



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. That is the ninth in a row – what a superb effort. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

THE INHERENT NATURE OF THE IOC CoeNFLECT

By Paul F. DeMeester

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe has amply demonstrated that he has been tone-deaf about the personal conflicts of interest that have marred his athletics governance tenure. It took months of public criticism before Coe gave up his lucrative Nike ambassador role after assuming the IAAF presidency in 2015. Coe's chairmanship of CSM Sport & Entertainment, a global sports agency that works with several organisations in the Olympic Movement, has been cited by the IOC Ethics Commission as a conflict of interest that keeps Coe from becoming a member of the International Olympic Committee. The 'C' in CSM does not stand for Coe. The company's previous name was Chime Sports Marketing LLP. Coe joined in 2012, after his successful stint heading up the local organising committee of the 2012 London Olympics.

Coe's interest in being an IOC member is entirely logical. Coe is a double Olympic champion who led the London 2012 bid and presided over a terrific Olympics in the city of his birth. As World Athletics president, he should be on the inside of the IOC, given that athletics is the biggest sport within the Olympic Movement. One only has to follow the money, however, to understand Coe's blind ignorance to the conflict issue. Just for his first four years with CSM, Coe was reportedly paid around £12 million more than what Tim Erickson pays me to write for *Heel and Toe Online*. (See <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/olympics/2018/03/24/probe-could-take-fresh-look-lord-coes-12m-murky-deal/>.)

Instead of simply wallowing in his many pound notes and presiding over athletics, Coe has never given up his personal ambition to be on the IOC. Coe probably harbored thoughts of becoming an IOC member on the way to succeeding current IOC President Thomas Bach when the German is termed out in 2025. The longer it takes for Coe to join the IOC, the less likely this prospect becomes. Meanwhile, Bach has thwarted a potential rival, using Coe's conflict of interest as a handy excuse, paving the way for an easy re-election.

Coe's IOC ambitions have cost athletics dearly. Coe's legacy as President will be remembered for the reduced athletics footprint at the Summer Olympics, the institution of world rankings as a certain way to reduce the number of track & field athletes at the Games, and the willingness to turn his back on athletics events like race walking to serve his Olympic handlers. Bach and company have strung out Coe's IOC membership aspirations while holding sway over him. If the IOC wanted a mole inside World Athletics, it sure looks like they found a very public way to have one at the very top of the organisation.

The Nike and CSM conflicts of interest are entirely of Coe's making. Two other conflicts existed long before Coe first became a member of the IAAF Council in 2003. One of those two is contained in the Olympic Charter. Rule 16 of the Olympic Charter sets forth the requirements and obligations of members of the IOC:

1.3 The IOC admits its new members at a ceremony during which they agree to fulfill their obligations by taking the following oath:

"Honoured to be chosen as a member of the International Olympic Committee, I fully accept all the responsibilities that this office brings:

I promise to serve the Olympic Movement to the best of my ability.

I will respect the Olympic Charter and accept the decisions of the IOC.

I will always act independently of commercial and political interests as well as of any racial or religious consideration.

I will fully comply with the IOC Code of Ethics.

I promise to fight against all forms of discrimination and dedicate myself in all circumstances to promote the interests of the International Olympic Committee and Olympic Movement.”

1.4 Members of the IOC represent and promote the interests of the IOC and of the Olympic Movement in their countries and in the organisations of the Olympic Movement in which they serve.

1.5 Members of the IOC will not accept from governments, organisations, or other parties, any mandate or instructions liable to interfere with the freedom of their action and vote.

...

2. Obligations:

Each IOC member has the following obligations:

2.1 to comply with the Olympic Charter, the Code of Ethics and other regulations of the IOC;

...

2.5 to monitor, in the member's country and in the organisation of the Olympic Movement in which the member serves, the implementation of the IOC's programmes;

2.6 to inform the President, upon his request, of the development and promotion of the Olympic Movement and its needs in the member's country and in the organisation of the Olympic Movement in which the member serves;

2.7 to inform the President, without delay, of all events liable to hinder application of the Olympic Charter or to otherwise adversely affect the Olympic Movement in his country or in the organisation of the Olympic Movement in which he serves;

2.8 to perform other tasks assigned to the member by the President.

3. Cessation of membership:

The membership of IOC members ceases in the following circumstances:

...

3.8 Expulsion:

3.8.1 An IOC member may be expelled by decision of the Session if such member has betrayed his oath or if the Session considers that such member has neglected or knowingly jeopardised the interests of the IOC or acted in a way which is unworthy of the IOC.

(Olympic Charter, effective 26 June 2019, Rule 16; red color added for emphasis.)

The quoted provisions have been part of the Olympic Charter, with minor, non-substantive differences, since Seb Coe first joined the IAAF Council in 2003. World Athletics, under its former IAAF title, is a named main constituent of the Olympic Movement. (Olympic Charter, Rules 1.2 and Bye-law 1.3.1 to Rule 45.) If you thought that my “mole” comment was pure personal opinion, it sure appears that the Olympic Charter has instituted the mole system by way of regulation. From the athletics point of view, an IOC member is required to accept the decisions of the IOC; to act independently of the political interests of World Athletics; to promote the interests of the IOC at all times, including within World Athletics; refuse any instruction or mandate from World Athletics; to monitor the implementation of IOC programmes within World Athletics; to inform the IOC President on what is happening within World Athletics; and to run errands for the IOC President. In my day job as a criminal defense lawyer, we call the “monitoring” and “informing” functions “snitching.” The “mole” sure looks more like an Olympic mascot, doesn't it? Recently, Coe expressed his continuing interest in being an IOC member. (See http://aroundtherings.com/site/A_99735/Title_ATRadio-Seb-Coe-on-Tokyo-Return-to-Competition/292/Articles, then navigate to podcast of May 2, 2020; IOC membership discussed with interviewer Ed Hula between 33:16 and 34:00.)

In the 2 May 2020 interview, Coe put a nice spin on his legacy of Olympic athletics shrinkage, world rankings that implement the IOC's commands and the abolition of athletics events (50K race walk today, maybe the 200 metres and who knows what else tomorrow) when he said, “*I've always taken the view that my responsibility is to represent athletics in the Olympic Movement, not the Olympic Movement in athletics.*” His actions, like telling the Race Walk Committee members to be “brave” and abolish the 50K, show that the IOC have gotten all the use out of Coe with his IOC membership ambitions without ever having to put him on the Committee.

Critics may point out that I am singling out Coe when two other World Athletics Council members, Senior Vice President Sergey Bubka and Council Member Nawal El Moutawakel, are members of the IOC. But in the words of Seb Coe when he testified on 2 December 2015 before a House of Commons committee that investigated doping in sports, “*the vice-presidency role is non-executive. It is non-operational. It is probably about 10 days a year*” (See <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/culture-media-and-sport-committee/combating-doping-in-sport/oral/25643.html>, Q210.) In other words, neither Bubka nor El Moutawakel run World Athletics. Coe does. Even though Coe did not create the built-in Olympic Charter conflict of interest, he has certainly done the IOC’s bidding within athletics.

