

# VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB



## ANNUAL REPORT

2020

**100 years**

*The VRWC began life in 1911 as the Victorian Amateur Walking and Field Games Club. Going into recess during World War I, the club would be revived in 1921 as the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club (VAWC). From 1993 its current name has been in use. 2021 marks 100 years of the club.*

## VRWC COMMITTEE FOR 2019/2020

### OFFICERS

President	Stuart Cooper
Senior Vice President	Mark Donahoo
Treasurer	Karyn O'Neill
Secretary	Terry Swan

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Club Captain - Women	Heather Carr
Club Captain – Men	Terry O'Neill
Club Captain – Junior Women	Madeleine Feain
Club Captain – Junior Men	Corey Dickson
Publicity Officer	Stuart Cooper
Entry Portal/Timing	Ralph Bennett
Handicapper	Mark Donahoo
Delegate to Athletics Victoria	Peter Vysma
Judging Coordinator	Peter Vysma
Club Coach	Mark Donahoo
RWA Liason Officer	Mark Donahoo
Club Records Officer	Tim Erickson
First Aid Officer/COVID	Shane Dickson
Non Executive Members	Michael Bodey, Harry Summers
	Bob Gardiner, Donna Elms
Auditor	Simon Evans

LIFE MEMBERS	PRESIDENTS
1928 Frank O'Rourke * 1933 Alfred Robinson * 1933 Frank Byrne * 1933 William Billsborrow * 1936 James McDonald * 1938 Rupert Blackley * 1946 Edward Drayton * 1948 Herbert Gardiner * 1948 Jack Larkin * 1955 James Gaylor * 1955 Norman Goble * 1955 Fred O'Grady * 1956 Frank McGuire * 1959 Charles Jacobson * 1960 Jack Cummins * 1961 Augustus Theobald * 1964 Ralph Field * 1964 George Knott * 1971 Radcliffe Grace * 1975 Elsie Jacobson * 1978 Mabel Robinson * 1983 Ray Smith * 1987 Robert Gardiner 1987 Ronald Miller 1990 Thomas Daintry * 1990 Harold Summers 1998 Alan Johnson 2001 Mark Donahoo 2005 Tim Erickson 2007 Peter Vysma 2008 Marlaine Stanway 2008 Barbara Gardiner ** 2008 Joyce Summers ** 2009 Lloyd Nichols 2010 Kate Suich ** 2012 Stuart Cooper 2014 Michael Bodey 2014 Judy Mason ** 2014 Gordon Loughnan ** 2015 Di Lowden ** 2017 Heather Carr 2018 Alan Minter 2019 David Cash 2019 Ian Laurie**	1923-1925 Robert Croll * 1925-1928 William Dickenson * 1928-1929 Rexx Merrick / Frank Byrne * 1929-1931 Frank Byrne * 1931-1937 Edward Drayton * 1937-1941 Alfred Robinson *  1946-1976 Alfred Robinson * 1976-1983 Raymond Smith * 1983-2013 Harold Summers 2013-2014 Bob Gardiner 2014- Stuart Cooper
* deceased ** honorary life members	

<b>SECRETARIES</b>		<b>TREASURERS</b>	
1923-1924	Victor Dowling	1923-1926	Rex Merrick
1924-1925	Rex Merrick	1926-1928	Ern Fitzgerald
1925-1926	Frank O'Rourke	1928-1931	Jack Coffey
1926-1927	Rex Merrick / Fred O'Grady	1931-1936	Rupert Blackley
1927-1931	Alf Robinson	1936-1937	Rupert Blackley / Ian McDougall
1931-1932	Alf Robinson / Rupert Blackley	1937-1939	Ian McDougall
1932-1936	Rupert Blackley	1939-1940	Ben Blakey
1936-1937	Rupert Blackley / Ian McDougall	1940-1941	Clem Marshall / Rupert Blackley
1937-1940	Ian McDougall	1941	Douglas Murrell
1940-1941	Clem Marshall / Rupert Blackley		
1941	Douglas Murrell	1946-1947	Ben Blakey
		1947-1949	Alex Philpotts
1946-1947	Ben Blakey	1949-1950	Noel Bomford
1947-1949	Alex Philpotts	1950-1952	Vic Sharp
1949-1950	Noel Bomford	1952-1973	Norm Goble
1950-1952	Vic Sharp	1973-1982	Charles Jacobson
1952-1971	Norm Goble	1982-1983	Elsie Jacobson
1971-1974	Alan Lucas	1983-1990	Ray Smith
1974-1975	Bruce Thorne / Greg Ellis	1990-1994	Bob Gardiner
1975-1976	Greg Ellis	1994-1998	Tony Barrett
1976-1984	Alan Minter	1998-1999	Brian Glover
1984-1988	Doris Waters	1999-2007	Michael Bodey
1988-2000	Ron Miller	2008-2016	Ralph Bennett
2000-2015	Tim Erickson	2017-	Karyn O'Neill
2015-	Terry Swan		

