

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

VRWC COMMITTEE FOR 2023/2024

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	Emily Smith
Club Captain – Junior Men	Marcus Wakim
Publicity Officer	Stuart Cooper
Handicapper	Mark Donahoo
Delegate to Athletics Victoria	
Judging Coordinator	Peter Vysma/Stu Cooper
Club Coach	Mark Donahoo
RWA Liason Officer	Mark Donahoo
Club Records Officer	Tim Erickson
Non Executive Members	Michael Bodey, Harry Summers
	Bob Gardiner, Donna Elms, Madeleine Feain,
	Heather Carr, Terry O'Neill, Kylie Irshad
	Simon Evans
Auditor	

LIFE MEMBERS	PRESIDENTS
1928 Frank O'Rourke *	1923-1925 Robert Croll *
1933 Alfred Robinson *	1925-1928 William Dickenson *
1933 Frank Byrne *	1928-1929 Rexx Merrick / Frank Byrne *
1933 William Billsborrow *	1929-1931 Frank Byrne *
1936 James McDonald *	1931-1937 Edward Drayton *
1938 Rupert Blackley *	1937-1941 Alfred Robinson *
1946 Edward Drayton *	1946-1976 Alfred Robinson *
1948 Herbert Gardiner *	1976-1983 Raymond Smith *
1948 Jack Larkin *	1983-2013 Harold Summers
1955 James Gaylor *	2013-2014 Bob Gardiner
1955 Norman Goble *	2014- Stuart Cooper
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**	
2023 Terry Swan	
* deceased	
** honorary life members	

SECRETARIES		TREASURERS	
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

The year 2023-24 was, once again, a cocktail of achievements and optimism, leavened with a few of the usual challenges that keep us focused on how to stay on top of the game and keep the VRWC in the strongest position possible to promote the sport of race walking, in Victoria and nationally.

Our cause was done no harm at all by the seven (yes, 7) members who earned the right to wear green and gold this year at several major international races. None is more major than the Olympic Games, at which the VRWC was represented by five of its top walkers thus:

Jemima Montag	3rd	20 kilometres	1:26:25 (Oceania, Australian, Victorian, VRWC records)
	3rd	Mixed Marathon relay	2:51:38
Rhydian Cowley	12th	20 kilometres	1:20:04
	3rd	Mixed Marathon relay	2:51:38
Bec Henderson	31st	20 kilometres	1:34:22
	22nd	Mixed Marathon relay	3:09:21 ... with Declan Tingay (WA)
Kyle Swan	35th	20 kilometres	1:23:32
Will Thompson		<i>Selected as emergency for the Marathon relay.</i>	

Not only did Jemima and Rhydian bring home Olympic medals – they also ensured that Australia's race walkers maintained their record of having a medallist and/or top 10 finisher at every Olympics since Atlanta 1996, an achievement not matched in any other track & field event. Additionally, the five abovementioned extended the VRWC's proud boast of having Olympic reps at every Games since 1948!

The international calendar featured two other major meets – the World Team Walking championships in Antalya (TUR), and the WA U20 Track & Field championships in Lima (PER). Again, the VRWC was well represented:

World Team Walking championship - Antalya

Will Thompson	41 st	20 kilometres	1:24:09
Riley Coughlan	13 th	10 kilometres U20	41:03
Marcus Wakim	15 th	10 kilometres U20	41:15
Jemima Montag	6 th	Mixed Marathon relay	3:00:13
Rhydian Cowley	6 th	Mixed Marathon relay	3:00:13
Bec Henderson	16 th	Mixed Marathon relay	3:04:57 ... with Declan Tingay (WA)
Kyle Swan	30 th	Mixed Marathon relay	3:07:38 ... with Olivia Sandery (SA)

World U20 T&F championships - Lima

Marcus Wakim	13 th	10,000m walk	41:03.05
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Congratulations to Jemima, Rhydian, Bec, Kyle, Will, Riley and Marcus. The VRWC has long been a key player in developing young talent for the international stage, and this level of representation overseas – quite apart from placings and times – is something of which the Club can be proud and must strive to continue.