The second non-Coe created conflict dates back to the founding of the IAAF, a development watched with great suspicion by IOC President Pierre de Coubertin, who wanted to assert IOC supremacy. The impetus for an international athletics federation came from Swedish athletics officials, who wanted to prevent rules disputes that had marred the athletics programme at the 1908 London Olympics, in preparation for the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. The IAAF was formally launched in 1913. The founding and the IOC conflict are described in a paper by Dr. Hans Bolling, entitled *The Beginning of the IAAF, a Study of its Background and Foundation*, published in 2007 (available at <https://media.aws.iaaf.org/competitioninfo/98ef337f-62a0-4dc9-9348-c8e8a2fdbf1c.pdf>). The French father of the modern Olympics was right, of course. Sooner or later, there would be a collision course between the IOC and the IAAF. One example is our own beloved event, the 50K Race Walk. Deleted by the IOC for the 1976 edition of the Olympics, the IAAF fought for its reinstatement, which it obtained four years later. The year it went missing, the IAAF organised its first ever World Championships in Athletics, just for the Men’s 50K Race Walk. Up until that time, the Olympics had served as the World Championships for track and field. (See for instance, Rule 10 of the By-Laws of the IAAF in the *Handbook of the International Amateur Athletic Federation 1927-1928*, at p. 17.) By 1983, the IAAF was conducting World Championships in all athletics events.

We would like to see Coe display the same *Spirit of 1976* on behalf of athletics instead of on behalf of the IOC and stick up for all the events within the athletics family, including the race walk events. The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics gives Coe a chance to redeem himself by insisting on the inclusion of women 50K race walkers at next year’s Games and by telling the IOC not to meddle with the athletics program. Hopefully, we don’t have to send Coe £12 million for him to do his job.

SAMA VIRTUAL WALKS AROUND ADELAIDE - ROUND 6

The South Australian Masters Virtual Competition continued this week. Walk results are shown below. Well done everyone! See the full results set at <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2017-05-2020.txt>.

2km Walk

1.	MARK WORTHING	0:12:05	M57	67.25%
2.	MARIE MAXTED	0:13:11	W60	68.84%
3.	TREVOR BROWN	0:14:03	M71	67.25%
4.	ROGER LOWE	0:15:07	M77	67.68%
5.	GRAHAM HARRISON	0:15:31	M76	65.02%
6.	MALCOLM TIGGEMAN	0:15:41	M67	57.45%
7.	HELEN SURIDGE	0:16:29	W69	61.24%
8.	JAN LAYNG	0:16:29	W71	62.93%
9.	COLIN BROOKS	0:17:38	M66	50.52%
10.	JOHN HORE	0:18:37	M71	50.76%
11.	JILL ROGERS	0:19:08	W75	57.51%

4km Walk

1.	TREVOR BROWN	0:29:20	M71	68.65%
2.	MALCOLM TIGGEMAN	0:32:06	M67	59.80%

5km Walk

1.	GEORGE WHITE	0:31:19	M74	84.20%
2.	ROGER LOWE	0:39:46	M77	69.15%
3.	GRAHAM HARRISON	0:39:51	M76	68.03%
4.	EDNA BATES	0:45:18	W67	59.59%

6km Walk

1.	GEORGE WHITE	0:37:42	M74	84.74%
2.	GILLIAN WHITE	0:48:44	W71	71.56%
3.	RODGER BARBER	0:49:15	M82	73.12%
4.	DAVID ROBERTSON	0:53:11	M86	72.61%

8km Walk

1.	GEORGE WHITE	0:50:22	M74	85.49%
2.	KEVIN FINN	0:56:48	M68	70.22%

3.	MARIE MAXTED	0:57:55	W60	70.44%
4.	GRAHAM HARRISON	1:04:35	M76	68.56%
5.	ROGER LOWE	1:06:30	M77	67.57%

10km Walk

1.	ROSS HILL-BROWN	1:28:54	M65	54.58%
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ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 6, ACROSS THE WORLD

The Virtual League Racing Series (<https://nationalendurancecentre.co.uk/challenges>), being coordinated by the National Centre for Race Walking in Leeds, continues to be the dominant weekly virtual walking competition. Round 6 has just been completed, with walkers submitting 4km and 2km walk performances. John Constandinou explains:

140 athletes took part this week, from 12 countries, aged from 11 to 85 - this week adding Kenya, Thank you for your patience - the results were delayed this week as I had to undergo emergency surgery! Well done to all who took part - keeping active and competitive.

I hope all is ok now John! Here are the overall results:

4km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6131>

2km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6133>

And here is an extract of the Australians who forwarded their performances.

4km Walk Women

16.	Gabriella Hill	U17W	22:03
17.	Emily Smith	U15W	22:11
20.	Lyla Williams	U13W	23:01
24.	Heather Carr	W70	24:27
31.	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	26:56

4km Walk Men

11.	Will Bottle	U17M	19:43
20.	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	21:22
27.	Rupert van Dongen	M45	23:18
55.	Wayne Fletcher	M60	29:50
57.	Eugene Gerlach	M45	29:54
59.	Ron Foster	M70	30:54

2km Walk Women

17.	Gabriella Hill	U17W	10:55	71.01%
18.	Emily Smith	U15W	11:05	71.71%
23.	Lyla Williams	U13W	11:30	71.23%
25.	Nyle Sunderland	W50	11:45	72.56%
30.	Heather Carr	W70	12:13	85.83%
41.	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	13:28	73.20%

2km Walk Men

9.	Owen Toyne	U15M	09:31	78.50%
14.	Will Bottle	U17M	09:51	73.58%
16.	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	09:55	78.49%
20.	Oliver Morgan	U13M	10:16	75.82%
28.	Jack Bannister	U15M	11:00	67.91%
29.	Kai Norton	U17M	11:08	65.10%
30.	Rupert van Dongen	M45	11:18	67.18%
61.	Haydn Gawne	M70	13:50	69.89%
69.	Wayne Fletcher	M60	14:55	58.09%
70.	Sam Lindsey	U13M	14:56	52.12%
71.	Eugene Gerlach	M45	14:57	50.78%
75.	Ron Foster	M70	15:27	62.58%

Well done to Rosemary Coleman of TRWC who is coordinating a lot of these results and forwarding. She had some additional results this week on extra distances, so I publish them as well. We don't want anyone to miss out with regard to their efforts.

3km Walk

1.	Jack Bannister	14	QLD	16.30
2.	Kai Norton	15	QLD	16.42

3.	Sam Lindsey	12	TAS	22.24
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1.5km Walk

1.	Bailey Housden	13	QLD	7.38
2.	Millie Sharpe	12	QLD	8.30

1km Walk

1.	Jada McCoombes	8	QLD	5.58
2.	Noah Tilton	10	NSW	6.33
3.	Eva Parker	9	TAS	6.38

TRACK MEET, RUMBURK, CZECH REPUBLIC, SATURDAY 16 MAY

Czech walkers are back on the track, having raced last Saturday at Rumburk. Full results at <https://online.atletika.cz/vysledky/43996>. Here are the 10,000m walk results. There were lots of junior races over shorter distances. Also reported by omarchador, along with some photos, at <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/o-regresso-as-competicoes-de-marcha-em.html>.

