**Australasian Championships 1921-22**
**Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, 31 December 1921 & 2 January 1922**

The 10th Australasian Championships were held in Adelaide at the end of 1921. Since his return to Australia after the 1920 Olympics, **George Parker** had seldom competed. One of his rare appearances was at the 1921-22 Australasian championships where he retained his 3 mile walk title in dashing form. He was also expected to easily win the 1 mile event but the newspapers of the time reported that he was outraced by **Tom Radich** of Victoria who, although winning the race, was disqualifed by Mr Richard Coombes. Thus Parker also retained his 1 mile title but in perhaps slightly hollow circumstances.

| **3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 31 December 1921** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | George Parker | NSW | 23:04.4 |
| 2 | Tom Radich | VIC | 25 yards |
| 3 | Thomas Terrell | SA | 100 yards |
| | Phil McCavanagh | SA | |
| | Horace George Wilson | SA | |
| | Norman Asker | VIC | |
| | **Fred Willson** | **VIC** | **DQ** |

| **1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 2 January 1922** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | George Parker | NSW | 6:52.4 |
| 2 | Thomas Terrell | SA | |
| 3 | Horace George Wilson | SA | |
| | Phil McCavanagh | SA | |
| | Norman Asker | VIC | |
| | William Murray | VIC | |
| | Tom Radich | VIC | DQ |
| | Fred Willson | VIC | DQ |

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship**
**Malvern Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 14th July 1923**

With interest in walking becoming stronger, the Victorian and New South Wales walking clubs decided that an interstate road race should be held. After 2 years of discussions, the date and distance and status were finally decided and, in July 1923, the first Australasian 7 Mile Championship was held in Melbourne (this event would then become a bi-annual Championship with teams competing for the Glover Shield). **Ernie Austen,** second in the 1920 Australasian Championships 1 Mile Walk, led from the gun and won easily in the fine time of 55:44.4 over what was described as a heavy wet track. 1912 Olympian **Bill Murray** showed his experience, moving up through the field to pass all the chasers except for **Vic Dowling** who finished 2 seconds ahead of him in second place with Murray taking third. Victoria won both the Open Teams event and the Junior Teams event.

| **Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 14 July 1923** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ernie Austen | NSW | 55:44.2 |
| 2. | Vic Dowling | VIC | 57:25 |
| 3. | Bill Murray | VIC | 57:27 |
| 4. | Bert Kitchen | NSW | 58:25 |
| 5. | Norm Asker | VIC | 58:47 |
| 6. | Eric Sunderland | VIC | 58:55 |
| 7. | George Wilson | SA | 59:10 |
| 8. | Ernie Smith | NSW | 59:20 |
| 9. | Ted Drayton | VIC | 59:52 |
| 10. | Rex Merrick | VIC | 60:10 |
| 11. | Mick ("Joe") McNamara | NSW | 60:58 |
| 12. | Bert Gardiner | VIC | 61:03 |
| 13. | Frank O'Rourke | VIC | 61:10 |
| 14. | Lyle Brown | NSW | 63:07 |
| 15. | Bob Osborne | VIC | 63:14 |
| 16. | Jack Merrifield | VIC | 63:17 |
| 17. | Ted Winstanley | VIC | 63:52 |

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18.     Jack Parker           NSW        63:59
19.     Reg Foster            NSW        64:10
20.     Lionel McMillen       VIC        65:24
21.     Harry Campbell        NSW        67:23
22.     F. Johnson            NSW        DNF
23.     M. Watson             SA         DNF


Australasian Junior (U21) 7 Mile Walk Championship
1.      Vic Dowling           VIC        57:25
2.      Eric Sunderland       VIC        58:55
3.      Lyle Brown            NSW        63:07
4.      Bob Osborne           VIC        63:14
5.      Ted Winstanley        VIC        63:52
6.      Jack Parker           NSW        63:59
7.      Reg Foster            NSW        64:10
8.      Lionel McMillen       VIC        65:24


Senior Teams    Victoria  33      NSW  52
Junior Teams    Victoria  10      NSW  DNQ
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**Australasian Championships 1923-24**
**North Hobart Oval, Hobart, 6-9 February 1924**

The Australasian Championships of 1924 were held in Hobart, with NSW walker **Ernie Austen** winning both walks comfortably to confirm his selection for the Paris Olympics. It was still a combined Australasian Championships but it would not be long before Australia and New Zealand parted ways, as they had already done for the Olympics.

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3 MILES WALK - Men - Friday 8 February 1924
1    Ernest Austen         NSW        22:13.0
2    Norman Asker          VIC        23:42.0
3    J. McKenzie           NZL        24:59.0
4    Joseph Mackay         VIC

