

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN: 1946 - 1956

This follows on from 2 previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships, up to and including 1939.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)

Many of the walkers discussed have profiles in the VRWC archives at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/index.shtml>. Rather than use extensive footnoting in this document, you are invited to that link whenever you wish to read further on any individuals.

That discussion finishes with the 1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, held at Petersham Oval in Sydney on Saturday 19th August 1939. We now fast forward to 1946.

Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Melbourne Saturday 10th August 1946

It was a long time since the 1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Championship. WWII had put an end to all such competitions. The VAWC had shut down in February 1942, 2 months after the Pearl Harbour attack had brought the Japanese into the war. The other walking clubs and sporting organisations had also gone into voluntary recession. Now that Australia was directly threatened, the time for sporting activities had passed and greater matters threatened.

It was not until general demobilisation commenced in October 1945 that thoughts could once again turn to sport, with VAWC recommencing activities with their AGM in March 1946.

The next Glover Shield 10,000m Interstate competition was duly scheduled for Saturday 10th August 1946 in Melbourne. The big question was now – who could get fit in time, who and how many would show, and would it be a success.

1939 title holder **Athol Stubbs** (NSW) was absent, so the win was expected to fought out between Victorians **George Knott** and **Alan Reid**. With Knott being disqualified, the win went to Reid in a relatively slow 48:40. While the time might have been slow, it was still nearly 5minutes ahead of second placed 19 year old Victorian **Ted Allsopp**. The numbers were good but the quality in this immediate post-war race was wanting. Overall, Victoria dominated, with the first 12 places overall, and Victoria easily won the Senior and Junior Teams Championships.

Ted Allsopp would go on to become one of our greatest walkers and one of the most prolific medallists at the Australian level, in a career that extended from 1946 to 1972.

Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Melbourne, 10 th August 1946			
1.	Alan Reid	VIC	48:40
E2.	Edward (Ted) Allsopp *	VIC	53:35
E2.	Alex Philpott	VIC	53:35
4.	Hugh Munro	VIC	54:08
5.	William Metcalf *	VIC	54:25
6.	Walter Knott	VIC	54:26
7.	Francis Morrison	VIC	55:10
8.	Benjamin Blakey	VIC	56:15
9.	Michael Gaylor	VIC	56:20
10.	Herbert Hagg	VIC	56:21
11.	Jack Merrifield	VIC	57:08
12.	James Railston	VIC	57:17
13.	Bruce Brew *	NSW	58:13
14.	James Gaylor	VIC	59:18
15.	Jasmes Heatley *	NSW	59:50
16.	Norman Bomford	VIC	60:09
17.	William Tunaley	VIC	60:23
18.	Raymond Smith	NSW *	62:30
19.	Stanley Wisby	VIC *	63:21
-	T. Sincock	VIC	DNF
-	G. Lambert	NSW	DNF

-	M. Gordon	VIC	DQ	
-	George Knott	VIC	DQ	
-	Alan Brown	VIC	DQ	
-	Andrew Yyurisich	VIC	DQ	
-	Gus Theobald	VIC	DQ	
* Junior				
Senior Teams	VIC	10	NSW	26
Junior Teams	VIC	9	NSW	12

1946 Alexander Cup 50km

Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne, Saturday 28th September 1946

The first Alexander Cup after WWII was scheduled for Melbourne on 28th September 1946 and was held at the Royal Showgrounds in Ascot Vale, in conjunction with the Victorian 50km Roadwalk Championship.

Only 3 NSW walkers made the trip down, enough to constitute a team but not enough to be any real challenge for the Victorians. The generally slow times confirmed that the walking clubs and their members were trying to rebuild the sport, after many years of more important matters, but that it was a slow process.

Alan Reid, who had won the Glover Shield 10,000m the previous month, was too good once again, albeit in a slow time of 5:08:39.

1946 Alexander Cup 50km, Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne			
1.	Alan Reid	VIC	5:08:39
2.	Gus Theobald	VIC	5:18:42
3.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	5:21:00
4.	George McCabe	NSW	5:22:59
5.	Reginald Tarte	NSW	5:23:34
6.	James Gaylor	VIC	5:36:40
7.	George Stevens	VIC	5:39:28
8.	Norm Goble	VIC	5:41:10
9.	Harry Barrett	NSW	5:50:04
10.	Thomas Tunaley	VIC	5:59:18
11.	Bill Tunaley	VIC	6:12:30
-	James Ralston	VIC	DNF
-	James Purtell	VIC	DNF
-	Arch Skewes	VIC	DNF
-	Benjamin Blakey	VIC	DNF
-	Noel Bamford	VIC	DNF
-	Walter Knott	VIC	DNF
Teams	1. VIC	6 pts	(1,2,3)
2. NSW	18 pts	(4,5,9)	

Australian Track & Field Championships 1946-47

Leederville Oval, Perth, 25 & 27 January 1947

Victorian **George Knott** and NSW walker **Athol Stubbs** had been the two dominant speed walkers in the pre-war period, and they renewed their rivalry in the 1946-47 T&F Championships in Perth. The big difference was that in 1939, they had both been aged 28. Now in 1947, they were both aged 36.