10,000m Walk Men

1.	Vít Hlaváč	97	AC TEPO Kladnoloko	44:30.2
2.	Martin Nedvídek	75	AC Rumburk, zslogo	45:22.4
3.	Rostislav Kolár	87	SK Hranice, zslogo	46:10.5
4.	Jaromír Morávek	03	PITCH WALK Praguologo	46:42.1
5.	Josef Smola	64	PITCH WALK Praguologo	53:41.3

10,000m Walk Women

1.	Anežka Drahotová	95	University Sports Club Praguologo	47:41.0
2.	Tereza Durdiaková	91	AK Olymp Brno, spoleklogo	50:53.8

10,000m Walk Junior Women

1.	Eliška Martínková	02	AC Turnov, zslogo	49:23.3
2.	Jana Zikmundová	02	AC Turnov, zslogo	54:00.6

MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

Marcialalmondo has been having a rest this week (and why not!)

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles

- Sun 17 May - Return to walking competitions in Rumburk, Czech Republic
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/o-regresso-as-competicoes-de-marcha-em.html>
- Sun 16 May - Recalling the "Cantones de La Coruña" in 1998
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/recordando-o-cantones-de-la-coruna-em.html>
- Fri 15 May - Portuguese team made history in Chihuahua 10 years ago
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/selecao-de-portugal-fez-historia-em.html>
- Thu 14 May - A bit of history: The Grand Prix of Walking in Grândola (1991-2010)
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/viajando-pelos-grandes-premios-de.html>
- Wed 13 May - Kenyan junior walker Dominic Ndigiti works to survive during the lockdown
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/dominic-ndigiti-forcado-trabalhar-nas.html>
- Tue 12 May - Érica Sena in times of confinement
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/erica-sena-em-tempos-de-confinamento.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- In last week's newsletter, I reported on the Omarchador article that broke the news that the **2020 World Racewalking Team Championships**, which were supposed to be held earlier this month in Minsk, were now likely to be held in **April 2021**. It should actually have read **April 2022**. If true, it effectively means that the 2020 World Team Champs will have been CANCELLED, not postponed for 2 years. See link <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/minsk-em-2022.html>.
- The postponed African Athletics Championships in Algiers will be held before the rearranged Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games next year, the head of the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) has confirmed. CAA President Hamad Kalkaba

Malbourn said the event would take place between 40 days and a month prior to Tokyo 2020, rescheduled for July 23 to August 8, 2021. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094112/african-athletics-champs-before-tokyo>.

- Here is a fantastic article on the 1908 Olympic dual gold medallist George Larnar of GBR by Alan Buchanan: <https://www.sussexathletics.net/news/the-only-sussex-double-olympic-goldmeddalist/>. The last paragraph reads:

Few sportspersons can expect to have the honour of their name emblazoned on their local bus. When George Larnar was born in 1875, there was no such thing as a motor car as we know it, let alone a double decker bus. He however, is celebrated on one of the Brighton & Hove buses, and is one of the only sportspersons and is the only athlete who rubs shoulders, metaphorically, with the great and good associated with the City.

Here is the bus:



Now that would have been a great question for my Q&A section!

- Athletes living in Melbourne's east have always had the 1000 Steps in the Dandenong Ranges for training. Those of us on the west look like getting our own 1000 Steps at Bald Hill in Bacchus Marsh - see the funding announcement at <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/news/first-step-on-bald-hill-project>. Construction start date is expected to be late 2021. Fantastic!



- WADA has uncovered a further four adverse findings as it continues analysing samples collected from the Moscow Laboratory as part of the ongoing Operation LIMS investigation. A total of 61 adverse analytical findings have now been reported by investigators, an increase of four from WADA's last update on the progress of the probe on April 30. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094292/wada-increase-in-findings-from-russia>.

- 4 years ago ABC journalist and presenter Tracey Holmes interviewed South Australian walker **Kim Mottrom** for her NewsRadio show *The Ticket* after his doping ban was finished. Last week she interviewed him again for an athlete's perspective on the proposed changes to laws around how ASADA would handle doping cases.

First podcast is here: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/newsradio/podcasts/the-ticket/the-ticket-24-april-2016/11066820>

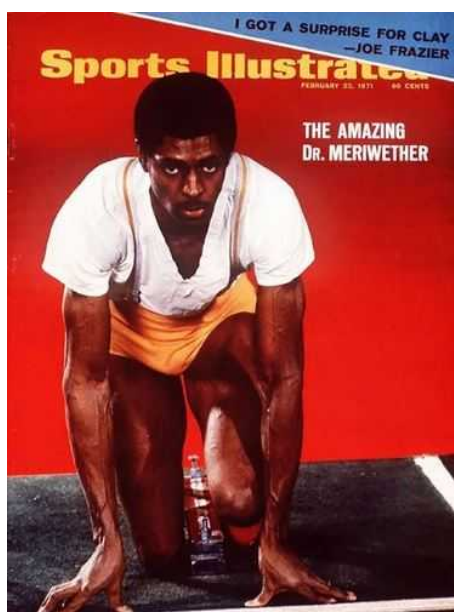
The new podcast is here: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/newsradio/podcasts/the-ticket/the-ticket-17th-may/12257480>

For those who don't know, a suite of athletes' rights are to be wiped if Australia votes into law changes governing anti-doping body ASADA. Not good!

- European cross country champion Robel Fsiha has been banned for four years by the Swedish Anti-Doping Board after testing positive for artificial testosterone in November at a training camp. Fsiha, who started running for Sweden at the end of 2018 after arriving as a refugee in 2013 from Eritrea, tested positive for the banned substance at a training camp in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia on November 25 last year, less than two weeks before his triumph at the European Cross Country Championships in Lisbon in the senior race. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094327/robel-fsiha-four-year-ban-cross-country>.

THE AMAZING DR DELANO MERIWETHER

Thanks to Vic Miller for forwarding this great front page pic of Delano Meriwether from the 22nd February 1971 Sports Illustrated edition. What's the connection to us here and now?



Well, Merriwether is known professionally for having been the head of the US Government immunization program during the 1976 Swine Flu outbreak and is known from a sporting perspective as the 1971 US Outdoor Track and Field Champion in the 100-yard dash. This historic win occurred only a few months after this Sports Illustrated photo and article, and confirmed his meteoric rise as a runner.

Here is the full article from that Sports Illustrated edition: <https://vault.si.com/vault/1971/02/22/champion-of-the-armchair-athletes>.

The amazing thing is that he only began running in February of 1970, at the age of 26, while working at the Baltimore Cancer Research Center. Training at night time when he could find the time, he exploded onto the USA track running scene.

