

1970 AUSTRALIAN 50KM CHAMPIONSHIP, MELBOURNE, SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 1970

The 1970 Australian 50km Championship was held on 26th September in Melbourne, with Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp in attendance but with Noel Freeman and Frank Clark notable absentees. A full field of 24 walkers started in conditions which were described as “*fine, sunny, cool and calm early, with a slight breeze during the second half*”. The course was a 5km lap on the bitumen roads surrounding Albert Park Lake.

Ted Allsopp won by over 8 minutes, and may well have won anyway, even if Freeman and Clark had been in attendance. His time of 4:21:05 only 1 minute outside his PB. He was aged 44 but ,on his day, he was still unbeatable.

Second place went to former British international **Peter Fullager**¹ who had arrived in Australia only a month previously. Peter came with great credentials, having raced with distinction in England and Europe, with a string of victories and top performances. Third place went to the irrepressible **Bob Gardiner**, a slow 4:36:53 but a team performance by the ultimate team man.

Allsopp, Gardiner and Steve Hausfeld had led through 20km with 1:44:58, 7 seconds in front of Fullager. But Fullager had caught the group by the halfway mark and was the only one to go with Allsopp as he applied the pace in the second half. Even so, he dropped off at the 35km mark, leaving Allsopp to power home on his own.

Allsopp's lap splits show the even pace with which he went about things. His fastest two laps were laps 5 and 6 (from 20km to 30km) and this was where he won the race.

25:45, 26:07, 26:06, 27:01, 24:52, 25:25, 25:57, 25:43, 26:55, 27:15

The teams race went to Victoria, but with an interesting story, as told by Andrew Jamieson who was walking his first 50km. He explains

There is a bit of a story on the teams race - the Victorian team had six members but four had to finish to win the teams race. I went out too hard, staying with or in sight of Graeme Nicholls till past 35km, when the rot set in. I got to 40km but was hitting the wall big time - no feeding in those days - and decided I would have to pull the pin. I was immediately told by Norm Goble to get back on the track and finish as I was the fourth Victorian left and we would not get the medal unless I finished. I had some water and two barley sugars and duly did finish, thinking that it would be worth it if I got a medal. With Ted, Bob and Graeme going well, a gold was in the bag. To my considerable disappointment only the first three members of the team actually got a medal! Rather strangely the third placed team S.A. team only had three members and got bronze! Such is athletics!

1970 Australian 50km Championship, Melbourne, Saturday 26 September

1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:21:05
2.	Peter Fullager	SA	4:29:15
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:36:53
4.	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	4:41:05
5.	Robin Whyte	NSW	4:41:55
6.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	4:55:55
7.	Robin Wood	VIC IND	5:04:58
8.	Victor Townsend	NSW	5:08:36
9.	Andrew Jamieson	VIC	5:15:10
10.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	5:24:46
11.	Peter Whitham	SA	5:27:25
12.	John Webber	SA	5:32:25
13.	Graeme Anderson	VIC IND	5:21:53
	Sydney Bray	QLD	DNF
	Brian Carman	NSW IND	DNF
	David Black	VIC IND	DNF
	Paul Cronin	VIC IND	DNF
	Geoff Laycock	VIC iND	DNF
	Claude Martin	VIC IND	DNF
	Gordon Mills	VIC IND	DNF
	Varel Newmark	VIC IND	DNF
	Norm Marr	VIC	DNF
	Justin Coxhead	VIC	DNF
	Clarrie Jack	VIC IND	DQ

1 See <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-peter-fullager.pdf>

Teams

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|----|-----|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | VIC | 10 Pts | (1,3,6 – Allsopp, Gardiner, Nicholls) |
| 2. | NSW | 16 Pts | (4,5,7 – Hausfeld, Whyte, Townsend) |
| 3. | SA | 19 Pts | (2,8,9 – Fullager, Whitham, Webber) |



Part of the Victorian contingent - Andrew Jamieson, Geoff Laycock, Ted Allsopp, Norm Marr, Graeme Anderson (obscured), Justin Coxhead, Robin Wood (obscured) and Bob Gardiner



Winner Ted Allsopp with first timer Andrew Jamieson (photos from Andrew Jamieson)