



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

The official organ of the Victorian Race Walking Club
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WHAT'S GOING ON

- We are all trying to maintain some semblance of sanity during our lockdown. This week's photo shows VRWC and Doncaster Athletics Club walker **Bernie Keirl** keeping fit on the bike. Thanks for the photo Bernie!



- Virtual Competitions are starting to kick up around the world. The first cab off the rank was the Age-graded Virtual League being run each Tuesday by Andi Drake and John Constandinou. See how it works at <https://nationalendurancecentre.co.uk/challenges>. There have been two rounds so far and the numbers have grown quickly. Round 2 saw 103 participants from UK, Australia, Ireland, USA, Spain, Belarus and New Zealand, up from 74 participants in the first round. I noted VRWC members **Darcey Roberts** (9:27) and **David Smyth** (10:51) amongst the Round 2 list of walkers. Well done Darcy and David. Round 3 will take place this week, with a 3km virtual walk on offer.

Round 1 results (2km) available via link <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6122>

Round 2 results (2km) available via link <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6124>

- The Tasmanian Race Walking Club has also instituted its own virtual race. Here's how Rosie Coleman explains it: We are endeavouring to have a Virtual Racing Series for the next month or so until we can all go back to some form of normality. So either on Saturday, Sunday or Monday, have a race walk over the following distances and then send Rosie Coleman the results (rcoleman@iprimus.com.au or facebook messenger).

8 years - 10 years

1KM

10 Years - 12 years

2KM

12 Years - 13 years

2KM or 3KM

13 years - Masters

2KM or 3KM

Walkers must be truthful when it comes to style and your correct time. Remember if you don't, it will catch up with you in the future. Make sure you have a measured course. Your walk can be done on road/track or grass. We will be conducting this in conjunction with the British Race Walking Association. Please send me the results by 5pm at the latest on Monday as I have to have them in by Tuesday each week. GOOD LUCK and HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS.

- The South Australian Masters (SAMA) in Adelaide are also running a weekly virtual race. See the report later in the newsletter for further details.
- Athletics Australia have developed a central hub (**the Virtual Stadium**) for the athletics community to ensure we keep moving, stay engaged, keep safe, keep fit and stay healthy during this period of unique and unprecedented lockdown throughout Australia, and indeed the world. It's called The Virtual Stadium - see <https://www.athletics.com.au/the-virtual-stadium/>. **Katie Hayward** is one of the athletes to feature in the Athlete Training Tips area – https://youtu.be/0Tkdl-h_NH0.
- World Athletics has launched **Athletics@Home**, a new series designed to help people of all ages to stay fit, active and engaged during this period of unprecedented lockdown around the world. One of its sections contains pics of famous athletes to colour in -and one of them is Jefferson Perez, probably the greatest 20km walker of all time. Now this is a collector's item! You can download it from <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/series/colouring-in-legend-athletes>.

PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IOC

Thanks to Paul DeMeester for what is fast becoming a weekly column!

IOC SEXISM - IT GETS WORSE

By Paul F. DeMeester

Last week, this column analyzed the Olympic Charter gender equality imperative that requires inclusion of women in the Tokyo 2020 50K Race Walk Event. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) very publicly hid behind an ordinary regulation that requires the Olympic event programme to be established three years ahead of the opening of the Games. Never mind that the gender equality requirement of the Olympic Charter's Fundamental Principles is higher-ranking than the timing rule. And never mind that the three-year rule has a waiver built in that must be used in order to eradicate existing sex discrimination (leading to a duty to act on the part of the IOC and the Local Organising Committee).

This week, we analyze how the IOC's sexism gets worse when one considers the Host City Contract, the agreement the IOC enters into with the Local Organising Committee once a city has been selected as the Host of a particular Olympic Games. It's not an even-handed agreement. The IOC pretty much dictates the terms. Lawyers call that a contract of adhesion, where one party is in a very strong position and the other in a very weak position to affect the terms of the agreement. The weak party ends up being in a "take it or leave it" position. Hence, when the Host City Contract reads a certain way, you can bet it on it that's because the IOC wanted it to read that way or the IOC threw a sop to the locals.