It was in June 1971 when he won the 100-yard dash at the US Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene. His appearance at the event was unusual for a number of reasons. He was unattached to any educational institution and he was wearing a hospital shirt, gold and white suspenders and swimming trunks. The most remarkable element of the day was the time he recorded for the 100-yard dash. In recording a nine-second 100-yard he became the second runner to run the distance in nine seconds flat, the only other being John Carlos. Meriwether's time did not count as a record as the run was wind assisted, but it propelled the part time runner to the top of the tree.

In 1972 Meriwether was the United States Indoor Track and Field Champion, but due to a knee injury he was unable to compete for selection in US 1972 Olympic Games team. After another injury prevented his chances of being selected for the 1976 Olympics, he retired from regular competition to concentrate on medicine.

For a number of years he ran in masters events and his 200m run of 20.8 seconds in 1978 is still a current national record in the 35-39 age group.

A truly amazing story. Read more at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delano_Meriwether.

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Firstly, an amendment to answer 26, published last week.

26. Which brother/sister combination(s) have each won Australian Racewalking Championships?

I noted one of the brother/sister combinations was **Douglas and Kate Connelly** (NSW). Brent Vallance tells me that they were not in fact siblings. Thanks Brent!

Now to this week's answers.

31. Alas, they are all gone now, victims of the increasing traffic flow on our roads. Name four of the now defunct VAWC Roadwalk Classics which used to be contested annually in Melbourne and surrounding areas.

Nowadays, we restrict our racing to the Middle Park area because of Public Liability considerations. Although I realise the reason for this, it does disappoint me when I consider all the Classics the club used to hold in years past. The following brief list of these events illustrates the point well.

- Ian McDougal Memorial Handicap (15 miles) - along Beach Rd from St Kilda to Chelsea
- Melbourne to Frankston and return (50 miles)
- Melbourne to Frankston (25 miles)
- R. J. Blackley Memorial Handicap (20 miles Club Championship) - Queenscliff to Geelong
- Coldstream to Healesville (10 miles)
- Victorian 50 km - starting and finishing at Showgrounds during Show Week
- Melbourne to Healesville Relay (38 miles in 2 mile legs)

Most were all still going in the 1960s when I started walking with the club. I was lucky enough to walk the St Kilda to Chelsea (15 miles) and the Melbourne to Frankston (25 miles) and I watched the Queenscliff to Geelong (20 miles) in a car. They were great races. Read more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/The%20VRWC%20Classics.pdf>.

32. Which VAWC member was justifiably known as the “iron man” of Australian walking for his many amazing endurance feats in the 1960's and 1970's?

Jim Gleeson, born 14 June 1931, is recognized as one of the greatest exponents of long distance walking in Australia and he was regarded for many years as the iron man of Victorian Racewalking. I remember Clarrie Jack talking in awestruck terms of Jim's 1971 24 hour walk at the Preston Track when he set ab Australian record of 122 miles 215 yards. What made that walk so special were the incredibly bad conditions, with gale force winds and very adverse conditions buffeting the walkers almost continuously. The record still stands nearly 50 years later.

Of course, this performance was just one in a string of wonderful walks by Jim. He won the VAWC 50 mile titles in 1961, 1962 and 1963, setting a new Australian best time of 8:15:19 in 1962. Jim did many other long distance walks over the ensuing years but none more impressive than his Darwin “Big Walks” of the mid sixties. His performances in this gruelling 100km event are the stuff of legend.

Jim remained competitive over the shorter distances and, in 1968, he won the Lake Burley Griffin 20 miler in Canberra, one of the first winners of this prestigious annual event.

You can read more about Jim at <http://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/03%20jim%20gleeson.pdf>.

33. A double barrelled question – who was the first Australian walker to feature on a postage stamp, and how many Australian walkers overall have had this honour bestowed on them?

In 1957, the Dominican Republic issued a set of Olympic stamps, featuring some of the 1956 Olympic Gold Medallists. One stamp featured 1956 Olympic 50km winner Norm Read of NZ. But to his left is seen British walker Don Thompson and on his right is Australian walker **Ron Crawford**. Don was thus the first Australian to feature on a postage stamp.

In 1992, the small Pacific island nation of Tuvalu released a stamp featuring female walkers from the 1987 IAAF World Championship race in Rome. Women's racewalking was added to the Olympic in 1992 so perhaps that is why this stamp was produced at that stage and an archival shot used. Seen amongst the group of women is Australian walker **Sue Cook**.

Fast forward to 2006 when stamps were released to honour each Australian Commonwealth Games gold medallist from the 2006 Games in Melbourne. Amongst the featured stamps were two for **Nathan Deakes** (20km and 50km men) and one for **Jane Saville** (20km women).

Finally, Australia releases stamps of all Olympic Gold medallists for each Olympic Games. In 2016, when **Jared Tallent** was finally awarded his gold medal from the 2012 Games in London, a special 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist stamp was released.

That makes 5 walkers and 6 stamps in total. Read about them at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwcstamps.shtml>.

- 34. What walker competed in and successfully finished an Australian 20km Championship while walking barefoot (the whole way)? Hint – it was not in the olden days but was some time this century.**

Malaysian walker **Thirukumaran Balaysendaran** was well known for his barefoot walking, even in major races. He raced without shoes in a number of major internationals, including

1997 IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Podebrady	20km	105 th	1:31:17
1998 Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur	50km	9 th	4:44:33
1999 IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Mézidon-Canon	20km	90 th	1:37:12
2001 South East Asian Games, Kuala Lumpur	20km	3 rd	1:34:30

We even saw his barefoot walking firsthand in Sydney in February 2000 when he competed in the Australian 20km championships, being held on the Homebush course which was to be used in the Olympics that year. On that occasion, he finished 22nd in a time of 1:40:10, his unique walking mode being captured by the Sydney Morning Herald (see <http://www.smh.com.au/fimages/2005/05/11/1115585021026.html>).

Read more about him at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-thirukumaran-balaysendaran.pdf>.

- 35. Which VAWC member had the unique claim of surviving being struck by lightning on 3 separate occasions.**

VAWC walker and life member **Jim Gaylor** was one of our best Australian walkers of the pre-WWII era. Apart from his many feats on the road, Jim had a unique claim in that he had survived lightning strikes on 3 separate occasions. The first time was as a 22 year old under a tree in North Richmond. Then after the war came two more close calls when he was out and about near his Sunshine home. Melbourne University scientists gave him a thorough examination and found him to be a very interesting human specimen indeed. There was even a newspaper report. "*They tested my blood and bone measurements,*" Jim recalled. "*I know it sounds amazing, but the scientists reckoned my heavy boned structure saved me from possible death.*" I met Jim on many occasions and remember him as a bigger than big person and personality. Read more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-jim-gaylor.pdf>.

Now to this week's questions – they are not getting any easier! Some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

- 36. Are there any international walkers who have also represented their countries in major international championships in other sports (eg at World Championship level, etc)?**
- 37. You would have read above that 1908 Olympic walk champion George Larner has a bus named in his honour. Do any walkers had streets or walkways named in their honour?**
- 38. Which European coach took his adopted country to the top of the racewalking world and revolutionised racewalking along the way, changing it forever?**
- 39. Which dual Olympic racewalking medallist is now a successful artist, with his monumental sculptures gracing city skylines in his own country and around the world?**
- 40. Who was this astonishingly good walker? For more than a decade, he was regarded as the finest competitive walker in the world and was New Zealand's first world champion.**

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions. Remember you can check out past questions and answers at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.