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year – 2021 – marks the Centenary of the Victorian Race Walking Club. It was in 1921 that the VAAA formally recognized the Victorian Amateur Walkers Club (re-birthing from its earlier incarnation as the Victorian Amateur Walking and Field Games Club, which had disbanded in 1915.) We look forward eagerly to celebrating this milestone with an unbroken twelve months of racing, growth and social activity, after a 2020 few could have imagined let alone predicted.

2020 started well enough. Our Summer season had proceeded as planned, and the Winter road program was confirmed. The AV track & field titles had been completed. The LAVic championships were ready to go ahead – and were suddenly cancelled. For the next eight months, sport as we know it would be shut down everywhere as priority was given to containing, then suppressing a deadly illness for which there was no known cure. The VRWC remained in forced hibernation with everyone else, staying abreast of a changing situation.

In mid-June, optimism bloomed with the easing of restrictions. A streamlined road program was drafted, in line with demands set down by the DHHS and Athletics Victoria. For us and for AV, the VRWC's program was something of a test case since the Cross Country season still could not proceed within the Government's requirements on group assembly. Alas, our first Winter race day on July 4 – a successful one with 32 starters – was also our last, as the State went back into COVID lockdown with community sports banned again until October.

As restrictions again eased and Victorian athletics took its first tentative steps into a new AVSL season, the VRWC stepped up to provide walkers with racing opportunities not afforded them by AV's COVID-modified track program. Post-new year, AV returned to full competition, scheduling walks each week alongside the VRWC's own summer program. The Club also provided equipment and officials for two AIS Supernova 10km track races, held at Collingwood track in February and treating spectators to racing of the highest standard. Looking ahead, our services will be required for the Australian & Oceania 20km championship at Fawkner Park this month (re-located from Adelaide) and possibly the RWA road championships later in the Winter season. We're back in business!

Outside the racing scene, our new lease with the Middle Park Bowling Club was at last finalised. The MPBC's planned building works resumed, requiring the demolition of our storage shed. Our equipment is now accommodated in the former green-keeper's heavy machinery enclosure, with a new access gate opening straight onto the course. We now expect that the MPBC will proceed with its projected building works during 2021 and into 2022, which will eventually require the VRWC to re-locate to a renovated Club room and office currently occupied by the Ladies Auxiliary room.

Further, in view of our circumstances in 2020 (no competition, therefore no revenue), the MPBC waived our rental for the year. (We had asked only for a 50% reduction.) This was a very generous gesture for which we are most grateful.

Retaining the Club's current membership despite the pandemic was crucial, and generally successful. Now we recommence work to increase it. A major focus must be on junior recruiting, particularly in the LAVic centres, AV clubs and schools. Agencies such as School Sports Victoria can be useful in helping communicate the race walking message to schools. The issuing of VRWC leaflets to walks competitors at the LAVic State championships has had positive results in the past and will continue.

Race walking also has appeal for adults of all ages, particularly those seeking a new competitive focus or a change of sport. During COVID lockdown, many Victorians found jogging and brisk

walking the only consistent and productive exercise available to them. This is a potentially rich recruiting field. A poster campaign involving gyms, community noticeboards, health food outlets and other pertinent locations would help bring our Club and the sport to the attention of active people eager for both a physical challenge and a new opportunity for social engagement.

Central to bringing new members into any sport is coaching. Most athletes join a club with the desire to improve, to set and meet new racing goals, both short and long-term. They need coaches and mentors to do this. Through Simon Baker, the VRWC has begun taking stock of coaching resources throughout the state, where coaches are based, the age groups they are working with and the levels of accreditation they hold. It is intended to build up a communication network of coaches, identifying the VRWC as a natural competitive outlet for their athletes. Fran Attard (Knox LAC and JDS coach) has performed a vital role for many years in this regard, and we look forward to forming similar relationships with other coaches. Our Club has nurtured the careers of Olympic, Commonwealth, World Masters and other international walkers, many of them medalists, for decades. Everyone involved in athletics in Victoria should know about us.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge everyone associated with the VRWC who has supported the Club through the challenges of an extraordinary year. Special thanks to those whose efforts in reviving racing programs within such stringent Government requirements gave hope and confidence to our members ... to Terry (secretary); Mark (program planning and race entries); Shane (COVID safety officer); Donna Elms (cleaning); Heather (signage); Peter (judging coordinator); Gordon Loughnan, Kathleen Marsh, Brenda Felton, David Cash and Peter Price (race judges); Ralph Bennett (online race entry portal); Tim Erickson (archivist, editor of 'Heel & Toe Online'); Donna Dickson, Darlene Swan and Ian Laurie (timekeeping); to all involved in setting up and packing away, and all others who contributed to our activities in ways great and small. To Neil Ryan of Runner's World, who has maintained his commitment to sponsoring our Summer and Winter programs. Thanks also to the Middle Park Bowling Club, for their efforts to accommodate our needs during their big re-build. (That new gate will be very handy!)