Another initiative that has helped boost the Club's profile this year is the listing of selected races for World Athletics Bronze certification. Such races are listed on the World Athletics calendar and results page. This was arranged by Terry Swan with the support of WA and Athletics Australia and provides an added incentive for walkers seeking qualifying times to participate in our racing programs. With Tokyo flying in the face of the WA and IOC establishment to hold the 35km at its World championships next year, Middle Park will again see a 35km qualifying and national championship meet which is certified Bronze by WA.

It's been clear for some time now that, in order to increase our member numbers, attention has to be focused on two main areas: the promotion of coach and judge education, and the boosting of interest in the sport at the junior level. To this end, work has commenced with Little Athletics Victoria to produce a standardised model of judge training across the state. Some regions have established judge training and assessment programs in place while others don't. It's a similar situation with coaching. The VRWC has a role to play in these areas that is acknowledged by LAVic, and the preliminary discussions have been encouraging. This year, prior to one of our winter races, a coaching and judging education session for parents was held alongside a practical coaching session led by Mark Donahoo. Mark has also been driving negotiations with Athletics Victoria to establish regular practical race walk coaching education at Level 2 and above, and we look forward to seeing this bearing fruit in 2025 and beyond.

An encouraging initiative this winter was the first-ever LAVic Road walking championships in June, which to our delight attracted 85 starters from 102 entrants. Despite some teething problems, the meet was a great success and will be presented again next year. The challenge will be to harvest new VRWC members from the interest and attendees of such races.

The other high-attendance event was the RWA Road championships, held on our 1km Aughtie Drive loop in August. This attracted over 100 entries from all states except WA, and was again highly successful. Unless another state puts its hand up, we will probably hold it again in 2025 if it goes ahead. Certainly we seem to be the club best equipped to do so.

On the negative side, there were two competition disappointments that should be noted. One was the negligible attendance of Victorian walkers at this year's Lake Burley Carnival (ACT) in June. Only in the Men's 15km was the VRWC able to field a team – a disheartening outcome considering the pitched battles we used to have with NSW and SA in particular in our quest for the Brennen Shield. The ACTRFWC, who host the event yearly, are prepared to do so for one more year in the hope of better attendance. Let's get behind it in 2025, for it's a great weekend and a wonderful means of team bonding.

The other disappointment is what seems to be the end of the AV Country road championships. For the past two years Ballarat RWC have kept this event on life support but this year the lack of interest could not be ignored, despite the VRWC hosting the event on behalf of country walkers. We are unlikely to host a 2025 edition unless there is a sharp turnaround in enthusiasm and commitment. Over to you, country walkers.

Following the experiment of the 'four weekends off' last year, the 2024 winter season resumed its weekly competition format. The Club points races attracted fields of around 25 to 35 most weeks, usually with a boost in numbers on championship days. In all, we finished the season with around 80+ members in total, including fee-paying, Life members and regular officials. It's hoped that, with continued publicity of the sport at Little Aths level and in the community at large, these numbers will grow.

2024 will close with a bang on Sunday 15 December, with the Australian 35km championship at Middle Park – another WA World Bronze event. The success of Will Thompson in Takahata, Japan in October (2nd fastest 35km by an Australian) will add more spice to this event, and we look forward to it.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the work and input of members, families and supporters whose efforts proved indispensable throughout the year, including Terry Swan (Club secretary and AA, AV and World Athletics liaison), Mark Donahoo (Vice-president, competition manager, handicapper and Club coach), Karyn O'Neill (Treasurer), our general committee including Terry O'Neill, Heather Carr, Donna-Marie Elms, Michael Bodey and Peter Vysma, as well as long-serving Life members Bob Gardiner and Tim Erickson. Many of us have been around now for decades and, while we still want to contribute to the VRWC, new blood and fresh ideas are not only welcome but necessary for the long-term success of this historic club.