SOME MORE HISTORICAL RESULTS

If the COVID lockdown lasts long enough, I will have all the results done. So far, I have produced the following:

- [1933-1940 Australasian Championships Women.pdf](#)
- [1892-1920 Australasian Championships Men.pdf](#)

- [1923-1937 Australasian 7 Mile Championships.pdf](#)
- [1939-1962 Glover Shield and Australian 10,000m Walks](#)
- [1930-1970 Australian and Alexander Cup 50km Championships.pdf](#)
- [1892-1920 Victorian Championships Men.pdf](#)

Today I add another one to the mix.

VICTORIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1921-1930

With the First World War behind it, the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association had started its rebuild in 1920. The next 20 years would see a period of post war euphoria, followed by the Great Depression, then another period of rebuilding, only to be interrupted by another World War.

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1921

The 1921 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw the usual 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks replaced by a 2 Mile Walk. This was not to last, the following year seeing a return to the 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks. While the race win went to NSW walker **Bert Kitchen**, the Victorian Title went to **Fred Willson**, the two finishing in a near dead heat.

Once again, no roadwalk championships were scheduled.

2 MILES WALK, Saturday 26 February 1921

1.	Albert 'Bert' Kitchen	NSW	15.29.6
2.	Fred Willson	YMCA	15.29.7e
3.	Leslie Mudge	Melbourne	
4.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	
5.	Stan Porter	Footscray	
6.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	
7.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
8.	Arthur Flint	Moreland	

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1922

The 1922 Victorian Championships was held at the Amateur Sports Ground in December 1921, with **Tom Radich** (third in the 1920 1 Mile walk) breaking through for dual wins.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday, 17 December 1921

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	23.24.0
2.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	24.09.0
3.	Leslie Mudge	Melbourne	24.27.0
4.	Leslie Robinson	Carlton	25.20.0
5.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	25.56.0
6.	Fred O'Grady	Coburg	26.06.0

1 MILE WALK, Wednesday 21 December 1921

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	6.55.0
2.	Harry Dennis	Melbourne	
3.	Norman Asker	YMCA	
4.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
5.	Fred Willson	YMCA	
6.	? Stewart	Carlton	

While 1912 Olympian Bill Murray, now 40 years of age, did not contest the shorter track walks, he did return for the two road walks, finishing as the first Victorian in the 10 Miles walk and taking second place in the 25 Miles walk. A new name appeared on the winner's list, with **Jack Lewis** taking gold in the 25 Miles Walk.

Lewis was a Warburton based forest ranger and a former Victorian marathon champion. He was known as 'the Grecian marathon runner' and, in fact, showed Greece as this country of representation in his various races. A newspaper of the time described him as follows

"He is a fine type of athlete, bronzed like a statue. He lives a healthy life in the Warburton district where he is one of the local rangers. Walking to him is a pleasure and 50 miles in the mountains is regarded as nothing more than part of his daily exercise. In the pre-war days, as a mere lad, he made a name for himself as a Marathon runner. Since then he has developed into an endurance athlete."

10 MILES WALK, Scotch College, Saturday 1 July 1922

1.	W Pitt	NSW	1:27.35
2.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:28.04
3.	Rex Merrick	Hawthorn	1:29.38

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 23 September

1.	Jack Lewis	EMH	4:12.19
2.	William Murray	Melbourne	4:21.50
3.	Ted Drayton	Footscray	4:23.10
4.	Ernest Harrison	England	4:19.29 (1 lap or 880 yds short)
5.	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	4:28.31
6.	Thomas Byrne	Queensland	4:47.00
	Francis Stuart	Carlton	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Les Robinson	Carlton	DNF
	Les Mudge	Melbourne	DNF
	Francis O'Rourke	Hawthorn	DNF
	Albert Heywood	Carlton	DNF
	Clive Ashdown	Coburg	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1923

The Amateur Sports Ground alongside the Yarra River was now the venue for all Victorian Athletics Track Championships and, once again in 1923, it was put to good use.

Tom Radich, who had won dual golds in 1921, won both walks again, in almost identical times! For the first time, **Bert Gardiner**'s name appeared in the results, with 8th in the 3 Miles Walk and 7th in the 1 Mile Walk. Note that the 3 Miles Walk was always contested as the first of the two walks, with the 1 Mile Walk normally a week later.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 10 February

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	23.24.0
2.	Norman Asker	Metropolitan	
3.	Victor Dowling	SSH	
4.	E Strain	Essendon	
5.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	
6.	Les Robinson	Carlton	
7.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
8.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
9.	G Hester	Footscray	
10.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
11.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	
12.	Ted Sunderland	Melbourne	
13.	T Langtry	EMH	

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 17 February

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	6.54.4
2.	Norman Asker	Metropolitan	7.05.0
3.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	7.28.0
4.	E Strain	Essendon	
5.	William Croke	North Melb.	
6.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	
7.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
8.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
9.	Victor Dowling	SSH	
10.	A Weir	MUAC	
11.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	
12.	Ted Sunderland	Melbourne	

July 1923 saw the first Australasian 7 Miles Walk Championship, held at the Malvern Cricket Ground in Melbourne.

Norman Asker, who was second in both track walks, went one better in the 10 Miles Walk, taking gold in the 10 Miles walk. Asker was easy to spot in the field, being 6 ft 6 inches in height, and towering over everyone else. While SA champion H.G. **(Geo) Wilson** won the 25 Miles Walk, the Victorian gold went to **Edward Winstanley**. Winstanley also took silver in the 10 Miles walk. It was a bad double for Bill Murray, disqualified in the 10 Miles and DNF in the 25 Miles. Bert Gardiner improved to 4th and 5th.

10 MILES WALK, Aspendale Racecourse, Saturday 11 August

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	1:28.30
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	1:30.30
3.	Ted Drayton	Footscray	1:31.12
4.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:31.25
5.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	1:34.10
	William Murray	Melbourne	DQ
	Les Mudge	Melbourne	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Frank O'Rourke	CYMS	DNF
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 13 October

1.	Harold George Wilson	South Australia	4:02.59
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:25.27
3.	Frank O'Rourke	CYMS	4:28.29
4.	Harry Cavill	SSH	4:33.08
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
6.	Richard Winstanley	NSW	
	William Murray	Melbourne	DNF
	William Deuchar	SSH	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Victor Dowling	SSH	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1924

Norman Asker finally broke through for wins in the 3 Miles Walk and the 1 Mile Walk at the 1924 Victorian Championships, held as usual at the Amateur Sports Ground. With defending champion **Tom Radich** disqualified in the 3 Miles Walk and then finishing second in the 1 Mile Walk, it was seen by some as a changing of the guard. Bert Gardiner continued his rise, with third place in both events. Alas, full field placings are not known.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 19 January