The Host City Contract for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in 2020 was executed on 9 May 2017 and is available on the IOC website. One of its provisions is relevant to the topic of including women in the 50K Race Walk Event:

... the IOC reserves the right to make changes to sports, disciplines and events, at any time, in accordance with the Olympic Charter and as the IOC may consider to be in the best interests of the Games in its sole discretion. Subject to Section 6 above, the OCOG shall bear all the costs related thereto, including the addition and/or deletion of sports, disciplines and events in the Olympic programme for the Games.

(Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Host City Contract, Section IV(d).)

What this means is that neither the three-year rule nor the waiver process stand in the way of the IOC including women in the 50K Race Walk Event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. All the IOC has to do is to tell the local organizers that from now on, women will be included in the 50K event and the locals even get to bear the cost of that inclusion (such as it is). Such a move would be "*in accordance with the Olympic Charter*" that outlaws sex discrimination as a Fundamental Principle and it would "*be in the best interests of the Games.*" All it takes is for the IOC Executive Board to say that it is so. The fact that they haven't demonstrates the sexism practiced by IOC President Thomas Bach and the Executive Board. The postponement of the Games gives them an opportunity to do the right thing and live up to their expectations. Of course, Bach's absence of leadership on the COVID-19 pandemic issue should not give anyone any illusions about Bach doing the right thing. But we've got another year to get things right. Let's not give up.

SAMA VIRTUAL WALKS AROUND ADELAIDE

The South Australian Masters (<https://samastersathletics.org.au/>) has implemented its own Virtual Competition. Here is how George White explains it:

With gatherings of people now restricted but exercise still being encouraged, SAMA is providing an incentive for its members to train ahead of a return to competition. To this end we are providing the opportunity for our members to participate as individuals in a weekly Virtual Competition.

Members are only encouraged to take part if they are comfortable leaving home to exercise, are not required to self-isolate, are careful about social distancing, abide by all COVID-19 restrictions and it is recommended that they refer to SAMA's current position statement on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the SAMA website.

Each week a preferred choice of two race distances to walk or run will be nominated. However any distance out of 2km, 4km, 5km, 6km, 8km, and 10km can be run or walked

As standard we suggest members use either of two of our regular 2km loops in the South Parklands and at Felixstow which are simple to follow. However, any measured 1 or 2 km course could be used. A 5km course can also be used which will allow many people to use their parkrun course. If members cannot get to a marked course then they can use their GPS watch to measure the distance.

The idea is for runners and walkers to go to the course at any time from Tuesday to Saturday each week and complete the suggested distance. They will time themselves and later that day email their time in for collation. Results are posted on the SAMA website on Sunday to enable everyone to see how they compared to others as well check their age grading.

Each Monday members are emailed with the upcoming program as well as the previous week's results.

The numbers have been superb for the first 3 rounds, with some athletes doing both a run AND a walk.

Round 1: <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2005-04-2020.txt>

Round 2: <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2012-04-2020.txt>

Round 3: <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2019-04-2020.txt>

MARCIADALMONDO ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 1 press release for us this week.

- 13 Apr 2020 - La Coruna meet postponed
- http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3786

while Omarchador has been delving into a bit of history

- Sun 19 Apr - Recalling the Podebrady Racewalking World Cup meet in 1997
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/recordando-taca-do-mundo-de-marcha-de.html>
- Sat 18 Apr - Coloring Jefferson Pérez at Athletics @ Home - Kids
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/colorir-jefferson-perez-no.html>
- Fri 17 Apr - Portuguese youngsters at the Hospitalet Grand Prix - 1983
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/jovens-portugueses-no-grande-premio-de.html>
- Wed 15 Apr - Remembering Ryta Turava, Belarussian 20km record holder
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/evocando-ryta-turava-ainda-recordista.html>
- Tue 14 Apr - Confined but not stopped, Yohann Diniz does some very different training
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/confinado-mas-nao-parado-yohann-diniz.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- A great article on Australia's **Jemima Montag**. See <https://www.womensportaustralia.com.au/2020/04/12/walking-on-a-dream/>
- Is the investigative noose finally tightening on Mo Farah? See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1092964/uk-athletics-plan-to-give-review-to-ukad>.
- Common sense has finally prevailed. It just takes some sports administrators longer than others for the severity of the current situation to finally sink in. After weeks of holding out hope the Tour de France would be able to go ahead as planned despite the coronavirus pandemic, the world's most famous cycling race was finally added to the list of sporting events called off. See <https://www.news.com.au/sport/tour-de-france-officially-postponed-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/news-story/ab2426fc9af15bd49c6feb2a374ca7d>.
- With the cancellation of the 202 Australian Masters Championships this month, AMA had to announce their 2019 Awards by video (see <http://australianmastersathletics.org.au/2020/04/11/2020-ama-awards-presentation/>). Congratulations to Northern Territory walker **Colin Heywood** who won the 2019 AMA Award for Outstanding Male, compliments of his M65 World Best 50km Walk time of 5:05:34, done at Fawkner Park in Melbourne last December. His walk bettered the current