1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 9 February 1924
1    Ernest Austen         NSW        6:45.0
2    Norman Asker          VIC        7:08.0
3    Joseph Mackay         VIC        7:59.0
     J. McKenzie           NZL        DNS
```

A correspondent commented that "*Austen's wins reminded one of W. Murray in his prime*". In March, he won the NSW track walks in similar style. He was now the unchallenged champion on both road and track.

The Olympics did not go well for Austen. Controversially, he was warned in the first lap by the French judge who thought his gait doubtful. In the second lap the American judge ordered him off when he was lying third and was doing well. In later years, he commented

> *"I was in third place, just behind the leaders and going along very easily. I thought I had a good chance but then an American judge came up and told me I was disqualified. I asked him why but he said he didn't know. You usually get two cautions before being disqualified but I wasn't aware of them. Nobody ever did tell me why I was outed."*

He broke down and went to the dressing rooms. It was his first disqualification in some 15 years of competitive walking. The pace at the time of his disqualification was very slow – equal to about 7:30 for the mile. In fact, of the 13 starters, only 6 finished in what was a farcical event. Australian officials were adamant that his style was satisfactory and the whole event deteriorated into an ugly affair. (Walking was consequently dropped from the 1928 Olympics and did not re-appear in the Olympics until 1932, when a 50 km roadwalk was introduced.)

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship**
**Sydney Sports Ground, Sydney, 8 November 1924**

Disillusioned, Austen returned to Australia and retired from racewalking. This sad fact coincided with the return to competition of the 1920 Olympic silver medallist **George Parker** who set to work with a will, got his weight back to normal and, in quick succession, turned in a series of very high quality performances that rewrote the record books.

First in early November 1924 he won the NSW 7 Mile championship in pouring rain. On that occasion he broke the Australasian records for 4 miles (29:58), 5 miles (37:40), 6 miles (45:19.5) and 7 miles (53:02.2). A week later, he fronted for the second Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship which was held at the Sydney Sports Ground on 8[th] November 1924.

Unchallenged, he won the the championship by over 2 minutes, creating new State records for all distances from 2 to 7 miles and setting new Australasian records for 4 miles (29:42), 5 miles (37:28), 6 miles (45:17) and 7 miles (53:07). A strong field of 25 walkers contested the race, with NSW taking the first 3 places.

| | **Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | George Parker | NSW | 53:07 |
| 2. | Albert Kitchen | NSW | 55:17 |
| 3. | Ernest Smith | NSW | 57:30 |
| 4. | Victor Dowling | VIC | 57:52 |
| 5. | William Morse | VIC | 57:23 |
| 6. | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 58:41 |
| 7. | Jack Parker | NSW | 59:04 |
| 8. | Herbert (Bert) Gardiner | VIC | 59:20 |
| 9. | Robert Heathwood | NSW | 59:23 |
| 10. | Lyle Brown | NSW | 59:34 |
| 11. | Reginald Foster | NSW | 59:44 |
| 12. | Jack Batger | NSW | 59:54 |
| 13. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 60:20 |
| 14. | Ernest Pritchard | VIC | 60:20 |
| 15. | George Wilson | VIC | 60:52 |
| 16. | Edward Drayton | VIC | 61:00 |
| 17. | Edward Winstanley | VIC | 61:10 |
| 18. | Raymond Latham | NSW | 61:31 |
| 19. | Leslie Moroney | VIC | 61:34 |
| 20. | Jack Larkin | NSW | 61:44 |
| 21. | James Cole | SA | 62:50 |
| 22. | Hugh Collins | VIC | 64:07 |
| 23. | Frederick Chapman | NSW | DNF |
| 24. | William Pitt | NSW | DNF |
| 25. | William Hayward | NSW | DNF |

| | **Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Victor Dowling | VIC | 57:52 |
| 2. | William Morse | VIC | 57:23 |
| 3. | Jack Parker | NSW | 59:04 |
| 4. | Robert Heathwood | NSW | 59:23 |
| 5. | Reginald Foster | NSW | 59:44 |
| 6. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 60:20 |
| 7. | Ernest Pritchard | VIC | 60:20 |
| 8. | Edward Winstanley | VIC | 61:10 |
| 9. | Raymond Latham | NSW | 61:31 |
| 10. | Jack Larkin | NSW | 61:44 |
| 11. | Hugh Collins | VIC | 64:07 |

| Senior Teams | NSW 32 | VIC 50 |
|---|---|---|
| Junior Teams | VIC 16 | NSW 21 |

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship**
**Adelaide Cricket Ground, Adelaide, 15 August 1925**

1925 saw George Parker expand his repertoire in winning the NSW 20 Mile walk title, one of a series of good walks in what was a strong winter. Yet, he chose to bypass the third Australasian 7 Mile Championship which to be held at the Adelaide Cricket Ground as a curtain raiser to the Australian Rules football final on Saturday 15th August 1925.

His absence, along with the retirement of Ernie Austen, opened the door up for a new champion, and it was young Victorian **Herbert ("Bert") Gardiner** who took up the challenge. Walking in front of a crowd of 60,000 spectators, the largest crowd to watch an Australian athletic championship, Bert scored a 6 second victory over fellow Victorian **Joe Mulcahy**, with **William Pitt** of NSW in third place. Overall, Victoria dominated, winning both the Senior and Junior Shields. Once again, the championship saw walkers from Victoria, NSW and SA only.

| **Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 15 August 1925** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.  Herbert ("Bert") Gardiner | VIC | 57:03 |
| 2.  Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 57:09 |
| 3.  William Pitt | NSW | 58:11 |
| 4.  Robert Osborne | VIC | 59:15 |
| 5.  Raymond Latham | NSW | 59:51 |
| 6.  George Isbister | VIC | 59:55 |
| 7.  George Wilson | VIC | 60:00 |
| 8.  Jack Harris | NSW | 60:24 |
| 9.  William Hayward | NSW | 60:29 |
| 10.  Frederick Chapman | NSW | 61:05 |
| 11.  Victor Dowling | VIC | 61:07 |
| 12.  Leslie Moroney | VIC | 61:10 |
| 13.  Patrick McNamara | SA | 61:16 |
| 14.  Jack Larkin | NSW | 62:25 |
| 15.  Edward Drayton | VIC | 63:05 |
| 16.  Edward Winstanley | VIC | 63:09 |
| 17.  Thomas Grandison | VIC | 63:14 |
| 18.  Pryce Parham | SA | 63:25 |
| 19.  Jack Batger | NSW | 64:16 |
| 20.  John  McCormack | SA | 64:23 |
| 21.  Philip McCavanagh | SA | 64:49 |
| 22.  Francis Penny | SA | 64:59 |
| 23.  Thomas Wyatt | SA | 65:05 |
| 24.  Philip Campbell | SA | 65:16 |
| 25.  Roy Campbell | SA | 65:20 |
| 26.  P. Bald | SA | 65:51 |
| 27.  Richard Winstanley | NSW | 68:32 |
| | | |
| **Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship** | | |
| 1.  Robert Osborne | VIC | 59:15 |
| 2.  Raymond Latham | NSW | 59:51 |
| 3.  George Isbister | VIC | 59:55 |
| 4.  William Hayward | NSW | 60:29 |
| 5.  Frederick Chapman | NSW | 61:05 |
| 6.  Victor Dowling | VIC | 61:07 |
| 7.  Leslie Moroney | VIC | 61:10 |
| 8.  Jack Larkin | NSW | 62:25 |
| 9.  Thomas Grandison | VIC | 63:14 |
| 10.  Pryce Parham | SA | 63:25 |
| 11.  John  McCormack | SA | 64:23 |
| 12.  Philip Campbell | SA | 65:16 |
| 13.  Roy Campbell | SA | 65:20 |

| Senior Teams | VIC | 31 | NSW | 48 | SA | 92 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Junior Teams | VIC | 17 | NSW | 19 | SA | 42 |

As a matter of record, on 21st November 1925, George Parker went on another record breaking spree in winning the NSW 7 Mile championship, continuing on for the full hour on a specially prepared track (5 laps to the mile). In

winning, he broke six NSW and Australasian records. These included 4 miles (29:31.8), 5 miles (37:09.8), 6 miles (44:50.4), 10000m (46:32), 7 miles (52:45.2) and 1 hour (7 miles 1649 yards 1 foot 9 inches). His 10,000m time was over a minute faster than the winning time of Ugo Frigerio in the 1924 Olympics and does really raise the question – could anyone have beaten Parker if he had chosen to train for a second Olympics?