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	23.36.6
2.	Victor Dowling	SSH	100 yards
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	150 yards
4.	Tom Radich	Carlton	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 26 January

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	7.12.5
2.	Tom Radich	Carlton	15 yds
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	40 yds

The two roadwalks were held later in the year and saw wins to **Victor Dowling** and SA champion **Geo Wilson**, now living in Victoria and competing for Geelong Guild. Dowling was aged only 20 years and won the 10 Miles Walk convincingly, after his second place in the 3 Miles Walk earlier in the year. He would go on to win the Under 21 7 Miles Walk at the Australasian 7 Miles Walk Championship in Sydney in December of that year. The Victorian title in the 25 Miles Walk went to **Edward Winstanley**, with the positions the same as in 1923 (Wilson first and Winstanley second). There were indeed plenty of good walkers coming on, and the future looked promising for Australian walking.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 23 August

1.	Victor Dowling	SSH	1:25.09
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:26.32
3.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:26.57
4.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong G	1:28.45
5.	Harry Pritchard	EMH	1:29.19
6.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	1:29.35
7.	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	1:35.29
8.	Harry Cavill	SSH	1:37.35
9.	Harry Wright	SSH	1:37.47
10.	Hugh Collins	SSH	1:39.19
11.	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	1:41.00
	Jack Lewis	EMH	DQ
	James Croker	Moreland	DQ
	Ted Drayton	Footscray	DNF
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF
	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 27 September

1.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	4:05.04
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:19.43
3.	Ernest Harrison	England (VAWC)	4:23.25
4.	Robert Osborne	SSH	4:25:07
5.	Harry Cavill	SSH	
6.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	
	William Morse	EMH	DNF
	Clifford Pritchard	EMH	DNF
	Victor Dowling	SSH	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Joseph Mulcahy	Malvern	DNF
	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	DNF
	William Deucher	SSH	DNF
	Lionel McMillan	Moreland	DNF
	Norman Batten	Melbourne	DNF
	Rex Merrick	Hawthorn	DNF
	Hugh Collins	SSH	DNF
	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	DQ

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1925

The 1925 Victorian Athletics Championships, held as usual at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw a new champion take centre stage. [Eric Sunderland](#) was a name which would become the stuff of legend over the next few years. In fact, his brilliance marked him as one of our greatest walkers ever. He could have done anything!

Sunderland, who had won the Under 21 7 Miles Walk at the 1923 Australasian 7 Mile Championship, was by 1925 a regular competitor in the 'A' Grade mile and was the only walker capable of matching **Norman Asker**, the current Victorian champion. It must have looked incongruous to see the 5'3" Sunderland going stride for stride with the 6'6" Asker. The honours were evenly split over the summer, with the same pattern continuing at the Victorian Track and Field Championships. Sunderland won the Three Miles Championship after shadowing Asker for most of the race and applying continuous pressure until Asker finally cracked and was disqualified. Tumultuous applause greeted his first Open Championship win. Asker, a St. Stephens walker, bounced back to win the One Mile Walk championship with Sunderland taking second.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 28 February

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	22.49.0
2.	William Morse	EMH	23.07.6
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
4.	Norman Asker	SSH	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 7 March

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	6.58.5
2.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	15 yards
3.	William Morse	EMH	
4.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
5.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
6.	J Ring	SSH	
7.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	
8.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	
9.	A Weir	MUAC	

The 10 Miles Walk saw a breakthrough win for **Bert Gardiner**, ahead of **Geo Wilson**. Gardiner also won the 1925 Australasian 7 Miles Championship in Adelaide in August of that year, cementing 1925 as his breakthrough year.

Edward Winstanley won the Victorian 25 Miles Walk title for the third year in a row, ahead of English walker **Ralph Wallwork**.

10 MILES WALK, Ballarat, Saturday 8 August

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:25.09
2.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	1:25.58
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	1:29.39
4.	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 26 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:13.45
2.	Ralph Wallwork	England (VAWC)	4:29.50
3.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:34.38
4.	Harry Cavill	SSH	

5.	Thomas Byrne	Queensland	
6.	Bernard Maher	Carlton	
	Ernest Harrison	England (VAWC)	DNF
	Albert Heywood	Tasmania	DNF
	William Deuchar	SSH	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1926

The 1926 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw Eric Sunderland missing. He had dominated the last 12 months in Victoria, unassailable over all distances. His absence was probably tied to the fact that around this time he relocated to Mildura and joined Mildura Harriers, where his former coach Les Mudge was secretary. **Norman Asker** made the most of his absence, winning both track walks to take his Victorian Gold count to 6.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 20 February

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	24.06.0
2.	William Morse	EMH	100 yards
3.	George Isbester	Footscray	20 yards
4.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	
5.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild	
6.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	
7.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
8.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
9.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	
10.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
11.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
12.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
13.	E Barrett	SSH	
14.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
15.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 27 February

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	6.56.3
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	12 yds
3.	William Morse	EMH	
4.	George Isbester	Footscray	
5.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	
6.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild	
7.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	
8.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
9.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
10.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	
11.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
12.	E Barrett	SSH	
13.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
14.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	

Sunderland returned for the winter and there was soon no doubt about who was Australia's best walker. He foreshadowed his intentions with a 6 mile walk at the Mildura Recreation Reserve. His time of 43:42.4 was well under the current Australasian record but was not ratified by VAAA due to the nature of the meet.

Then in August, he produced one of the greatest walks ever seen in Australia when he won the Victorian 10 Mile Walk Title in the new World Best time of 1:14:39.6. He was some 6 minutes ahead of second place getter Bert Gardiner and well below the current world best of 1:15:57.4, set by George Larner in London in 1908. In fact, his walk smashed all Victorian and Australasian records for 5 Miles onwards. This winning time would not be beaten on the local front until 1952 when Ted Allsopp won the title with 1.14:37 - it took 26 years for a Victorian walker to match his time.

He also travelled to NSW to contest the NSW 7 Mile Walking Championship at the Sydney Showgrounds. 1920 Olympic silver medallist George Parker had been expected to win but Sunderland beat him on his own home turf with a time of 55:45.2. He finished off his season with a win in the annual Australasian Walking Clubs' 7 Mile Championship.