record by nearly 6 minutes. Sadly, it could not be put forward for world record consideration as the mandatory 3 watches were not used to record the finish time. Colin vows to come back and do it again and tick all the boxes.



Colin Heywood in Darwin last week with his 2019 AMA Outstanding Male award

- Sadly, **Ann Sayer MBE**, the first female British Centurion (C599), passed away last Wednesday, a victim of Coronavirus. Ann was in a nursing home and her health was failing, but that doesn't lessen the loss. An international rower in her younger days, she found walking as a way to keep fit and never looked back, breaking one of the many glass ceilings against which women have railed over the years. Ann was awarded the MBE for services to sport and was a past President of the British Centurions. Read my article at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-ann-sayer.pdf>.
- Slovakian walker **Matej Toth** hopes his body can withstand one extra of year of training in his push to claim back-to-back Olympic 50km race walk titles in Tokyo next year. Given the fact Toth has not completed a race for more than 18 months, the delayed Olympics would appear to be an advantage for the Slovakian, although he does not necessarily read the situation that way. Read more at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/feature/matej-toth-race-walk-olympics-2021-slovakia>.
- Kenya's Daniel Kinyua Wanjiru, the winner of the 2017 London Marathon, has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). The AIU said on Tuesday that a charge had been issued against Wanjiru for "use of a prohibited substance/method". Around 60 Kenyan athletes have been sanctioned for anti-doping rule violations in the past five years. See <http://athletics.co.ke/daniel-wanjirus-suspended-for-doping/>.
- The antidoping officials who collect urine and blood samples from athletes can't work as they usually do during the coronavirus pandemic. In the United States, the testers are trying to take their work online. Oh, come on! It might be a workaround for now but it is something that should see the light of day once COVID-19 is done and dusted? See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/sports/olympics/coronavirus-drug-testing.html>.
- USADA CEO **Travis Tygart** has dealt with some of the biggest anti-doping cases in history, such as the scandals involving Lance Armstrong and Marion Jones. In fact, he's my hero in terms of antidoping. Listen to this great 20 minute ASADA audio interview at <https://onside.libsyn.com/s2-e4-talking-lance-armstrong-and-death-threats-with-travis-tygart>.

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Here are the answers to last week's 5 questions. Guernsey Commonwealth Games walker Rob Elliot came back within a couple of hours of publication, 4.75 / 5, and with lots of details to boot. Now that's impressive and sets a pretty high standard!

11. What parent/child combinations have both represented Australia in major racewalking competitions (Olympics, World Champs, Commonwealth Games, World Cup, etc)?

There are 4 parent/child combinations. Here they are in chronological order

Tim Erickson
Chris Erickson

Commonwealth 1978 1982; World Cup 1979 1983; World IAAF 1976
Commonwealth 2006 2010; World Cup 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014
World IAAF 2007 2009 2013 2015; Olympics 2008 2012 2016

David Smith	Commonwealth 1986; Olympics 1980 1984; World Cup 1979 1981 1983 1985 1987 1991 World IAAF 1983 1987
Dane Bird-Smith	Commonwealth 2018; Olympics 2016; World Cup 2010 2012 2014 2016 World IAAF 2013 2015 2017
Craig Brill Nathan Brill	World Junior 1986; World Cup 1987 1989, 1991, 1993 World Junior 2014; World Cup 2012 2014 2016
Jenni Jones-Billington Taylah-Paige Billington	World Cup 1993 1995 (NZ) World Junior 2014 2016; World Cup 2016

12. Who was the first female Australian walker to officially complete 100 miles walking in 24 hours?

Carmela Carrassi in 1996 with 23.44.22 see (<http://www.centurions.org.au/centprofiles/27%20carmela%20carrassi.pdf>)

13. Which Australian walker has swum the English Channel?

Kevin Cassidy did it in 2009, the first of many long distance swims – read all about Kevin’s exploits in swimming, running and most recently in racewalking: <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-kevin-cassidy.pdf>.