**Australasian Championships 1925-26**
**Bowen Park, Brisbane, 14-21 August 1926**

The 12th Australasian T&F Championships were conducted in Brisbane in August 1926. 1920 Olympic silver medallist **George Parker** made a powerful statement, easily winning both walks. Fields were small, with few walkers willing to make the long train trip to Queensland. In particular, no Victorians participated in the walks.

| 3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 14 August 1926 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | George Parker | NSW | 22:21.0 | |
| 2 | Ron McMurdo | QLD | 24:55.8 | |
| 3 | William Axelsen | QLD | | |
| | Garnet Cabot | NZL | DQ | 23:47.8 |
| | Philip McCavanagh | SA | DQ | |
| | **H. Walling** | **QLD** | **DNF** | |
| | | | | |
| 1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 21 August 1926 | | | | |
| 1 | George Parker | NSW | 6:43.6 | |
| 2 | Garbet Cabot | NZL | 7:14.4 | |
| 3 | Philip McCavanagh | SA | | |
| 4 | Ron McMurdo | QLD | | |
| 5 | A. Innes | QLD | | |

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship**
**Amateur Sports Ground, Melbourne, 28 August 1926**

Short at 5' 3" in height and slimly built, **Eric (Mo) Sunderland** had burst onto the local Victorian walking scene in 1923. In his first season, he had made the Victorian team which contested the inaugural 1923 Australasian 7 Mile Championship, coming a gallant sixth in 58:55, only 90 seconds behind NSW winner Ernie Austen. But he did not build on this solid start, preferring instead to mix it with the runners.

It was not until 1925 that he returned to walking, quickly proving himself unassailable on the Victorian front. Surprisingly, he opted to bypass the trial walk set by the Victorian selectors and was controversially left out of the Victorian team for the 1925 Australasian 7 Mile Championship in Adelaide. But this proved to be but a blip on the horizon and 1926 saw him in record breaking mode.

He foreshadowed his intentions with a 6 mile walk at the Mildura Recreation Reserve (he lived in Mildura). 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 March, he produced one of the greatest walks seen in Australia when he won the Victorian 10 Mile Track Walking 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 showed in August 1926 that this walk was no fluke when he travelled to NSW to contest the NSW 7 Mile Walking Championship at the Sydney Showgrounds. 1920 Olympic silver medallist George Parker was expected to win but Sunderland beat him on his own home ground with a time of 55:45.2.

It was only a couple of weeks before he was back in action, this time in the 4th annual Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship in Melbourne. Interestingly, while large numbers of Victorians and SA walkers competed, NSW was conspicuous by its absence.

This proved an easy win for Sunderland, his time of 55:16.6 seeing him finish some 42 seconds ahead of fellow Victorian **Bob Osborne**. Without the usual strong NSW team against which to compete, Victoria easily won both the Senior and Junior Teams competitions.

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 28 August 1926**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Eric Sunderland | VIC | 55:16.6 |
| 2. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 55:58 |
| 3. | Thomas Wyatt | SA | 56:05 |
| 4. | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 56:27 |
| 5. | Bert Gardiner | VIC | 56:30 |
| 6. | James Allen | VIC | 56:50 |
| 7. | Jack Merrifield | VIC | |
| 8. | Thomas Terrill | SA | 57:20 |
| 9. | Walter Mansfield | SA | |
| 10. | Philip Campbell | SA | |
| 11. | Edward Winstanley | VIC | |
| 12. | Ronald McDonald | VIC | |
| 13. | James Cole | SA | |
| 14. | Roy Campbell | SA | |
| - | William Morse | VIC | DQ |

**Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 55:58 |
| 2. | Thomas Wyatt | SA | 56:05 |
| 3. | James Allen | VIC | 56:50 |
| 4. | Walter Mansfield | SA | |
| 5. | Ronald McDonald | VIC | |
| 6. | Roy Campbell | SA | |
| 7. | Leslie Moroney | VIC | |
| 8. | Pryce Parham | SA | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senior Teams | VIC | 25 | SA | 57 |
| Junior Teams | VIC | 16 | SA | 20 |

Others to race included SA walkers Philip McCavanagh, Alan Miller (Junior), Pat McNamara, A Treeaven and John Larner, Victorians A Davies, Cliff Fort, Aub Eve and Harry Vine and two NSW walkers. Alas, the results are incomplete.

The first and only Australasian Marathon Championship was held in August 1927 in Sydney.

**Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship**
**Manly Oval, Sydney, 24 September 1927**

1927 saw 1926 Australasian 7 Mile Walk winner Eric Sunderland testing himself over the longer distances. First he won the annual Frankston to St. Kilda 25 mile classic in an Australasian best time of 3:53:16.4, beating Bill Murray's record by 5 minutes. Considering the appalling weather conditions, 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 the discipline excluded from the 1928 Olympics, what was left for a man of his ability to pursue. It is not surprising that he looked for other ways to make the papers. Amongst the most astounding was his dance of 50 Miles from Geelong to Melbourne in 1928.

Sunderland was a pork butcher at a time when people worked hard and leisure time was non existent. His job meant early hours and long days and, from our modern perspective, his training was intermittent and minimal. He flitted into and out of the sport and never really put more than 6 months of training together at any one time. Yet his performances stand out in their brilliance. He was indeed one of our greatest walkers and we can only wonder what he could have done if he had experienced the opportunities that are on offer in the modern era.

If Sunderland had opted to contest the 1927 championship, there was no certainty he would have retained his title, as 1924 winner and Australian 7 Mile record holder **George Parker** had returned for yet another tilt at the title. And he did

this in fine style on the Manly Oval in Sydney, with a dominant performance, his winning time of 53:53.4 well ahead of his rivals. He led his NSW team mates to significant teams victories in both the Senior and Junior races.

**Bert Gardiner** improved from 5th in 1926 to third this time around, with a much faster time of 54:45 (especially compared with his 1925 winning time of 57:03).The meet is also significant for introducing 16 year old **Tom Daintry** (NSW) and 17 year old **Jim Gaylor** (VIC). They would on to become legends of our sport in later years.

| Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 24 Sept 1927 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | George Parker | NSW | 53:53.6 |
| 2. | Raymond Latham | NSW | 54:32 |
| 3. | Bert Gardiner | VIC | 54:45.4 |
| 4. | Frederick Chapman | NSW | 55:56 |
| 5. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 56:27 |
| 6. | Reginald Foster | NSW | 56:54 |
| 7. | Thomas Wyatt | SA | 57:17 |
| 8. | Philip Campbell | SA | 57:20 |
| 9. | Ernie Austin | NSW | 57:30 |
| 10. | Thomas Daintry | NSW | 57:31 |
| 11. | Alan Hart | VIC | 57:41 |
| 12. | Clifford Fort | VIC | 57:55 |
| 13. | James Gaylor | VIC | 58:00 |
| 14. | Harry Vine | VIC | 58:23 |
| 15. | Alan Miller | SA | 59:03 |
| 16. | Francis O'Rourke | VIC | 59:04 |
| 17. | Aubrey Eve | VIC | 59:12 |
| 18. | Thomas Terrell | SA | 59:19 |
| 19. | Roy Campbell | SA | 59:43 |
| 20. | John Larner | SA | 59:56 |
| 21. | Philip McCavanagh | SA | 59:58 |
| 22. | Allan Davies | VIC | 60:13 |
| 23. | John Richmond | NSW | 62:12 |
| 24. | Edward Hingston | NSW | 65:30 |

| Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Raymond Latham | NSW | 54:32 |
| 2. | Frederick Chapman | NSW | 55:56 |
| 3. | Thomas Daintry | NSW | 57:31 |
| 4. | Alan Hart | VIC | 57:41 |
| 5. | Clifford Fort | VIC | 57:55 |
| 6. | James Gaylor | VIC | 58:00 |
| 7. | Harry Vine | VIC | 58:23 |
| 8. | Alan Miller | SA | 59:03 |
| 9. | Aubrey Eve | VIC | 59:12 |