Race days would have been far harder to run successfully without the regular input of Ian Laurie, Bill Carr, Alla Pashutina, Dylan Shuttleworth and Margaret Hay on the officials' table. Nor would there be any racing at all without our walk judges – take a bow, Gordon Loughnan, Di Lowden, Brenda Felton, Michael Bodey, David Cash, Terry O'Neill, Tony Doran, Scott Nelson, Shane Dickson and Kathleen Marsh. Donna-Marie and Gwen Steed kept the canteen running for those welcome cuppas on cold winter weekends – thanks, ladies!

It's been a year of exciting events and new initiatives for the VRWC. We look forward to building on what we've begun in 2025 and seeing a growing, committed membership as the outcome.

Stu Cooper

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our membership remains healthy at 80 members, a few down on last year, and lots of new faces. Race day participation is fair, but we don't see the numbers of years gone by, our biggest race day in terms of numbers was around 44 athletes, on average we get around the mid 20's. Our season ticket system is working well and encourages members to participate more often and for less money. We would love to see more participation on race days.

Thanks to Mark Donohoo and Stu Cooper for their drive and persistence with AV, AA and LAVIC to get some coaching courses relevant to our sport, they have both made huge inroads in getting Race Walking into the curriculum, these courses should be available to all by 2025. Coaches are in short supply, as seen with Frances Attard, some of her squad travel over 1 hour to get to her sessions, such is the demand. We need coaches, we need courses and this will nurture the growth of our sport. Well done to Mark and Stu.

We have also managed to get most of our major races onto the World Stage, by having them recognised as World Events, Bronze Label. This simply means that our events can be used as qualification purposes and opens to anyone in the world to join us. We have seen good uptake from our northern friends in NSW and Qld to get some good races recorded. The added benefit is that VRWC results are now globally published on the World Athletics Calendar, giving our athletes a world profile. Not all results are seen, as there are minimum standards required before they can be published.

We also hosted the inaugural LAVIC Road Walking Event, this was huge with over 100 Little Aths members from all over the state walking on our venue under our direction. This was well received by all, especially LAVIC and will now feature annually on their calendar.

We also hosted the RWA 2nd Federation Carnival, the national federation event. Well supported by all states and over 100 athletes again.

Each week, a familiar group of volunteers setup the course, tables and tents and without this team, we couldn't hold our races, some times it seems we have more volunteers than competitors, and without them helping out, it would not be possible to hold our events. If you can help for just 5 minutes, it is invaluable, we thank everyone for their assistance.

Lastly, we wish a group of Judges success in their upcoming exams. VRWC was fortunate to be able to help nominate some of our judges to qualify under the World Athletics banner to become BRONZE level judges. This will mean VRWC has a great coverage of qualified judges, more than any other state in Australia.

Thankyou...

Club Sponsor Neil Ryan – Runners World –Neil will continue his generous support to the club
Tim Erickson and Stu Cooper for Web master and the weekly Heel & Toe Newsletter
Bob Gardiner for being club handyman and resident fabricator
Therese Smith – Photography and Facebook Edits

Mentone Athletics Club, via **Rupert Van Dongen** for the use of their track and facilities.

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

Terry Swan
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR - 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024

The period of October 2023 to September 2024 was again a good year, as this year we have been able to achieve a full racing season as scheduled, and have taken on new events organised by the club.

The external event, (both for income and expense) was Lake Burley Griffin Carnival. The club also hosted championships for Little Aths Vic and the Race Walking Australia championship.

The Miscellaneous income was mostly for Raffles ably organised by Donna, and hire of the clubroom for an afternoon.

Race Fees are up compared to last year, with many taking advantage of the Season Pass, and more races being scheduled.

Licenses are for Parks Victoria, for the use of our course.

The membership is for Australian Federation of Race Walking Clubs and Athletics Victoria.

There are a few items in the Miscellaneous Expenses – BBQ expenses, new blinds for the clubrooms, clean up of the clubrooms, and payments for coaches/presenters in the coaching sessions. More uniform has been ordered and received.

The interest from the Term Deposits has been good this year as the interest rates have increased.

The Club this year has made a Loss of \$4958.98. However, the Club 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 like to thank all the committee members for their support.

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.

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss report for the Financial Year 2023-2024 are included in the following pages.

