

GRAEME NICHOLLS

Graeme Nicholls came from a family that lived and breathed athletics. His father Stan has competed in the 1938 Empire Games in the 3 Mile Run and was a staunch member of Ballarat Harriers and a keen supporter of Victorian athletics.

When his children Graeme and Alison took up racewalking, Stan joined in enthusiastically and the family regularly made the trip down to Melbourne to compete. Both Graeme and Alison went on to become Australian racewalking champions, Graeme in 1970 (Australian 3000m Open Track Walk) and Alison in 1972 (Australian Open 5 km Road Walk) and 1973 (Australian Open 3000m Track Walk). For his part, Stan won many Victorian and Australian Veterans titles and competed with distinction in a number of World Veteran Championships.

Graeme, who walked for Ballarat Harriers throughout his career, blitzed his way through the junior ranks, setting a whole swag of Victorian and Victorian Country records. In fact, he won a silver medal in the Australian 2 Mile Track walking championship in 1967 while still only 19 years of age. From then on, he was amongst our top walkers until his retirement in 1973. He had many battles with Noel Freeman, Bob Gardiner, Ted Allsopp, Ross Haywood and the other big names of that era and recorded a number of fine victories over these superstars. His medal tally when he retired makes for impressive reading, given the great depth of Australian walking at that time.

1967	AA 2 Mile Track	2 nd	13:47.6
1969	AV 10 mile Track	3 rd	1.15.52
1969	AV 20 km Road	3 rd	1.34.24
1969	AV 2 Mile Track	2 nd	14.06.4
1970	AA 3000m Track	1 st	12.56.6
1970	AA 20 km Road	2 nd	1:35:20
1970	AV 10 Mile Track	3 rd	1.13.55
1970	AV 20 km Road	3 rd	1.34.12
1970	AV 10 km Track	2 nd	45.55
1970	AV 2 Mile Track	1 st	13.41
1971	AV 10 km Track,	1 st	46.32.0
1972	AV 20 km Road	1 st	1.39.04
1972	AV 30 km Road	1 st	2.37.29
1972	AV 10 km Track	1 st	47.17.0
1973	AV 3000m Track	2 nd	13.28
1973	AV 15 km Road	1 st	1:12.50.4
1973	AV 10 km Track	1 st	46.28.4

Even now, he still holds a number of Victorian Country track records, the oldest dating to 1966 – over 40 years ago now!

Victorian U20 Country Record	15000m	1.19.14.0	02.07.66	Melb Uni
Victorian Open Country Record	30000m	2.32.40.2	26.07.69	Melb Uni
Victorian Open Country Record	15000m	1.08.59.8	06.06.70	Melb Uni



1967 – Ballarat's brilliant 19 year old Graeme Nicholls.

Graeme now lives in suburban Melbourne but still follows with interest the Victorian walking scene and Alison's Masters career.