14. Has any Australian competed in both walking and running events at the same Olympic Games?

Yes, Victorian Ross Haywood did it in 1976, competing in the 20km walk and the marathon. Ross commented:

I wanted to throw some light on my marathon appearance at the '76 Olympics. Dave Chettle was the only selected marathon runner. In previous Olympic teams the team manager was able to make discretionary additions to start lists for some events. Chris Wardlaw and myself were given the opportunity to start in the marathon and I believed that given my very solid preparation I could acquit myself well as I had mixed running and walking all the years of my athletic career. There have been many such late entries before and after these games. Ironically Chris was the only one of us to finish. In starting I naively expected to be positioned insignificantly at the start line. I do have to live with my decision which I will always regret as my good mate Brenton Norman (deceased) won the official trial and was not selected.

Of course, you couldn't do that nowadays, even if you wanted to. To be selected for the marathon you must have qualified in the marathon. So no more marathon debuts in the Olympics. Tell that to Emil Zatopek and Alain Mimoun!

Interestingly, Victor Aitken was selected for the marathon and both racewalks in the 1908 Olympics, but participated only in the Marathon. His 1908 Olympic profile shows: Marathon (DNF), 3500m Walk (DNS), 10 Miles Walk (DNS).

I wrote an article some years ago on interesting walk/run combinations – <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wg-Crossing-to-the-Dark-Side.pdf>.

15. Which Australian walker represented Australia at three IAAF World Junior Championships?

NSW walker Troy Sundstrom represented in 1996, 1998 and 2000. He was born 30 May 1981, so was aged 15, 17 and 19 at the champs. Subsequent to his races, the IAAF changed the entry criteria for the World Juniors to enforce a minimum age requirement of 16. Hence it is no longer possible to do three World Junior Champs. You can check out Troy’s impressive underage career at <http://athletics.possumbility.com/athletes/athlete2740.htm>. Unfortunately, persistent injuries curtailed his senior career, which was a sad loss for one so talented.

I thought it would be a good idea to capture these questions for posterity so am accumulating them, along with their answers, at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.

And now to this week’s questions – some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

16. Which walkers have represented both Australia and another country in major racewalking competitions?

17. Which walkers have been awarded the prestigious Athletics Victoria Number 1 competition bib?

18. Which Australian walkers are members of the very select group that have ‘shot their age’ - ie played 18 holes of golf where the score is the same or less than their age. For example: You're 72 years old and you scored 72 strokes or less.

19. Which Australian Centurions have represented their country in major racewalk competitions (hint – 5 overall)?

20. Which English Centurions have represented their country in the Olympics (hint – there are 8 of them)?

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions.

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALK RECORD REVIEW

AA recognises only a select subset of walk distances for record purposes. I have refreshed my AA records page at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwcrcs2.shtml> and have put the latest AA walks record list (as of 9th March 2020) up there as well. Here is the current state of play