| 10. | Roy Campbell | SA | 59:43 |
| 11. | John Richmond | NSW | 62:12 |

| Senior Teams | NSW 32 | VIC 58 | SA 81 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Junior Teams | NSW 14 | VIC 22 | |

**Australasian Championships 1927-28**
**Basin Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand, 26-29 December 1927**

The 1927 Australasian Championships, held in Wellington, were the last to be held jointly with New Zealand. The 13th biennial conference saw the passing of a motion that women's events be held for the first time at the next national championships. Another motion of lasting importance saw New Zealand withdrawing from the union to go its own way. There was no opposition by any of the Australian states and it was done amicably. 1924 Olympic walker **Ernie Austen** won the 1 Mile walk while New Zealander **Bill Langley** won the 3 Miles walk.

| 1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 26 December 1927 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ernest Austen | NSW | 6:52.0 |
| 2 | Walter "Bill" Lankey | NZL | 20 yards |

| 3 | Garnet "Reg" Cabot | NZL | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Don Pederson** | **NZL** | **DQ** |

**3 MILES WALK - Men - Tuesday 27 December 1927**

| 1 | Walter "Bill" Lankey | NZL | 22:10.2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Ernest Austen | NSW | |
| 3 | Garnet "Reg" Cabot | NZL | |
| | **Don Pederson** | **NZL** | **DQ** |

**Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia**
**Adelaide, 21 September 1929**

After five Australasian 7 Mile Championships in 5 years (1923-1927), the Australian Walking Clubs decided to make it a biennial affair, with the carnival to be held in odd years, starting with 1929. It was also renamed as *The 7 Miles Team Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia*. The concept of an Australasian Championship had now been dropped. No New Zealand walkers had ever attended and the push was now to grow the event as a national one.

That meant walkers had to wait 2 years before the next Australian 7 Mile Walk Championship was scheduled. Like the five before it, this one featured walkers from Victoria, NSW and SA but none from further afield.

It is significant for a number of reasons. For starters, it was the first time that a South Australian had won the championship, with junior walker **Horace Wilson**'s time of 53:17 an impressive debut. Secondly, the race saw junior walkers filling three of the first four places, with NSW walkers **Tom Daintry** second with 53:26 and **Jack Campbell** fourth with 54:54. Finally, it saw SA win both the Senior and Junior teams events. The State had come of age with regard to racewalking.

**Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 21 Sept 1929**

| 1. | Horace (Horrie) Wilson | SA | 53:17 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Thomas Daintry | NSW | 53:26 |
| 3. | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 54:43 |
| 4. | Jack Campbell | NSW | 54:54 |
| 5. | Roy Campbell | SA | 54:59 |
| 6. | Jack Coffey | VIC | 55:19 |
| 7. | John Larner | SA | 55:58 |
| 8. | Bert Gardiner | VIC | 56:03 |
| 9. | Philip McCavanagh | SA | 56:29 |
| 10. | Alan Hart | VIC | 56:50 |
| 11. | Jack Pretty | VIC | 57:21 |
| 12. | Philip Campbell | SA | 57:33 |
| 13. | John Richmond | NSW | 57:35 |
| 14. | Alan Miller | SA | 57:54 |
| 15. | Francis Collins | NSW | 58:33 |
| 16. | John McCormack | SA | 58:34 |
| 17. | Victor Cocks | SA | 58:36 |
| 18. | Frank Scully | VIC | 58:37 |
| 19. | William Jennings | SA | 58:44 |
| 20. | Leonard Brady | SA | 58:56 |
| 21. | George Northcote | SA | 59:07 |
| 22. | Aubrey Eve | VIC | 59:51 |
| 23. | James Gaylor | VIC | 60:13 |
| 24. | Jack Leydstrom | NSW | 61:05 |
| 25. | R. Obern | SA | 61:44 |
| 26. | Ronald Hester | VIC | 63:00 |
| 27. | E.Cumins | NSW | 63:29 |
| - | Frederick Chapman | NSW | DQ |
| - | K. Godfrey | SA | DQ |
| - | William Clark | NSW | DQ |

**Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership**

| 1. | Horace (Horrie) Wilson | SA | 53:17 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Thomas Daintry | NSW | 53:26 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Jack Campbell | NSW | 54:54 |
| 4. | Alan Hart | VIC | 56:50 |
| 5. | Alan Miller | SA | 57:54 |
| 6. | Frank Scully | VIC | 58:37 |
| 7. | George Northcote | SA | 59:07 |
| 8. | James Gaylor | VIC | 60:13 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senior Teams | SA 48 | VIC | 54 | NSW | 69 |
| Junior Teams | SA 21 | NSW | 27 | VIC | 30 |

**Australian Championships 1929-30**
**Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 25 & 27 January 1930**

The 1930 National Championships were the first without New Zealand and also included 3 women's events.Young NSW walker **Tom Daintry** won the 1 Mile walk while **Horace Wilson** of SA won the 3 Miles walk.

**3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 25 January 1930**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Horace George Wilson | SA | 21:45.2 |
| 2 | Tom Daintry | NSW | 21:53.0 |
| 3 | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 22:23.0 |
| | Bert Gardiner | VIC | |
| | George Parker | NSW | |
| | **Robert Osborne** | **VIC** | |

**1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 27 January 1930**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tom Daintry | NSW | 6:48.6 |
| 2 | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 6:59.0 |
| 3 | Robert Osborne | VIC | 7:08.0 |
| - | Harold George Wilson | SA | DQ |
| - | Bert Gardiner | VIC | DQ |

The removal of racewalking from the 1928 Olympics proved a once off situation. Fortunately, there followed a change in international walking fashion, with road walking overtaking track walking in popularity. British officials worked together and bid for a long distance road event to be introduced into the Olympics. It was accepted and the first Olympic road walk, over 50 kilometres, was announced for the Los Angeles Games in 1932.

The first NSW 50km Championship had been contested in 1926, with Victoria following suite in 1929, hosting its own inaugural 50km championship in that year.

In 1930, the NSW and Victorian racewalking clubs decided to institute a biennial *50km Championship of the Race Walking Clubs of Australia*, to be held in conjunction with one or other of the State championships in even years. This championship was named *The W. B. Alexander Cup*.

**1930 Alexander Cup 50km**
**Bankstown, Sydney, 6th September 1930**

The inaugural Alexander Cup was held in conjunction with the 1930 NSW 50km Championship, contested in Bankstown, western Sydney, on 6th September 1930. The inaugural 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.

Little separated the first two NSW walkers, with **William Clark** bettering the great **Gordon Smith** by just under 4 minutes. Sadly, after a stellar career throughout the 1930s, Smith would die as a Japanese prisoner of war in 1945.

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1930 Alexander Cup 50km, Bankstown, Sydney
1.    Jack Coffey          VIC      4:59:40  AUS REC
2.    Jack Cummins         VIC      5:11:05
3.    William Clark        NSW      5:14:03
4.    Gordon Smith         NSW      5:17:50
5.    Raymond Latham       NSW      5:35:56
6.    Frank Scully         VIC      5:36:25
7.    W. White             NSW      5:38:41
8.    Alfred Robinson      VIC      5:40:16
9.    Rupert Blackley      VIC      5:44:40
10.   Thomas Nelan         NSW      5:48:05
11.   H. Hampson           NSW      5:53:30
12.   Joe O'Farrell        VIC      6:00:29
13.   Harry Barrett        NSW      6:06:37
14.   W. Groves            NSW      6:14:15
15.   Thomas Byrne         QLD      6:22:21
-     John Richmond        NSW      DNF
-     Donald Walker        VIC      DNF
-     George Isbister      VIC      DNF
-     Leslie Wright        VIC      DNF

Teams
  1. VIC                   9 pts       (1,2,6)
  2. NSW                   12 pts      (3,4,5)
```

**Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia**
**Royal Showgrounds, Melb, 29 August 1931**

The 1931 Australasian 7 Mile Championship had been allocated to Victoria but by now the Great Depression had bitten deeply into Australian society, with unemployment rising towards 30% and with poverty and unrest widespread.

A decision was made to continue with the meet, choosing a shell grit track at the Royal Showgrounds in Melbourne in preference to the usual grass surface. Victorians would certainly be in attendance but what of the interstaters? As it turned out, SA send a good contingent of walkers, but NSW was sadly but understandably missing.

The 7 Mile race was again won by a Junior, namely **Glen Houghton** of SA, in a good 54:16, ahead of Victorians **Joe Mulcahy, Jack Cummins** and **Jack Pretty**. Victoria won the Senior Teams competition while SA won the Junior teams competition, helped considerably by Houghton's winning performance. The meet also saw the first appearance of 20 year old Victorian **Frank McGuire**, then in his first year of racewalking. Frank would go on to have a wonderful career as a coach and as an international judge.

Victorian **Jim Gaylor**, way down in 19th place, would find his true calling some 6 weeks later in the VRWC 50 mile championship at the Showgrounds in October 1931. The event had been put on the track to allow Jack Lewis to attack his various State records and Jim had been talked into participating simply to help Jack. But it was Jim who won the event and set new Victorian records for all distances from 15 miles to 50 miles. His 50 mile time of 8:49:33 beat the Lewis's State record by a massive 32 minutes.

```
Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 29 August 1931
1.    Glen Houghton        SA       54:16
2.    Joseph Mulcahy       VIC      54:18
3.    Jack Cummins         VIC      54:28
4.    Jack Pretty          VIC      55:30
5.    Jack Deere           SA       55:39
6.    George Isbister      VIC      55:40
7.    Philip Campbell      SA       55:47
8.    Francis Scully       VIC      56:03
9.    Ralph Reynolds       SA       56:15
10.   John Larner          SA       56:28
11.   Jack Coffey          VIC      56:40
12.   Milo Bottroff        SA       57:26
13.   Joseph Farrelly      SA       57:28
```

| 14. | Roy Campbell | SA | 57:31 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Leslie Stanton | VIC | 57:44 |
| 16. | Francis McGuire | VIC | 57:50 |
| 17. | Ronald McDonald | VIC | 58:10 |
| 18. | Robert Osborne | VIC | 59:30 |
| 19. | Jim Gaylor | VIC | 59:57 |
| 20. | William Marston | VIC | 60:05 |
| 21. | Brian Oke | VIC | 60:40 |
| 22. | Con Shanahan | VIC | 61:01 |
| 23. | Harry Roche | VIC | 62:13 |

**Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership**

| 1. | Glen Houghton | SA | 54:16 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Jack Deere | SA | 55:39 |
| 3. | Ralph Reynolds | SA | 56:15 |
| 4. | Milo Bottroff | SA | 57:26 |
| 5. | Joseph Farrelly | SA | 57:28 |
| 6. | Francis McGuire | VIC | 57:50 |
| 7. | Jim Gaylor | VIC | 59:57 |
| 8. | William Marston | VIC | 60:05 |
| 9. | Brian Oke | VIC | 60:40 |
| 10. | Con Shanahan | VIC | 61:01 |
| 11. | Harry Roche | VIC | 62:13 |

| Senior Teams | VIC | 34 | SA | 44 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Junior Teams | SA | 10 | VIC | 26 |

**Australian Championships 1931-32**
**Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney, 16 & 18 January 1932**

After competing nationally since 1924 without much success, NSW walker **Fred Chapman** finally broke through for a win in the 1931-32 Australian Championship 1 Mile Walk, while Victorian **Joe Mulcahy**, a perennial medallist, also broke through for his first Australian Championship win, taking the 3 Mile title.

**3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 16 January 1932**

| 1 | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | 22:30.6 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Glen Houghton | SA | | |
| 3 | Tom Daintry | NSW | | |
| 4 | Fred Chapman | NSW | | |
| | George Isbister | VIC | | |
| | Jack Deere | SA | DQ | |
| | R.Latham | NSW | DQ | |
| | **J. Campbell** | **NSW** | **DNS** | |

**1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 18 January 1932**

| 1 | Fred Chapman | NSW | 6:40.6 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Jack Deere | SA | | |
| 3 | Joseph Mulcahy | VIC | | |
| | Tom Daintry | NSW | | |
| | George Isbister | VIC | | |
| | R.Latham | NSW | | |
| | Glen Houghton | SA | DQ | (2nd) |
| | J. Campbell | NSW | DNS | |

**1933 Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia**
**Weigall Oval, Sydney, 9 September 1933**

The 1933 Australasian 7 Mile Championship had been allocated to NSW, with the Great Depression still biting into the Australian economy and stressing Australian families.

On this occasion, Victoria was able to send a team but SA opted out. Hence the meet became a two way contest between Victoria and NSW. The venue was Weigall Oval in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney.

NSW walker **William Clark** had been disqualified in his only Australian 7 Mile Championship previous appearance in 1929 but went into the 1933 7 Mile Championship as a clear favourite. He had dominated the NSW scene, winning the 1 Mile, 3 Mile and 7 Mile walk titles and setting a State record of 13:55.6 for the 2 Miles, easily breaking the previous record of 14:03.2, held by 1920 Olympic silver medallist George Parker. He made no mistakes on his home turf, winning with 54:45.2, ahead of a duo of Victorians in **Joe O'Farrell** and **Jack Cummins**.