Edward Winstanley was making the 25 Miles Walk his own, winning for the fourth time in a row.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 7 August

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	1:14.37
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:20.26
3.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:21.16
4.	Edward Drayton	Footscray	1:26.26
5.	Frank O'Rourke	Hawthorn	1:26.56
6.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	1:30.11
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 25 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:25.17
2.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:28.49
3.	Harry Cavill	SSH	4:39.14
4.	Alan Davies	Geelong Gld	DNF
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
6.	Alf Robinson	Carlton	DNF
7.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	DNF
8.	E. Kelleher	Metropolitan	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1927

The 1927 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw two new walks champions. **Robert Osborne** broke through for a win in the 3 Miles Walk, while **William Morse**, after 2 silvers in the 3 Miles Walk and 2 bronzes in the 1 Mile Walk, finally broke through for a win in the 1 Mile Walk. Osborne had been gradually improving over the past couple of years, highlighted by a silver medal (behind Eric Sunderland) in the 1926 Australasian 7 Miles Championship in Adelaide.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 19 February

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	23.10.4
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	8 yds
3.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	100 yds
4.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
5.	William Morse	EMH	
6.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
7.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
8.	Clifford Forte	Geelong Guild	
9.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DQ
	Norman Asker	SSH	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 26 February

1.	William Morse	EMH	6.59.8
2.	Norman Asker	SSH	15 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	10 yds
4.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
5.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	
6.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
7.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
8.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
9.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
10.	James Croker	Moreland	
11.	Clifford Forte	Geelong Guild	
12.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild	
13.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	

Osborne then won a second gold, with a good walk in the 10 Miles Championship, while **Eric Sunderland** dominated the 25 Miles Walk with an Australasian best time of 3:53:16.4, beating Bill Murray's record by 5 minutes. Considering the appalling weather conditions on the day, this was a remarkable feat, yet it was accomplished by training for three nights a week for three weeks. He then followed this up with a win in the VAWC 20 Mile Championship, becoming the first Australian walker to break 3 hours. His time of 2:57:06 was well ahead of Murray's best time of 3:06:36.

Yet, he chose not to defend his Australasian 7 Mile Walk title. Such was his seeming ambivalence towards walking. With his discipline excluded from the 1928 Olympics, what was left for a man of his ability to pursue.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 27 August

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:22.48
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	1:23.15
3.	Harry Vine	Glenhuntly	1:23.35

4.	Frank O'Rourke	Hawthorn	1:27:55
5.	Jack Larkin	Metropolitan	1:30:16
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES ROAD WALK, Frankston to St. Kilda, Saturday 18 June

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	3:53.16
2.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	4:07.13
3.	Jack Coffey	EMH	4:12.08
4.	William Morse	EMH	4:13:38
5.	Alan Davies	Geelong Gld	4:17:51
6.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	4:18:41
7.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	4:21:05
8.	Ernest Harrison	Glenhuntley	4:24:24
9.	Jack Oberon	Chelsea	4:31:06
10.	Harry Cavell	SSH	4:38:03
11.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	4:43:38
12.	William Firth	Footscray	4:43:54
13.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:49:18
	Clifford Forte	Geelong Gld	DNF
	Francis O'Rourke	Hawthorn	DNF
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	DNF
	William Murray	Melbourne	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1928

The 1928 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw Malvern walker [Joe Mulcahy](#) finally break through for a win, relegating defending champion Robert Osborne to third place. Mulcahy would go on to win 4 medals in the Australasian T&F Championships, culminating in gold in the 1932 Australasian 3 Miles Track Walk, and would represent Victoria in the Australasian 7 Miles Championships on 5 occasions, finishing sixth in 1924, second in 1925, fourth in 1927, third in 1929 and second again in 1931.

17 year old [Jim Gaylor](#) finished back in 9th position, his first appearance at this level, but not his last! **Norman Asker** won his seventh Victorian Championship, ahead of Mulcahy, in the 1 Mile Walk.

3 MILES WALK (25 Feb)

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	23.41.8
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	25 yds
3.	Robert Osborne	SSH	40 yds
4.	Norman Asker	SSH	
5.	L Barrett	SSH	
6.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
7.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	
8.	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	
9.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	
10.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
11.	B Barty	Williamstown	
12.	Jack Pretty	Malvern	
13.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	
14.	Harry Vine	Glenhuntly	
15.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
16.	A Broad	EMH	

1 MILE WALK (3 Mar)

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	7.02.2
2.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	12 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	
4.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
6.	L Barrett	SSH	
7.	F Hart	Moreland	
8.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
9.	James Croker	Moreland	
10.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
11.	Jack Pretty	Malvern	
12.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	
13.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	
14.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 15. Harry Vine | Glenhuntly |
| 16. D Warner | Geelong Guild |

Robert Osborne defended his 10 Miles championship while Bert Gardiner took gold in the 25 Miles Walk.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 1 September

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. Robert Osborne | SSH | 1:22.20 |
| 2. Bert Gardiner | Moreland | 1:24.58 |
| 3. Jim Gaylor | Collingwood | 1:28.41 |
| 4. Frank Scully | St Joseph's | 1:29:54 |
| 5. Jack Pretty | Footscray | 1:38:22 |
| Herbert Tanner | SSH | DNF |
| Aubrey Eve | Moreland | DNF |

25 MILES WALK, Frankston to St Kilda, Saturday 11 August

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Bert Gardiner | Moreland | 4:19.44 |
| 2. Aubrey Eve | Glenhuntly | 4:24.30 |
| 3. Harry Tanner | SSH | 4:40.56 |
| 4. Norman Francisco | Collingwood | 4:40:57 |
| 5. Herbert Cavell | SSH | 4:45:29 |
| 6. Harry Fletcher | YMCA | 4:52:14 |
| 7. Donald Walker | Footscray | 5:21:20 |
| 8. E. Kerrigan | Geelong Gld | 5:23:55 |
| 9. A. Burman | YMCA | 5:32:35 * |
| E. Delzeppo | YMCA | DNF * |
| Thomas Wyatt | SA | DNF |
| Ernest Harrison | VAWC | DNF |
| Thomas Reay | Malvern | DNF |
| Edward Winstanley | Kew | DNF |
| Robert Osborne | SSH | DNF |
| William Murray | Melbourne | DNF |
| Jack Oberon | Chelsea | DNF |
| David O'Keefe | Geelong Gld | DNF |
| Alf Robinson | Metropolitan | DNF |
| Ralph Wallwork | VAWC | DNF |

* Unofficial as Under 21

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1929

The 1929 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw wins to former champions **Joe Mulcahy** and **Bert Gardiner**.

3 MILES WALK (16 Feb)

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Joe Mulcahy | Malvern | 23.19.6 |
| 2. George Isbister | Footscray | 10 yards |
| 3. Ron McDonald | Melbourne | |
| 4. Alan Poynter | Eastern Suburbs | |
| 5. William Croke | North Melbourne | |
| 6. Aubrey Eve | Glenhuntly | |
| 7. Bert Gardiner | Moreland | |
| 8. William Morse | EMH | |
| Jack Coffey | EMH | DQ |
| Norman Asker | SSH | DQ |
| Alan Hart | Moreland | DNF |
| Francis Scully | St. Joseph | DNF |

1 MILE WALK (23 Feb)

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Bert Gardiner | Moreland | 6.56.0 |
| 2. Norman Asker | SSH | |
| 3. George Isbister | Footscray | |
| 4. Jack Pretty | Malvern | |
| 5. D Warner | Geelong Guild | |
| 6. Joe Mulcahy | Malvern | |
| 7. E Adams | Glenhuntly | |
| 8. Francis Scully | St. Joseph | |
| 9. William Croke | North Melbourne | |

10. F Lescum	Moreland	
Jack Coffey	EMH	DQ
William Morse	EMH	DQ

A new championship was added, namely the 5 Miles Walk, with the inaugural title going to **Joe Mulcahy**, who was quickly racking up a stack of gold medals. The 5 Miles included both Open and Junior categories, with the Junior race being won by **Jim Gaylor**.