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA						
AUSTRALIAN RECORDS AS AT 9 MARCH 2020						
<u>MEN – OUTDOORS</u>						
3000M RACE WALK						
Aust U18	11:42.04	21-Feb-98	Sydney	Troy Sundstrom	NSW	30-Apr-81
Aust U16	12:09.3	2-Feb-95	Sydney	Troy Sundstrom	NSW	30-Apr-81
5000M RACE WALK						
Aust Allcomers	18:32.56	8-Mar-19	Melbourne	Perseus Karlstrom	SWE	1-May-90
Aust National	18:38.97	5-Mar-16	Melbourne	Dane Bird-Smith	QLD	15-Jul-92
Aust U20	19:38.22	19-Feb-00	Sydney	Troy Sundstrom	NSW	30-Apr-81
Aust U18	20:06.9	17-Jan-98	Sydney	Troy Sundstrom	NSW	30-Apr-81
10000M RACE WALK						
Aust Allcomers	38:20.9	15-Sep-85	Sydney	David Smith	VIC	24-Jul-55
Aust National	38:20.9	15-Sep-85	Sydney	David Smith	VIC	24-Jul-55
Aust U20	40:49.72	14-Jul-18	Finland	Declan Tingay	WA	6-Feb-99
Aust U18	42:40.54	6-Nov-99	Sydney	Doug Connolly	NSW	30-Oct-82
20000M RACE WALK						
Aust Allcomers	1:19:48.1	4-Sep-01	Brisbane	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
Aust National	1:19:48.1	4-Sep-01	Brisbane	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
Aust U20	1:36:39.7	27-Jun-81	Melbourne	Michael Harvey	VIC	5-Dec-62
30000M RACE WALK						
Aust Allcomers	2:14:22	9-Sep-90	Melbourne	Simon Baker	VIC	6-Feb-58
Aust National	2:14:22	9-Sep-90	Melbourne	Simon Baker	VIC	6-Feb-58
50000M RACE WALK						
Aust Allcomers	3:43:50.0	9-Sep-90	Melbourne	Simon Baker	VIC	6-Feb-58
Aust National	3:43:50.0	9-Sep-90	Melbourne	Simon Baker	VIC	6-Feb-58
5KM ROAD WALK						
Aust U16	22:00	11-Dec-11	Melbourne	Nathan Brill	VIC	24-Mar-96
8KM ROAD WALK						
Aust U18	34:21.0	24-May-92	Melbourne	Dion Russell	VIC	8-May-75
10KM ROAD WALK						
Aust U20	40.54	26-Jun-04	Sydney	Adam Rutter	NSW	24-Dec-86
Aust U18	42.36	11-Dec-16	Melbourne	Declan Tingay	WA	6-Feb-99
20KM ROAD WALK						
Aust Allcomers	1:18:59	22-Sep-00	Sydney	Robert Korzeniowski	POL	30-Jul-68
Aust National	1:17:33	23-Apr-05	Cixi City, CHN	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
Aust U20	1:24:46	6-Mar-05	Sydney	Adam Rutter	NSW	24-Dec-86
30KM ROAD WALK						
Aust Allcomers	2:05:06	27-Aug-06	Hobart	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
Aust National	2:05:06	27-Aug-06	Hobart	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
50KM ROAD WALK						
Aust Allcomers	3:35:47	2-Dec-06	Geelong	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
Aust National	3:35:47	2-Dec-06	Geelong	Nathan Deakes	VIC	17-Aug-77
<u>MEN – INDOORS</u>						
5000M WALK						
Aust National	18:52.20	8-Mar-87	Indianapolis	David Smith	VIC	24-Jul-55

WOMEN – OUTDOORS**3000M RACE WALK**

Aust U20	12:27.74	25-Feb-93	Melbourne	Jane Saville	NSW	5-Nov-74
Aust U18	12:43.0	8-Nov-97	Sydney	Michelle French	NSW	1-Apr-82
Aust U16	12:43.0	8-Nov-97	Sydney	Michelle French	NSW	1-Apr-82

5000M RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	20:03.0	11-Feb-96	Sydney	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust National	20:03.0	11-Feb-96	Sydney	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust U20	21:34.23	1-Mar-97	Melbourne	Natalie Saville	NSW	7-Sep-78
Aust U18	21:39.03	22-Oct-16	Brisbane	Katie Hayward	QLD	23-Jul-00

10000M RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	42:46.45	14-Jan-89	Sydney	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust National	41:57.22	24-Jul-90	Seattle	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust U20	43:20.65	5-Apr-19	Sydney	Katie Hayward	QLD	23-Jul-00

20000M RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	1:33:40.2	6-Sep-01	Brisbane	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust National	1:33:40.2	6-Sep-01	Brisbane	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61

5KM RACE WALK

Aust U18	22:44	30-Jul-17	Brisbane	Katie Hayward	QLD	23-Jul-00
Aust U16	24:23	19-May-12	Albert Park	Jemima Montag	VIC	15-Feb-98