The walker way down in 10th place, **Athol Stubbs** of NSW, would go on to become the dominant Australian walker of the late 1930s and 1940s. This was his first interstate appearance and it gave little inkling of what was to come.

| **Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 9 September 1933** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.  William Clark | NSW | 54:45.2 |
| 2.  Joe O'Farrell | VIC | 54:50 |
| 3.  Jack Cummins | VIC | 54:54 |
| 4.  Tom Daintry | NSW | 55:35 |
| 5.  William Marston | VIC | 56:59 |
| 6.  Jim Gaylor | VIC | 57:56 |
| 7.  Lindsay Guy | VIC | 58:43 |
| 8.  Brian Oke | VIC | 59:10 |
| 9.  Keith McCluskey | VIC | 59:43 |
| 10.  Athol Stubbs | NSW | 60:22 |
| 11.  Francis Collins | NSW | 60:34 |
| 12.  Lloyd Bransgrove | VIC | 60:35 |
| 13.  George Gosling | NSW | 61:08 |
| 14.  Albert Stafford | VIC | 61:10 |
| 15.  Norman Anstee | VIC | 61:16 |
| 16.  Leo Patterson | VIC | 61:22 |
| 17.  Jack Nixon | NSW | 62:11 |
| 18.  Alex Philpotts | VIC | 62:11 |
| 19.  William London | NSW | 62:56 |
| 20.  Sydney Sheedy | NSW | 63:32 |
| 21.  J. Donaldson | NSW | 68:04 |
| 22.  Arthur Scanlon | NSW | 68:06 |
| -  Frederick Chapman | NSW | DNF |
| -  Laurence Mink | NSW | DNF |
| -  O. Manning | NSW | DNF |
| | | |
| **Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership** | | |
| 1.  William Marston | VIC | 56:59 |
| 2.  Keith McCluskey | VIC | 59:43 |
| 3.  Lloyd Bransgrove | VIC | 60:35 |
| 4.  Albert Stafford | VIC | 61:10 |
| 5.  Norman Anstee | VIC | 61:16 |
| 6.  Jack Nixon | NSW | 62:11 |
| 7.  Alex Philpotts | VIC | 62:11 |
| | | |
| Senior Teams    VIC  31    NSW  47 | | |
| Junior Teams    VIC  10    NSW  26 | | |

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1933-34**
**Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia, 27, 29 January 1934**

Victorian **Bill Marston**, who had won the Junior 7 Miles Walk in Sydney in September 1933, showed how much he had improved in a few short months, winning both the 1 Mile and 3 Miles Walks at the 1933-34 Australian T&F Championships in Adelaide. **Athol Stubbs** showed a further indication of his potential with silver in the 3 Miles walk.

| **3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 27 January 1934** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1    William Marston | VIC | 22:24.2 |
| 2    Athol Stubbs | NSW | 130 yards |

| 3 | Ralph Reynolds | SA | | 45 yards |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jack Deere | SA | | |
| | Vic Cocks | SA | | |
| | G.Northcott | VIC | | |
| | **Joseph O'Farrell** | **VIC** | | |

**1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 29 January 1934**

| 1 | William Marston | VIC | 6:57.0 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Joseph O'Farrell | VIC | | 15 yards |
| 3 | Ralph Reynolds | SA | | 1 yard |
| | Vic Cocks | SA | | |
| | Jack Deere | SA | | |
| | G.Northcott | VIC | | |
| | Athol Stubbs | NSW | DQ | |

## 1934 Alexander Cup 50km
## Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne, Saturday 27th October 1934

The Alexander Cup had been been cancelled in 1932. With the Great Depression in full swing, there was little likelihood that an interstate walking carnival would attract a field of walkers. Consequently, the second Alexander Cup 50km was not scheduled until 1934 and was allocated to Victoria, to be held in conjunction with the Victorian 50km Championship at the Royal Showgrounds in Ascot Vale.

The Showgrounds would be used by VAWC for most of their 50km championships for many years to come. The race would start on the dirt track, do a lap or two and then head off out the main gate towards Ballarat Road. Walkers would then progress to Rockbank for the half way point turn. There would be a refreshment table at that point. Then they would walk back from Rockbank to Melbourne, finishing once again on the Showgrounds track.

The 1934 Alexander Cup championship attracted a good field of walkers, with 14 Victorians and 5 NSW walkers in attendance. Victorian **Jack Cummins** went one better than in 1930, winning in an Australian best time of 4:55:36. NSW filled the next two positions with **Sydney Sheedy** second and **Gordon Smith** improving from fourth to third. Victorian **Jack Lewis**, the first of the really world class Australian long distance walkers, then in the twilight of his career, finished 8th.

| **1934 Alexander Cup 50km, Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Jack Cummins | VIC | 4:55:36 AUS REC |
| 2. | Sydney Sheedy | NSW | 5:01:00 |
| 3. | Gordon Smith | NSW | 5:01:32 |
| 4. | Joseph O'Farrell | VIC | 5:04:35 |
| 5. | Francis Scully | VIC | 5:08:59 |
| 6. | Roy Grierson | VIC | 5:16:46 |
| 7. | Harry Roche | VIC | 5:24:30 |
| 8. | Jack Lewis | VIC | 5:26:23 |
| 9. | Stanley Leeson | VIC | 5:27:36 |
| 10. | William Tunaley | VIC | 5:29:02 |
| 11. | Lindsay Guy | VIC | 5:29:16 |
| 12. | Frederick Gore | VIC | 5:38:24 |
| 13. | Austin Gore | VIC | 5:44:44 |
| 14. | Albert O'Farrell | VIC | 6:04:24 |
| 15. | Sydney Rudman | NSW | 6:12:52 |
| - | James Gaylor | VIC | DNF |
| - | Leslie Wright | VIC | DNF |
| - | Colin Blumson | NSW | DNF |
| - | William Clark | NSW | DNF |

Teams
| 1. VIC | 10 pts | (1,4,5) |
|---|---|---|
| 2. NSW | 20 pts | (2,3,15) |

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1935-36**
**North Hobart Oval, Hobart, 15 & 18 January 1936**

Victorian **Bill Marston**, the defending champion, was untroubled to win the double once again, his 1 Mile and 3 Miles times considerably faster than in 1934. His task was made easier with the absence of Athol Stubbs.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1 MILE WALK - Men - Wednesday 15 January 1936** | | | | |
| 1 | William Marston | VIC | 6:45.6 | |
| 2 | Keith McCluskey | VIC | | 100 yards |
| 3 | Brian Oke | VIC | | 3 yards |
| 4 | Tom Daintry | NSW | | 8 yards |
| 5 | W.McCallum | TAS | | |
| 6 | R.Latham | QLD | | |
| | | | | |
| **3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 18 January 1936** | | | | |
| 1 | William Marston | VIC | 21:58.2 | |
| 2 | Brian Oke | VIC | | 150 yards |
| 3 | Keith McCluskey | VIC | | |
| 4 | W.McCallum | TAS | | |
| 5 | Tom Daintry | NSW | | |
| | R.Latham | QLD | DNF | |

**1936 Alexander Cup 50km**
**Sydney, Saturday 5th September 1936**

The third Alexander Cup was allocated to NSW and scheduled in Sydney on 5th September 1936, with a large Victorian team making the interstate trip and competing.