Their advanced years and the long training layoff during the war seemed to have made little difference to their form. Stubbs won the 3 Miles walk with a fast 21:43.6, with Knott disqualified for "walking on the white line". Two days later, Knott turned the tables in the 1 Mile walk, beating Stubbs by 6 seconds with a time of 6:31.4.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 25 January 1947			
1	Athol Stubbs	NSW	21:43.6
2	Stan Jewaskiewitz	SA	23:54.0
3	J Barrett	WA	25:58.0

	George Knott	VIC	DQ
1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 27 January 1947			
1	George Knott	VIC	6:31.4
2	Athol Stubbs	NSW	6:37.6
3	Stan Jewaskiewitz	SA	6:57.8
4	J Barrett	WA	7:23.6
5	Terry Clarke	WA	8:18.6

Glover Shield 10,000m Track Walk

Sydney Sports Ground, Moore Park, Sydney, Saturday 7th June 1947

With Athletics Australia announcing that it would host an inaugural Australian 10,000m Track Walk Championship in 1948, it was decided to contest the next Glover Shield in June 1947, only 10 months after the 1946 edition. The program still referred to it as the Biennial Teams Race Between the Walking Clubs of Australia but the event would prove somewhat rubbery with regard to its Biennial nature.

The choice of venue (the Sydney Sports Ground at Moore Park) proved a bad one, with the track described as waterlogged and totally unsuitable for a race of this importance. Further, with 6 laps to the mile, it was far too short and congested for the 21 walkers. Unsurprisingly, the times were all slow, with Victorian George Knott the only walker to better 50 minutes.

By failing to finish 4 walkers, the Victorian senior team forfeited the Glover Shield to NSW. It was a different story in the Junior event, where Victorians filled the first 3 places and secured the Junior Teams event with the minimum 6 points.

George Knott, perhaps remembering his disqualification the previous year, made no mistakes this time and walked to a comfortable win, albeit in the slow time of 49:58. **Sydney Sheedy** improved from his 6th place in 1939 to take silver this time around, 8 years later. Victorian juniors filled the next 3 places, with **Ted Allsopp**, **Ray Smith** and **James Pettigrove** all beating their older rivals. This marked the start of stellar careers for Smith and Allsopp.

Once again, the only two States to provide competitors were NSW and Victoria.

1947 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Sydney, Saturday 7th June			
1.	George Knott	VIC	49:58
2.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	51:16
3.	Ted Allsopp *	VIC	52:53
4.	Ray Smith *	VIC	53:26
5.	James Pettigrove *	VIC	54:20
6.	Francis Morrison	VIC	54:21
7.	Reginald Tarte	NSW	54:34
8.	George Kenyon	NSW	55:15
9.	George McCabe	NSW	55:43
10.	Benjamin Blakey	VIC Ind.	56:11
11.	William Beehan	NSW	56:58
12.	James Heathley *	NSW	58:17
13.	Kenneth Joyce	NSW	59:51
14.	P. Ashelford *	NSW	61:53
-	Neil Dickinson	NSW	DNF
-	Clifford Smith	NSW	DNF
-	Donald Bridle	NSW	DNF
-	Cliff Barling	VIC	DQ
-	James Cox *	VIC	DQ
-	William Metcalf	VIC	DQ
-	Richard Coyle	VIC	DQ
* Junior			
Senior Teams	NSW	20	VIC DNQ
Junior Teams	VIC	6	NSW DNQ

Australian Track & Field Championships 1947-48 St. Kilda Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 24 & 26 January 1948

The 1948 Australian T&F Championships saw the 3 Miles and 1 Mile walks replaced by 5 Miles and 2 Miles walks. The 5 Miles walk would prove to be a one off event, while the 2 Miles Walk would continue on in subsequent years as the single track walk championship on offer.

The 5 Miles Walk saw an easy win to **Athol Stubbs**, with fellow veteran **Alan Reid** second. The 2 Miles Walk was a different story and marked the start of a period of turmoil in Australian racewalking. You can read the full details in <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/racewalking%20controversies%201948%20onwards.pdf>.

To summarise, controversial running coach Percy Cerruty had proposed a rule change at the A.A.A.U. meeting preceding the 1948 National Titles. He argued was that since the IAAF racewalking rule only mentioned the need to maintain contact, then any mode of progression that obeyed the contact criteria was acceptable. By way of comparison, the Australian racewalking rule at the time was more comprehensive and required a straight leg on contact. The meeting decided that the international rule would be used for the 2 Mile Walk event at the Australian titles. This set the scene for a tumultuous few years.

