stage and he was not able to challenge New Zealander Gary Little's M50 world records, set in the early 1990s.

He celebrated his entry into the M55 division by taking golds in the 5000m track walk and the 20 km roadwalk at the World Veterans Championships in Brisbane in 2001 and, between 2002 and 2005, he was able to set a whole new set of Australian M55 age group records. He also took his first World Records, beating Willi Sawall's M55 20 km record and Gary Little's M55 30 km record.

The next few years saw him working long hours as a surgeon and he opted to bypass the next two World Veterans Championships. He continued to race locally and was perhaps simply waiting until he turned 60 before his next flurry of athletic excellence.

When Andrew reached 60 in June 2006, he decided it was time to retire from his demanding role as a full time surgeon and he moved from Melbourne to Fish Creek in South Gippsland to start a new career as a full time farmer, developing his olive groves and developing his own olive oil brand. His new lifestyle seems to have led to a resurgence in his walking.

Since December 2006, he has set an amazing 9 World Records and 1 Australian Record. In the M60 age group, he is simply untouchable. Consider the list:

02/12/2006	Geelong	Australian 50 km Championship	4:27:40	M60 Australian record
16/12/2006	Box Hill	Premier League 5000m	22:52.0	M60 World Record
17/12/2006	Albert Park	VRWC 10 km	47:06	M60 World Record
10/02/2007	Olympic Park	Premier League 3000m	13:34.57	M60 World Record
01/03/2007	Olympic Park	Victorian 5000m	22:38.6	M60 World Record
31/03/2007	Olympic Park	Premier League 3000m	13:24.07	M60 World Record
20/05/2007	Albert Park	VRWC 35 km (30 km split)	2:30:57	M60 World Record
01/07/2007	Albert Park	Victorian 20 km	1:35:55	M60 World Record
14/07/2007	Albert Park	VRWC 10 km	46:46	M60 World Record
21/07/2007	Albert Park	VRWC 10 km	46:22	M60 World Record



Andrew on his way to a new M60 10 km record of 46:46 on 14 July 2007 at Albert Park

To top this off, on 10 June 2007 in the annual Racewalking Australia 20 Miles championship in Canberra, he came 4th with an outstanding time of **2:42:27**, a PB by some 5 minutes. Then to add the icing to the cake, he won the Victorian 30 km championship in August, his second such title, after winning in 2004 (this win in 2004 was his first ever Victorian Open championship win, at 57 years of age!).

His PBs are all relatively recent and show that age is no barrier to walking excellence.

3000m track	12:59	2000
5000m track	22:19	2001
10 km road	45:41	1999
20 km road	1:34:38	1999
30 km road	2:30:57	2007
50 km road	4:27:40	2006

In September 2007, he journeyed to Riccione in Italy for the next IAAF World Masters championships and returned with three golds to add to his collection. The times were slow due to the hot conditions but he was a convincing winner in all three races.

M60	5000m Trackwalk	1 st	24:34.95
M60	10 km Roadwalk	1 st	51:48
M60	20 km Roadwalk	1 st	1:43:50

Finally, to top off a perfect year for Andrew, it was announced in October 2007 that he had been awarded the **2007 IAAF Male Masters Athlete of the Year**.

I am sure that his latest accolade will only fan the competitive fires for Andrew and I expect to be able to add to this biography in the next few years. Stay tuned!