12th in 1930 and 4th in 1934, Victorian **Joe O'Farrell** finally won the Alexander Cup on his third attempt with a time of 5:07:34. NSW filled the next two positions with 32 year old **Gordon Smith** (4th in 1930 and 3rd in 1934) taking second place and **Mervyn Ray** third. 1934 winner **Jack Cummins** was relegated to fourth place. This was perhaps a surprise as Cummins had won the 1936 Victorian 50km championship with a fast 4:57:34, ahead of O'Farrell who was second with 4:58:19.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1936 Alexander Cup 50km, Sydney, 5th September 1936** | | | |
| 1. | Joe O'Farrell | VIC | 5:07:34 |
| 2. | Gordon Smith | NSW | 5:11:52 |
| 3. | Mervyn Ray | NSW | 5:18:04 |
| 4. | Jack Cummins | VIC | 5:19:07 |
| 5. | Gus Theobald | VIC | 5:27:14 |
| 6. | William Tunaley | VIC | 5:31:04 |
| 7. | Harry Roche | VIC | 5:31:43 |
| 8. | Clifford Smith | NSW | 5:33:57 |
| 9. | Albert Stafford | VIC | 5:35:42 |
| 10. | James Purtell | VIC | 5;39:06 |
| 11. | Alex Philpotts | VIC | 5:40:39 |
| 12. | Ian McDougall | VIC | 5:47:30 |
| 13. | George Knott | VIC | 6:08:09 |
| - | Norm Goble | VIC INV | DNF |
| - | W. White | NSW | DNF |
| - | Athol Scanlon | NSW | DNF |
| - | Sydney Rudman | NSW | DNF |
| | | | |
| **Teams** | | | |
| 1. VIC | | 10 pts | (1,4,5) |
| 2. NSW | | 13 pts | (2,3,8) |

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1937-38**
**Bowen Park, Brisbane, Queensland 4, 11 December 1937**

The 1937-38 Australian T&F Championships proved a breakthrough for NSW walker **Athol Stubbs**, with very fast winning times of 6:36.2 and 21:43.0 in the 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks.

| 3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 4 December 1937 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Athol Stubbs | NSW | 21:43.0 | |
| 2 | Keith McClusky | VIC | | 400 yards |
| 3 | Hugh Munro | VIC | | |
| 4 | William Downey | QLD | | |
| | Tom Daintry | QLD | | |
| | Sid Sheedy | NSW | | |
| | **W Hayward** | **NSW** | | |
| **1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 11 December 1937** | | | | |
| 1 | Athol Stubbs | NSW | 6:36.2 | |
| 2 | Tom Daintry | QLD | | 60 yards |
| 3 | Keith McClusky | VIC | | 10 yards |
| 4 | William Downey | QLD | | |
| 5 | W Hayward | NSW | | |
| | Hugh Munro | VIC | DNF | |

**Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia**
**Royal Show Grounds, Melbourne, Saturday 11 September 1937**

No 7 Mile Teams Championship had been contested in 1935, so it was 4 years before the next Australasian 7 Mile Championship was held at the Royal Showgrounds in Melbourne, and it produced a new champion in the person of Victorian **Alan Reid**. His time of 55:17 was considered to be excellent, "considering that the track was not in the best condition".Alan Reid had burst onto the Victorian scene that year, winning a number of State titles. The Australian 7 Mile Championship win was definitely a further rung up the ladder in terms of his standing and, over the next 4 years, he would win a whole swag of State titles, up till when the club was disbanded in 1942, a casualty of WWII.

The field was the smallest ever (only 17 walkers), with only Victorian and NSW walkers participating. In fact, it was only after some weeks of uncertainty that the small NSW team eventually arrived. Their team was undermanned, with the withdrawal of captain and manager William Hayward and with the unavailability of Athol Stubbs.

The Junior race proved rather a fiasco, as only one of the Victorian Juniors, Laurence Grinter, completed the course, while NSW filled the first 3 places but did not field a fourth competitor to complete a team.

| Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 11 September 1937 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Alan Reid | VIC | 55:17 |
| 2. | Keith McCluskey | VIC | 56:12 |
| 3. | Sydney Sheedy | NSW | 56:22 |
| 4. | Jack Cummins | VIC | 56:25 |
| 5. | Raymond Rogers | VIC | 57:50 |
| 6. | Athol Scanlon | NSW | 59:15 |
| 7. | R. Williamson | NSW | 59:59 |
| 8. | Jim Gaylor | VIC | 60:10 |
| 9. | Lloyd Bransgrove | VIC | 60:21 |
| 10. | Richard Holmes | NSW | 60:40 |
| 11. | E. Harvey | NSW | 62:49 |
| 12. | Laurence Grinter | VIC | 65:07 |
| - | Jack Carland | VIC | DNF |
| - | Colin Munro | VIC | DNF |
| - | William Silversides | NSW | DQ |
| - | Douglas Atherton | VIC | DQ |
| - | James Palmer | VIC | DQ |
| **Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 11 September 1937** | | | |
| 1. | R. Williamson | NSW | 59:59 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Richard Holmes | NSW | 60:40 |
| 3. | E. Harvey | NSW | 62:49 |
| 4. | Laurence Grinter | VIC | 65:07 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Senior Teams | VIC 12 | | NSW 24 |
| Junior Teams | No teams finished | | |

## 1938 Alexander Cup 50km
## Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne, Saturday 1st October 1938

The 1938 Alexander Cup 50km was held on the Royal Showgrounds course in Ascot Vale, Melbourne, on 1st October of that year, as part of the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show.

Only 3 NSW walkers made the trip down, namely **Gordon Smith** (Captain), **Sydney Sheedy** and **Mervyn Ray.** Unfortunately an exceptionally hot day for the time of year made conditions unpleasant and caused Ray's withdrawal after covering 26 miles, this depriving NSW of a finish in the Teams Event.