Karyn O'Neill

VRWC Honorary Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT
BALANCE SHEET PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON
As at 30 September 2024

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB				
BALANCE SHEET		30/09/2024		30/09/2023
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
BANK ACCOUNTS				
VRWC - General Account		\$ 14,018.54		\$ 18,564.62
VRWC - Canteen Account		\$ 2,604.24		\$ 2,604.24
Merrifield Account		\$ 18,181.70		\$ 18,181.70
Travel Fund		\$ 48,581.53		\$ 48,581.53
Term Deposit		\$ 71,089.36		\$ 71,089.36
		<u>\$ 154,475.37</u>		<u>\$ 159,021.45</u>
Canteen Cash Drawer		\$ 4.00		\$ 4.00
Petty Cash		\$ 75.00		\$ 75.00
		<u>\$ 154,554.37</u>		<u>\$ 159,100.45</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>				
Fixed Assets		\$ 8,712.00		\$ 8,712.00
Less Depreciation		-\$ 8,712.00		-\$ 8,709.10
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>				
Parks Vic Bond		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 155,554.37</u>		<u>\$ 160,103.35</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Liabilities				
Accrual for Invoices not yet paid		\$ 410.00		\$ -
		<u>\$ 155,144.37</u>		<u>\$ 160,103.35</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>				
Opening Balance - Equity		\$ 160,103.35		\$ 150,265.29
Retained Earnings		-\$ 4,958.98		\$ 9,838.06
		<u>\$ 155,144.37</u>		<u>\$ 160,103.35</u>

PROFIT & LOSS PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON October 2023 thru September 2024

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB			
PROFIT & LOSS REPORT			
SEPTEMBER YTD		2024	2023
COMPARATIVE			
<u>INCOME</u>			
Apparel		\$ 1,355.00	\$ 1,670.00
Canteen		\$ 6.00	\$ 4.70
Event Services			\$ 800.00
External Event		\$ -	\$ 7,015.00
Gifts & Donations Income		\$ 6.00	\$ 407.61
Gladys & Jim Gleeson Bequest			\$ 10,000.00
Membership Dues		\$ 1,960.00	\$ 2,263.00
Miscellaneous Income		\$ 277.00	\$ 460.68
Race Fees - AV		\$ 119.00	\$ -
Race Fees - VRWC		\$ 2,804.00	\$ 6,134.18
Race Fees - VRWC - Season Pass		\$ 4,390.00	\$ -
Race Fees - VMA			\$ 150.00
Race Fees - RWA Championship		\$ 2,560.00	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 13,477.00	\$ 28,905.17
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Bank Charges		\$ -	\$ -
Canteen Expenses		\$ 44.60	\$ 28.84
Centenary		\$ -	\$ 432.23
Clothing		\$ 4,181.00	\$ 2,765.00
Depreciation Expenses		\$ 2.90	\$ -
Equipment		\$ -	\$ 96.00
External Event Fees		\$ -	\$ 7,015.00
Gifts & Donations		\$ -	\$ -
Governance		\$ 47.70	\$ 61.20
Grants & Awards		\$ 225.00	\$ -
Honoraria		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Licenses & Permits		\$ 516.76	\$ 590.61
Memberships Affiliations		\$ 396.00	\$ 180.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 3,336.43	\$ 1,044.20
Office Supplies		\$ 27.50	\$ 33.00
Paypal Charges		\$ -	\$ 94.46
Printing & Reproduction		\$ 427.11	\$ 194.36
Race Timing System		\$ -	\$ -
Rent		\$ 4,012.80	\$ 3,814.80
Repairs		\$ -	\$ 44.07
Revolutionise Fee		\$ 451.33	\$ 318.55
RWA Championship Expenses		\$ 3,215.91	
Square Reader Charges		\$ 19.23	\$ 30.07
Trophies & Prizes VRWC		\$ 3,821.65	\$ 2,711.52
Trophies & Prizes		\$ -	\$ 680.00
Utilities		\$ 835.76	\$ 694.94
Web Presence		\$ 157.49	\$ 120.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 23,719.17	\$ 20,948.85