8KM RACE WALK

Aust U18	39:15	24-May-92	Melbourne	Jane Saville	NSW	5-Nov-74
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10KM RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	41:29.71	27-Aug-88	Canberra	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust National	41:29.71	27-Aug-88	Canberra	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
Aust U20	45:10.0	27-Feb-97	Melbourne	Natalie Saville	NSW	7-Sep-78

20KM RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	1:29:05	28-Sep-00	Sydney	Liping Wang	CHN	8-Jul-76
Aust National	1:27:44	2-May-04	Naumburg	Jane Saville	NSW	5-Nov-74

50KM RACE WALK

Aust Allcomers	n/c					
Aust National	4:09.33	5-May-18	Taicang Prc	Claire Tallent	SA	6-Jul-81

WOMEN – INDOORS**3000M WALK**

Aust National	11:53.82	12-Mar-93	Toronto	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW	2-Jun-61
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The record set is really in need of revamping. The differences are pretty stark (most if not all have all been suggested to AA before for it takes a lot to get that slumbering elephant moving on such matters).

- Open Men have 30,000m and 50,000m track walk and 30km road walk categories but Open Women don't
- Open Women have 10km road walk category but Open Men don't
- U20 Men have 20,000m track walk and 20km road walk categories but U20 Women don't
- U20 Women have 3000m track walk category but U20 Men don't
- U18 Men have 10,000m track walk and 10km road walk categories but U18 Women don't
- U16 Women have 5km road walk category but U16 Men don't
- We continue to maintain U18 8km road walk categories for men and women but that distance has been obsolete for years.

Furthermore, AA does not maintain any U23 records for any T&F events, a major oversight in my view. If you want to provide a proper stepping stone from U20 to Senior, you need to support the U23 division with championships and records.

Anyway, it is what it is, even if it's a less than satisfactory record suite.

VIC SHARP (1913-1993)

I was perusing Paul Jenès' book *Fields of Gold, Lanes of Glory* last week when I came across a comment that Australian racewalking judge Victor Sharp had been awarded an MBE in 1962. I had not been aware of this so it set me on a path to investigate further. I knew Vic well and am pleased to now be able to publish this short biography of one short in stature but casting a big shadow!

Victor Bradley (Vic) Sharp is one of the giants of Australian racewalking. Vic was born in Victoria on 7th June 1913 and completed his studies at the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Commerce, in 1937, subsequently taking up the profession of accountancy.

He was a talented sportsman, representing Victoria in amateur football and enjoying the sport of racewalking, first in Victoria with the Victorian Amateur Walkers's Club (VAWC) and then in South Australia where he moved in 1951.

He was an enthusiastic walker without being a champion. I have references to him finishing 7th in the 1948 Alexander Cup 50km in Sydney (5:49:51), 14th in the 1952 Australian 10,000m Track Championship in Adelaide (53:35), 5th in the 1952 Victorian 50km Championship at the Showgrounds in Melbourne (5:49:23), 17th in the 1953 Australian 10,000m Track Championship in Sydney (54:38) and 11th in the 1953 Alexander Cup 50km in Adelaide.



Vic Sharp, Tom Kelly and Norm Goble racing in the Alexander Cup 50km in Centennial Park, Sydney, in 1948. Vic was racing in Victorian colours at that stage but his later races were as a South Australian representative

For professional reasons, Vic moved to South Australia in 1951, joining the then South Australian Farmers Cooperative Union Ltd as Company Secretary. He stayed with the company as it grew and changed, eventually retiring in 1978 from the position of General Manager, Finance & Administration, Southern Farmers Holdings (Group) Ltd.

As his racewalking career drew to a close in the mid 1950s, he looked for other ways in which he could maintain his racewalking associations and further the sport of athletics in Australia.

He was a member of the inaugural 1957 Australian Athletic Union (AAU) Coaching Committee, along with Kenneth Peake-Jones and Jess Jarver. Jarver's subsequent *Modern Athlete and Coach* magazine¹ became a must for all Australian coaches and still exists now, being published under the auspices of the Australian Track & Field Coaches Association.²

He became an international judge in the early 1960s and continued in that role until 1983 - a period of over 20 years. He had many international judging opportunities at the highest level, including four Olympic Games (1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976) and the inaugural 1983 IAAF World Championships (this was his last major international appointment).