Our Centenary year will be a busy one. We have much to celebrate, and much work to do. We wish Jemima Montag and Rhydian Cowley – VRWC members since childhood – good fortune in a Tokyo Olympics we all hope will be safe to conduct. Our further hope, even if a slender one, is that Kyle Swan may join them.

And we want new members! When it comes to recruiting, there is no substitute for word of mouth. We can all play a part in getting the name, the brand and the attractions of this great Club and sport out there – where it's needed.

*Stu Cooper*  
*President*

**\*\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*\***

**RUSS DICKENSON** Masters walker, former Club captain and committee member, regular racer

**LOIS ERICKSON** Wife of Life member Tim, mother of triple Olympian Chris, treasurer of Australian Centurions

**JOYCE SUMMERS** Wife of Life member Harry, associate Life member, tireless worker in fundraising, social events and canteen

**JOHN MORRISON** Masters walker, regular racer, always enthusiastic supporter of the VRWC

**BERNICE LOUGHNAN** Wife of Life Member Gordon Loughnan

*We are saddened to lose these valued members and associates of our Club.*

*We extend our condolences to their families and friends.*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year is VRWC's 100<sup>th</sup> year of operation, kind of ironic after a "one in a 100 year pandemic". The COVID pandemic destroyed our Winter season, and our membership suffered. In the one race we managed to put on under COVID restrictions we filled our quota of athletes. The planning that the committee did for that one race was extraordinary, but alas for 1 week only...Victoria plunged into lockdown again. A disastrous year for all of us, lets hope that is now history.

The new VRWC Uniform was introduced in 2020 - to bring back our identity and to refresh the current uniform. Thankyou to Shane Dickson for battling with suppliers to finally produce what our members had voted for, its looks great, it has received many positive comments and I believe more options are in the making for Club Gear in the very near future

The 2021 Winter fixture is ready to be published and we are looking forward to getting back to some normality. You will see some changes in how we operate and our race fees and membership.....we are trying to attract new members all the time and improve on how we deliver weekly races

**Thankyou...**

**Club Sponsor Neil Ryan – Runners World** – although we had not presented in 2020, we are assured Neil will continue his generous support to the club

**Lochie McDonald from MinuteMan Press- Seaford** - who prints our Winter and Summer Fixtures

**MPBC** – for their support

**Tim Erickson** for his weekly Heel & Toe and usual race walking advice and guidance

**Ralph Bennett** for the entry portal and work that goes with that

Thankyou to everyone who helps in some way, from packing up, setting up, sweeping, judging, taking photos, video...your contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks to the regular helpers, and committee members

Terry Swan  
Secretary VRWC

Please note that this AGM was delayed due to COVID-19 Pandemic, under Victoria Consumer Affairs legislation, a extension to usual time constraints was granted to VRWC to hold over 2019/2020 AGM.



**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR - 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020**

The period of October 2019 to September 2020 was a forgettable year for the Club as well as everyone in our community. Due to minimal racing being possible due to COVID-19, the club has recorded a loss of \$2,351.26.

Memberships paid were only those that were paid at the start of our financial year – October 2019. By April 2020 when the winter season normally starts, shut-downs had already started and racing was suspended. Where possible, races were held, but no membership fees were requested.

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ew uniforms were purchased by the club, but the club was not able to make them available until the new financial year when racing was able to re-commence.

The Membership expenses listed are for membership of Athletics Victoria and Race Walking Victoria.

There are a few items in the Miscellaneous Expenses, refreshments for the judges in the championship events, and flowers for bereaved members. Also listed in the expenses are supplies that were purchased to allow the club to operate races in a COVID safe manner.

The Club this year has made a Loss, but the Club still has a sound financial base with which to move forward into the next year, to continue to provide members with the benefits of experience and camaraderie in a sport we all love.