In the National 2 Miles race, **George Knott** bolted to the front, using what could only be described as a bent leg action. Athol Stubbs gamely chased, using a more traditional straight leg technique. So close was Stubbs to Knott that one of Knott's shoes was dislodged and came off. Knott stopped, put the shoe back on, chased, caught and passed Stubbs while calls for his disqualification echoed from the crowd. Knott was not disqualified and became the new National champion.

5 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 24 January 1948			
1	Athol Stubbs	NSW	37:15.0
2	Alan Reid	VIC	75 yards
3	William Behan	NSW	280 yards
4	Eric Wilson	NSW	
	William Medcalfe	VIC	
	Ern Ryall	VIC	
	Tom Daintry	QLD	
	Don Keane	WA	
	R Grealy	SA	
2 MILES WALK - Men - Monday 26 January 1948			
1	George Knott	VIC	13:37.2
2	Athol Stubbs	VIC	100 yards
3	Richard Coyle	Vic	75 yards
4	Eric Wilson	NSW	
	Tom Daintry	QLD	
	Don Keane	WA	
	R Grealy	SA	
	Ted Allsopp	VIC	

The Victorian Track and Field titles were just as farcical with Knott winning the 1 Mile walk in an astonishing 6:23.2 and the 3 Miles walk in 21:32.6. Cerruty was talking up the idea of a 6 minute mile based on the 'new' walking technique which he called 'ambling'.

From February to May 1948, fantastic times were recorded and "world records" were broken frequently. However, the styles used became so ridiculous after a few months that VAWC brought in a local ruling on straightening the leg. Cerruty had his last 'walk' in the Queens Birthday Relay to Healesville and then returned to running where his style was more acceptable.

The most amazing walk of that period was the Victorian 10,000m track walk which Knott won in a staggering world best time of 42.51.6. Interestingly, it was accepted as a new Victorian record but was knocked back when nominated for Australian and World Record status.

These outstanding but somewhat dubious performances earned Knott selection for the 1948 Olympics in London. To his credit, he walked with a more traditional technique in Europe, finishing 7th in his heat in the 10,000m walk and just missing out on qualifying for the final, just shy of his 38th birthday.

1948 Australian 10,000m Track Walk

Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Saturday 28th August 1948

The inaugural Australian 10,000m Track Walk Championship was held at the R.A.S.V. Showgrounds in Ascot Vale, Melbourne, on 28th August 1948 but interestingly, it attracted a small field of only 12 walkers.

Victorian George Knott had won the 1947 Glover Shield competition and had represented Australia in the 1948 Olympic 10,000m Walk only a month previously. He had then decided to retire from competition and concentrate on his business interests. NSW walker George Sheedy who had been second in the 1947 Glover Shield race, was not in the same form as in 1947. Athol Stubbs was no longer the walker he had been in the pre-war period. This meant a relatively open field and a chance for someone new to win an Australian Championship gold medal.

Victorian walkers dominated. Captained by Frank McGuire, they filled the first 5 places, with the first 4 counting towards a fine teams championship win. **Ted Allsopp** won the first of what would be 11 Australian Championship gold medals with a time of 49:09. Further, this was the first of 7 consecutive Australian 10,000m Walk Championships that he would win. He was followed by **Ray Goulding**, **Frank McGuire**, **Ray Smith** and **Ernie Ryall**.

1948 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Melbourne, 28 th August				
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC		49:09
2.	Ray Goulding	VIC		49:29
3.	Frank McGuire	VIC		50:34
4.	Ray Smith	VIC		50:42
5.	Ernie Ryall	VIC		52:15
6.	George Kenyon	NSW		52:31
7.	Bruce Brew	NSW		53:33
8.	Edward Edwards	NSW		53:41
9.	John Webster	NSW		54:01
10.	William Metcalf	VIC		55:07
11.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW		55:08
12.	Raymond Smith	NSW		55:13
Teams		VIC	10	NSW 26

1948 Alexander Cup

Sydney, Saturday 18th September 1948

The 1948 Alexander Cup attracted little attention from Australian walkers, with a small field and with Victorians the only interstateers to make the trip to Sydney. **Bill Behan** of NSW won in a slow 5:03:44, ahead of Victorians **Bill Metcalf** and **Gus Theobald**, while Victoria had a narrow win over NSW in the Teams Championships.