He confided to Bob Cruise that the Mexico City 1968 Olympics was one of his most memorable judging experience³. "I wasn't going to put a red on Pedrasa - I wanted to get out of Mexico alive."

As a senior judge in Australia, he took a younger Ray Smith under his wing, teaching Ray the ropes and guiding him into his own career as an international judge.

1 See <https://www.atfca.com.au/coaches/modern-athlete-coach/>

2 See <https://www.atfca.com.au/>

3 *South Australian Race Walking Photos and Profiles* by Bob Cruise, 204, pages 94-95



August 1975 in Perth on the occasion of the Australian 50km – Vic Sharp in back, Ray Smith on right and Tim Erickson (with the hair!) on the left

He had two stints on the IAAF Race Walking Committee, firstly from 1968 to 1972 and then from 1976 to 1981⁴. Whilst on the IAAF RW Committee, he was the leader in a move to remove judges from the international panel once they reached 65 years of age. He became one of the first to 'suffer' under this rule.

He was a major contributor to racewalking in South Australia during the sixties and seventies and was granted Life Membership of the South Australian Athletic Association. He was also granted Life Membership of Athletics Australia in 1968.

Vic was a man of many and varied interests and passions.

He was deeply involved in the South Australian wine industry. In 1971, he was a member of the syndicate that acquired O Basedow Wines⁵ and he then served as Director and Secretary, occupying that position until 1988, until Lehmanns, Hoffmans and Basedow were acquired by MS McLeod. In 1978 he became a Committee Member of the Barossa Winemakers Association, eventually taking on roles as Acting Secretary and then Hon. Treasurer. He was inducted in 1990 to the Barons of Barossa⁶, an honour reserved for those who have made an outstanding contribution to the Barossa.

Vic was easily recognisable in any group, with his peak cap and fine moustache creating a distinct French look. Our various interstate racewalking trip to Adelaide would see us walkers taken under Vic's wing, with the compulsory post-event visit to the Barossa to tour and sample the wines.

During the Second World War, Vic had been involved in the Air Training Corps⁷, the part of the RAAF Reserve tasked with the training of young men between 16 and 18, with a view to join the wartime RAAF. In 1946, he was appointed to commissions with the rank of Pilot Officer for duty with the Air Training Corps. He continued his association with the ATC until 1969, by which time he held the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant.

He was also a long time member of the Naval Military and Air Force Club⁸, one of many clubs with whom he was associated during his long and eventful life.

He was awarded an MBE - Military Division (Australian Military Forces)⁹ in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on 25th May 1962, in recognition of his services to the Australian Armed Forces. He was the first Australian associated with the sport of racewalking to receive such an honour, albeit not for racewalking in his case. The sport would have to wait until 1975 for another gong, when Mabel Robinson received her own MBE for services to Australian Sport.¹⁰ Others have followed since.

4 See http://www.swisswalking.org/data/federation/reglements/PDF/IAAF_RWC2013_Olympic_World_Champs_Judges.pdf

5 See <http://www.snooth.com/winery/b3-wines-unley/>

6 See <https://www.baronsofbarossa.com/meet.html>

7 See <http://www.adf-serials.com.au/atc.htm>

8 See <https://www.navmil.org/>

9 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1962_Birthday_Honours

10 See <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwc-australian-honours.shtml>



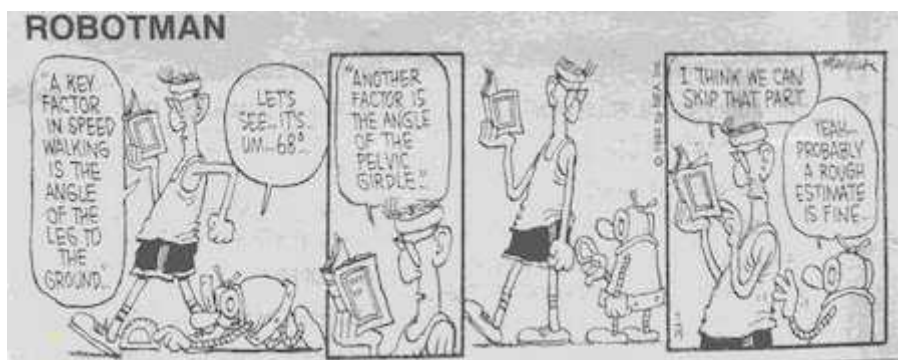
An historic photo, taken at the start of the Melbourne to Healesville Relay Race, with Ted Allsopp about to get underway with the baton, and with club identities Ernie Ryall, Ray Smith, Mabel and Alf Robinson, Bert Gardiner and Vic Sharp (in his RAAF uniform) amongst the onlookers and officials (photo from Ray Smith's archives)