I would also like to make mention that the Middle Park Bowling Club very kindly waived the club's rental for this year, which has been very much appreciated.

Please feel free to approach me, if you would like any clarification of any aspect of the club's accounts, and I will do my best to accommodate. The full accounts are available for perusal at any mutually arranged time.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support. Separately, I would also like to thank Mark Donahoo, Heather and Bill Carr, Michael Bodey and the many others who have helped with taking the race entries and fees when able, also Terry and Stuart for helping me through the processes of the official side of the committee.

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss report for the Financial Year 2019-2020 are included in the following pages.

Karyn O'Neill  
VRWC Honorary Treasurer

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**BALANCE SHEET PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**  
**As at 30 September 2020**

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	30/09/2020	30/09/2019
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
<u>BANK ACCOUNTS</u>		
<b>VRWC - General Account</b>	\$ 6,020.28	\$ 7,097.31
<b>VRWC - Canteen Account</b>	\$ 2,494.24	\$ 2,568.47
<b>Merrifield Account</b>	\$ 18,181.70	\$ 18,181.70
<b>Travel Fund</b>	\$ 48,581.53	\$ 48,581.53
<b>Term Deposit</b>	\$ 71,089.36	\$ 71,089.36
	\$ 146,367.11	\$ 147,518.37
Canteen Cash Drawer	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
	\$ 146,446.11	\$ 147,597.37
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Race Timing System	\$ 1,702.90	\$ 2,902.90
Less Provn for Depn Race Timing System	-\$ 1,200.00	-\$ 1,200.00
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>		
Parks Vic Bond	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 147,949.01	\$ 150,300.27
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Opening Balance - Equity	\$ 150,300.27	\$ 151,335.55
Retained Earnings	-\$ 2,351.26	-\$ 1,035.28
<b>Total Equity</b>	\$ 147,949.01	\$ 150,300.27

**PROFIT & LOSS PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON October 2019 thru September 2020**

SEPTEMBER YTD	2020	2019
<b>COMPARATIVE</b>		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Apparel	\$ -	\$ 1,550.00
Canteen	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,415.85
Event Services	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,020.00
External Event		
Gifts & Donations Income	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Health Department Grant		
Membership Dues	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 3,025.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ 997.06
Publications	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Race Chips	\$ -	\$ 18.00
Race Fees - VRWC	\$ 1,484.00	\$ 6,732.50
Race Fees - VMA	\$ 310.00	\$ 302.00
Sundry Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,434.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,165.41</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ -
Canteen Expenses	\$ -	\$ 555.23
COVID-19 Expenses	\$ 501.61	\$ -
Clothing	\$ 5,284.95	\$ 2,976.80
Consumer Affairs	\$ 59.20	\$ 57.80
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Equipment	\$ -	\$ 55.60
Event Support Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
External Event Fees	\$ -	\$ -
Gifts & Donations	\$ -	\$ 612.75
Governance		
Grants & Awards	\$ -	\$ 862.00
Health Department - Expenditure		
Honoraria	\$ -	\$ 2,450.00
Licenses & Permits	\$ -	\$ 489.28
Memberships Affiliations	\$ 450.00	\$ 606.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 682.21	\$ 1,174.97
Office Supplies	\$ 21.16	\$ 239.04
Paypal Charges	\$ 149.28	\$ 13.93
Postage & Delivery		
Printing & Reproduction		
Race Timing System	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Rent	\$ -	\$ 3,300.00
Repairs	\$ -	\$ 37.90
Track Hire	\$ 180.00	\$ -
Trophies & Prizes VRWC	\$ 181.00	\$ 3,980.16
Trophies & Prizes	\$ -	\$ 550.00
Utilities	\$ 514.61	\$ 609.39
Web Presence	\$ 133.50	\$ 108.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 9,357.52</b>	<b>\$ 20,078.85</b>
<b>NETT ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>-\$ 4,923.52</b>	<b>-\$ 4,913.44</b>
<u>Other Income</u>		
Interest Income	\$ 2,572.26	\$ 3,878.16
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,572.26</b>	<b>\$ 3,878.16</b>
<b>NETT INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>-\$ 2,351.26</b>	<b>-\$ 1,035.28</b>
<b>BALANCE @ 30/09/20</b>		

## **Summer 2020**

### **Runners World Award**

**Corey Dickson**  
**Darcey Roberts**

*To be awarded with Runners World Proprietor Neil Ryan, date to be announced sometime late 2021.*

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**Winter 2020 Season** – Cancelled

**Presentation** - cancelled

**RWA LBG Canberra Event** - cancelled

**RWA 2nd Federated Event** - cancelled