**Jim Gaylor** had won the 1937 Victorian 50km championship with an excellent time of 4:57:32. Now a year later he retained his title with an even faster 4:56:38. This win was generally regarded as one of the best performances of Jim's career, not only as his time of 4:56:38 was exceptionally good considering the conditions, but because at one time he appeared to have lost the race to Sheedy of NSW.

| 1938 Alexander Cup 50km, Saturday 1st October 1938 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Jim Gaylor | VIC | 4:56:38 |
| 2. | Sydney Sheedy | NSW | 4:59:24 |
| 3. | Keith McCluskey | VIC | 5:14:24 |
| 4. | Gus Theobald | VIC | 5:15:18 |
| 5. | Jack Cummins | VIC | 5:22:25 |
| 6. | Alex Philpotts | VIC | 5:24:12 |
| 7. | Gordon Smith | NSW | 5:30:08 |
| 8. | Clem Marshall | VIC | 5:30:41 |
| 9. | Arch Skewes | VIC | 5:32:15 |
| 10. | James Purcell | VIC | 5:35:29 |
| 11. | James Palmer | VIC | 5:42:35 |
| 12. | Benjamin Blakey | VIC | 5:56:41 |
| - | Mervyn Ray | NSW | DNF |
| - | Leslie Woods | VIC | DNF |
| - | William Tunelay | VIC | DNF |
| - | Norm Goble | VIC | DNF |
| - | Roy Grierson | VIC | DNF |
| - | Ian McDougall | VIC | DNF |
| Teams | | VIC 10 | NSW DNF |

## 1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk and Olympic Trial
## Petersham Oval, Sydney, Saturday 19th August 1939

1937 saw the final *7 Miles Teams Premiership of the Race Walking Clubs of Australia*. It had been announced by the International Olympic Committee in May 1938 that the 1940 Olympic Games would have two racewalks, the current 50km roadwalk and a new 10,000m track walk. It was duly decided by the Australian Race Walking Clubs that the *Glover Shield* competition distance should be altered from 7 Miles to 10,000m.

The new distance was still refused Australian Championship status and its inaugural scheduling in August 1939 had the status of *Glover Shield Interstate Carnival*, promoted by the NSW, Victorian and SA walking clubs.

The 1940 Olympics had been awarded to Tokyo but, when Japan and China went to war in 1938, the city withdrew as host. Then began an incredible period in which the IOC became the ostrich of the sports world and refused to believe what it was seeing. Feeling it should stay out of world politics, it moved the Games to Helsinki, Finland. Even when the Russians invaded Finland, the IOC still continued with their planning. It was not until the Finnish Olympic Committee formally withdrew as host in April 1940 that the IOC finally shelved plans for any Games that year. In the

midst of this shuffling, the IOC awarded the 1944 Games to London. With World War Two still raging, these Games were also eventually called off.

It was during this period of uncertainty that Australian walkers challenged for selection in the 1940 Olympic walks, with official trials to be held over 10,000m track and 50km road. The 10,000m walk Olympic trial was held in conjunction with the Glover Shield which was to be held on the Petersham Oval in Sydney on Saturday 19th August 1939.

The Victorians were led by **George Knott** and **Alan Reid**, who was the defending champion, having won the last Glover Shield 7 Mile Championship in Melbourne in 1937. They had fought out the various Victorian titles for the past couple of years with Knott faster over the shorter distances and Reid stronger over the longer distances. The final Victorian championship before the trial was the Victorian 5 Mile walk championship at the Royal Melbourne Showground track. There Knott and Reid walked side by side throughout the event with the win going to Knott whose time of 37:15.0 saw him 0.4 secs ahead of Reid. Victorian hopes were high for their two star walkers.

The main NSW hope was **Athol Stubbs**, holder of the world 1 mile walk record (6:18.2), and the holder of all NSW State titles from 1 Mile to 10 Miles.

And what a race it turned out to be, with Stubbs and Knott both breaking the Australian 10,000m record. The newspapers of the time recorded the race as follows:

Stubbs moved off in front of the Victorians Knott and Reid, followed by Stephenson and Gosling. At the end of the first mile, Stubbs' time was 7 minutes and he had already overlapped some of the other competitors. By 3 miles, covered in 21m 45s, he had increased the margin to over a minute, with Knott and Reid together at 22m 54s. Knott then moved away from Reid and by the 4 mile mark, had reduced the lead to 35 secs with Reid 11 secs further back. Knott was closing the gap between Stubbs and, at 5 miles, had reduced the margin to 12 secs. Stubbs' time was 37m 6s. Reid in third place was 38 secs behind Knott. To 6 miles, Stubbs led in 44m 34s and Knott was then 3 secs behind and 1m 10s in advance of Reid. Stubbs finished 5 secs ahead of Knott and Reid was 26 secs behind in third place. Stubbs' final time of 46m 1s broke George Parker's Australian record of 46m 32s. Knott also broke the record.

It is fair to say that both walkers would have been selected in the Australian team if the 1940 Olympics had gone ahead.

George Knott had age on his side and was able to make the Australian team for the 1948 Olympics, contesting the 10,000m walk in London. Athol Stubbs was not so lucky – this was his one big chance and the Second World War had put paid to it.

This event confirmed Stubbs was the dominant Australian track walker in the late 1930s. He twice created World Best Track performances for 1 mile (6:18.2 in Sydney on 25 February 1939 and 6:15.4 in Sydney on 17 February 1940) and was the reigning Australian 1 mile track, 3 mile track and 10,000m road champion at the outbreak of war. When championships were finally restarted in 1947, he resumed his walking career but, although he remained competitive on the national arena until the early 1950s, he never fully regained his pre-war form.

Interestingly, Victoria and NSW were the only two States which produced contenders. There were no entries from SA or QLD. For the record, the results were

| 1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Saturday 19th August | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.   Athol Stubbs | NSW | 46:01 |
| 2.   George Knott | VIC | 46:06 |
| 3.   Alan Reid | VIC | 47:22 |
| 4.   Keith McClusky | VIC | 49:22 |
| 5.   Arthur Stephenson | NSW | 50:00 |
| 6.   Alex Philpotts | VIC | 50:09 |
| 7.   George Gosling | NSW | 50:31 |
| 8.   Sydney Sheedy | NSW | 50:39 |
| 9.   Jack Cummings | VIC | 50:47 |
| 10.   Ian McDougall | VIC | 51:03 |
| 11.   Mervyn Ray | NSW | 51:21 |
| 12.   Sydney Rudman | NSW | 52:09 |
| 13.   Laurence Mack * | VIC | 53:15 |
| 14.   Eric Wilson * | NSW | 53:56 |
| 15.   William Hall | NSW | 54:07 |
| 16.   E. Harvey | NSW | 55:00 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | Claude Lowe | VIC | 55:50 | |
| 18. | Harry Sweet * | NSW | 55:57 | |
| 19. | Alick Priest * | VIC | 56:09 | |
| 20. | Gordon Stanley * | VIC | 56:19 | |
| 21. | Benjamin Blakey | VIC | 56:23 | |
| 22. | Kevin Mead * | VIC | 56:24 | |
| 23. | Michael Stannett | NSW | 58:04 | |
| 24. | J. Nolan | NSW | 58:52 | |
| * Junior | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Senior Teams | VIC | 34 | NSW | 44 |
| Junior Teams | VIC | 16 | NSW | 20 |

The official Australian 50km Olympic trial would have been scheduled in early 1940, but it never eventuated. With the 1940 Olympics finally cancelled and with Australia entering the Second World War, all such activities were put on the back burner. It would be 1946 before Australia made the first tentative steps back into competition.