The 10 Miles Walk saw a first time winner in **Jack Coffey**. He had been disqualified in both the 1 Mile and the 3 Miles Walks but bounced back well to take gold in this event.

The 25 Miles Walk had now been replaced by a 50km Walk Championship, reflecting the fact that the 50km walk had been added into the 1932 Olympics. After third places in the 5 Miles and 10 Miles walk, **Jack Cummins** broke through in the 50km for his first Victorian gold.

5 MILES WALK OPEN AND JUNIOR, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 10 August

1. Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	38:32.4
2. Robert Osborne	SSH	39:26.5
3. Jack Cummins	Moreland	40:15.5
4. Jack Coffey	EMS	40:40
5. Thomas Reay	Malvern	40:53
6. Jack Pretty	Footscray	42:00
7. James Gaylor (Junior)	Collingwood	44:14
8. Ronald Hester (Junior)	Footscray	44:14
Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
Leslie Stanton	SSH	DNF
Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 8 June

1. Jack Coffey	EMH	1:24.56
2. Aubrey Eve	Moreland	1:25.08
3. Jack Cummins	Moreland	1:25.20
4. Robert Osborne	SSH	1:29:17
5. James Gaylor	Collingwood	1:32:00
6. Frank Scully	St Joseph's	1:33:22
7. Austin Gore	Kew	1:38:39
Roland Hester	Footscray	DNF
William Firth	Footscray	DNF
Harry Tanner	SSH	DNF
Tom Wyatt	Collingwoodq	DNF
Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DQ
Harry Roche	SSH	DQ

50KM WALK, Showgrounds, Kensington, Saturday 26 September

1. Jack Cummins	Moreland	5:30.00
2. Harry Tanner	SSH	5:45.55
3. William Firth	Footscray	5:47.00
4. Francis Scully	St Joseph's	5:55:37
5. Vernon Jones	Coburg	5:59:05
6. Joseph O'Farrell	St Joseph's	6:01:39
7. Charles Watson	EMH	6:10:50
8. A. Burman	YMCA	6:13:58
9. J. Titley	Footscray	6:16:25
Donald Walker	Footscray	DNF
Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
Edward Winstanley	SSH	DNF
Harry Roche	St Joseph's	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1930

The 1929 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw the old guard leading the way, with the walk golds going to **Robert Osborne** and **Bert Gardiner**, and the minor medals spread between Gardiner, Osborne, **Joe Mulcahy** and **George Isbister**.

1912 Olympian **Bill Murray**, now 47 years of age, made his final appearance at Victorian Championship level, finishing 14th in the 3 Miles walk, 11th in the 1 Miles Walk and 11th in the 10 Miles Walk.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 15 February

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	22.37.5
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	22.40.0
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	22.55.0
4.	J Arnott	YMCA	
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	
6.	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	
7.	Jack Coffey	EMH	
8.	Alan Hart	Moreland	
9.	Ronald Hester	Footscray	
10.	George Isbister	Footscray	
11.	Ron McDonald	Melbourne	
12.	A Mispel	Melbourne	
13.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
14.	William Murray	Melbourne	
15.	James Ralston	YMCA	
16.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's	
17.	Harry Vine	SSH	

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 22 February

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	6.58.5
2.	Robert Osborne	SSH	20 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	
4.	J Arnott	YMCA	
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	
6.	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	
7.	Alan Hart	Moreland	
8.	Jack Coffey	EMH	
9.	Ronald Hester	Footscray	
10.	Ron McDonald	Melbourne	
11.	William Murray	Melbourne	
12.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
13.	Harry Vine	SSH	
14.	James Ralston	YMCA	
15.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's	

The longer walks also saw wins to the big guns, with **Joe Mulcahy, Jack Coffey** and **Edward Winstanley** taking line honours. For Winstanley, who had won the 25 Miles Walk title on 4 occasions, his 50km win would have been very satisfying. The 50km saw 17 starters, a wonderful show of depth.

5 MILES WALK OPEN AND JUNIOR, Richmond Race course, Saturday 5 July

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	39.30.2
2.	Alan Hart (Junior)	Moreland	40.04
3.	Jack Coffey	EMH	40.28
4.	Francis Scully (Junior)	St. Joseph's	40.35
5.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	41.35
6.	Douglas Arnott	YMCA	42.15
7.	James Ralston	YMCA	42:40
8.	Con Shanahan (Junior)	Carlton	44:56
9.	Rupert Blackley	VAWC	45:05
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Leslie Braund	Williamstown	DNF

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 2 August

1.	Jack Coffey	EMH	1:20.10
2.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's	1:20.50
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	1:22.53
4.	George Isbister	Footscray	1:25.56
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	1:26.33
6.	James Ralston	YMCA	1:28.38
7.	Leslie Wright	SSH	1:29:12
8.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	1:29:50
9.	Rupert Blackley	Carlton	1:29:53
10.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	1:30:02
11.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:31:10
12.	Joseph O'Farrell	St. Joseph's	1:32:03
13.	William Croke	North Melbourne	1:33:00

14.	George Swallowell	Footscray	1:34:40
15.	A Thompson	VAWC	1:45:00
	Richard Cecil	EMH	DQ
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Robert Osborne	SSH	DNF

50KM WALK, Showgrounds, Kensington, Saturday 26 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	5:17.10
2.	Joseph O'Farrell	St.Joseph's	5:18.21
3.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	5:23.03
4.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	5:25.59
5.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	5:32.05
6.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph's	5:38.05
7.	Francis Kilby		5:44.44
8.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	5:44.44
9.	Rupert Blackley	Carlton	5:58:15
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	R Smith		DNF
	Jack Oberon	Chelsea	DNF
	Vernon Jones	Coburg	DNF
	Harry Roche	SSH	DNF
	Herbert Cavell	SSH	DNF
	Arch King	Footscray	DNF

There is an addendum to the 1930 Victorian 50km Championship and it came only 1 month later.

The inaugural Alexander Cup was held in conjunction with the 1930 NSW 50km Championship in Bankstown, western Sydney, on 6th September 1930. This championship was well supported, with 9 Victorians and 10 NSW walkers attending. 1929 Victorian 50km champion **Jack Cummins** was soundly beaten by his team mate **Jack Coffey**, with Coffey's time of 4:59:40 marking him as the first Australian to better 5 hours. This was officially recognised as an Australian Record and Coffey was awarded the T. H. Terrill Cup by way of recognition.

Alf Robinson and **Rupert Blackley** were two names to feature in these 1930 championships. They finished 3rd and 9th in the Victorian 50km, then travelled to Sydney for the inaugural Alexander Cup 50km, finishing 8th and 9th. They would return to Sydney for the 1931 NSW 50km Championship, which was a prelude to their historic walk from Sydney to Melbourne. This is a wonderful story (<http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-alf-robinson-sydmelb-31.pdf>).

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

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 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)
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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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