This 38 miles relay was staged with legs of 2 miles. It was first held in July 1936. After the Second World War, the timing was changed to the Queens Birthday weekend in June. The event started in Alexandra Avenue at 11:30AM on the Saturday and was a major organisational feat. The last scheduling was held in 1954. An old furniture van, owned by Mr Proud who lived in Sunshine, was used to pickup and drop off the walkers along the route.

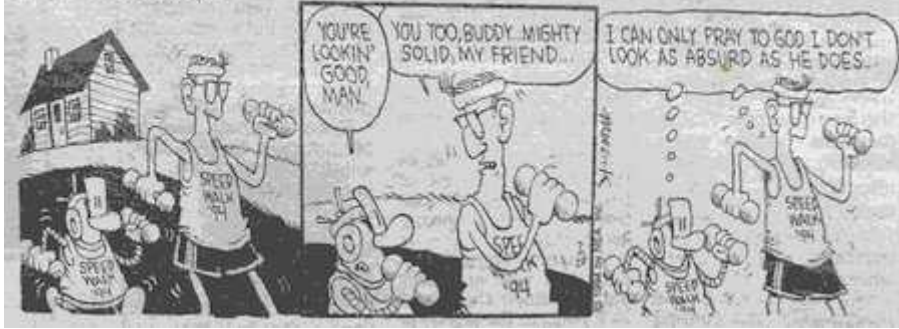
Vic died in 1993, aged 80, but his memory lives on in those of us who were lucky enough to know him.

SOME CARTOONS FOR US

Thanks to Heather Carr for these ROBOTMAN cartoons from 1994. I had 3 of them featured on my VRWC racewalk cartoon page (<http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwccartoons.shtml>) but did not realise there were more of them. Thanks Heather!



ROBOTMAN



ROBOTMAN



ROBOTMAN



ROBOTMAN



ROBOTMAN



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 – 2019/2020

Apr 25 (Sat), 2020	VRWC Winter Season Roadwalks at Middle Park (Season Opener) (POSTPONED)
Jun 7 (Sun), 2020	54 th LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

International Dates

May, 2-3, 2020	29th World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships , Minsk, Belarus (POSTPONED - TBA)
May 16 (Sat), 2020	International Racewalking Meet, Naumburg, Germany (20km men and women) (CANCELLED)
May 20 (Sat), 2020	Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain (POSTPONED - TBA)
May 24 (Sun), 2020	Finnish Race Walk Championships, Lapua, Finland, (30km Men, 20km Women)
Jun 5 (Fri), 2020	46 th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (TENTATIVELY POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
Jun 14 (Sun), 2020	Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km) (CANCELLED)
Jun 28 (Sun), 2020	Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)
July 17-20, 2020	18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships , Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED - TBA)
July 20 – Aug 1, 2020	23rd World Masters T&F Championships , Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)
Sep 26-28, 2020	Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China
Sep 26 (Sat), 2020	International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)

Jan 17-23, 2021	Oceania Masters Championships , Norfolk Island
Apr 6-13, 2021	9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships , Edmonton, Canada
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021	32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo (POSTPONED FROM 2020)
Aug 8-19, 2021	World University Summer Games , Chengdu, China

July 15-24, 2021	18th World Athletics Championships , Eugene, USA (POSTPONED FROM 2021)
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022	XXII Commonwealth Games , Birmingham, GBR
Aug 7-17, 2022	24th World Masters T&F Championships , Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 11-21, 2022	European Athletics Championships , Munich, GER

Aug 2023 (TBC)	19th World Athletics Championships , Budapest, Hungary
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