1948 Alexander Cup 50km, Sydney, Saturday 18 th September				
1.	William Behan	NSW		5:03:44
2.	William Metcalf	VIC		5:21:40
3.	Gus Theobald	VIC		5:23:18
4.	Bruce Brew	NSW		5:33:47
5.	Frank McGuire	VIC		5:39:40
6.	George McCabe	NSW		5:43:40
7.	Norm Goble	VIC		5:49:51
8.	James Purtell	VIC		5:50:17
9.	Vic Sharp	VIC		6:01:07
10.	Thomas Kelly	VIC		6:15:24
Teams	1. VIC	10 pts		(2,3,5)
	2. NSW	11 pts		(1,4,6)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1948-49

Sydney Cricket Ground, NSW, 15 & 22 January 1949

The 1949 National T&F Titles in Sydney were just as memorable as those of 1948 but for the wrong reasons once again. The 2 Mile walk saw only 3 finishers, a severe judging standard by any measure. Yet even though nearly the

whole field was disqualified, the winner, Stubbs once again, was heckled by the crowd with calls of “Stop running Athol”. I am sure that Stubbs, who was a superb competitor, took it all in his stride.

Tom Daintry had what was regarded as the best style in the business and this was the only occasion when he was ever disqualified. He commented years later

The only disappointment in my sporting life was the only time I was disqualified by an ex-rival when only one judge was required to disqualify. I represented Queensland in the Australian Championships in New South Wales. He had spread the word two weeks beforehand that I and Don Keane would be put out. Which he did in the first 50 metres.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 15 January 1949			
1	Athol Stubbs	NSW	13:55.6
2	Ray Smith	VIC	14:44.4
3	Len Hickey	VIC	
	Tom Daintry	QLD	DQ
	Don Keane	WA	DQ
	Don Bridle	NSW	DQ
	Waldemar Skijuns *	VIC	DQ
	Eric Wilson	NSW	DQ
	Ted Allsopp	VIC	DQ
*Known locally as William Grandy			

This championship race saw 18 year old **Don Keane** racing for the first time at the national level. He would quickly develop into Australia’s top walker and compete in the next two Olympic Games.

1949 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk Sydney, Saturday 28th May 1949

Athol Stubbs bounced back from the disappointment of missing the 1948 Olympics, winning the 2 Mile Walk in the 1949 National Titles in Sydney and winning the 1949 Glover Shield. At 39 years of age, he showed he was not yet ready to retire. It was an all NSW finish in the Glover Shield, with **Don Bridle** second and **George Kenyon** third.

Fourth place went to Victorian **William (Bill) Grandy** – well, he was actually a Swedish walker spending a few years in Australia before moving on to finally setting in America – his real name was Waldemar Skijuns. It’s an interesting story. Way back in 20th place was Frank O’Rourke. One of the legends of Australian racewalking and one of the founding members of the VAWC, he had moved back to NSW by this stage and was competing for that State, in one of his last competitions.

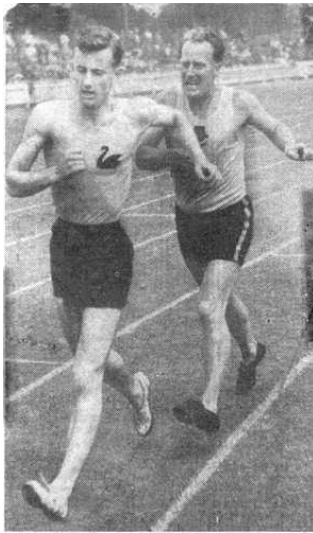
1949 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Sydney, 28th May			
1.	Athol Stubbs	NSW	50:45
2.	Donald Bridle	NSW	51:15
3.	George Kenyon	NSW	51:19
4.	William Grandy	VIC	51:47
5.	Bruce Brew	NSW	52:12
E6.	Alex Philpott	VIC	52:45
E6.	Richard Southee *	VIC	52:45
8.	Reg Tarte	NSW	52:49
9.	Francis Morrison	VIC	53:21
10.	John Freeman *	VIC	54:03
11.	Geoff Williams *	VIC	54:25
12.	H. Snellman	NSW	54:51
13.	Clive Mackay	VIC	55:16
14.	William Camden *	NSW	55:47
15.	John Webster *	NSW	56:40
16.	Edward Edwards *	NSW	56:41
17.	John Wallace *	VIC	57:17
18.	Sydney Budman	NSW Ind.	59:19
19.	William Sutcliffe	SA	60:08
20.	Frank O’Rourke	NSW Ind.	62:48
21.	William Silversides	NSW	DQ

* Junior				
Senior Teams	NSW	14	VIC	22
Junior Teams	VIC	6	NSW	15

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1949-50
Adelaide Oval, South Australia, 31 December 1949, 2 January 1950**

The judging issue came to a head in 1950 when a proposal was put to the A.A.A.U. Conference to remove racewalks from the Australian T&F Championships. The proposal was lost but the 2 Mile walk in the National Championships in Adelaide a couple of days later put the issue into the media spotlight once again.

This particular 2 Mile walk championship was memorable for a number of reasons. This time, everyone got past the judges - it was a case of one extreme to the other. The two race leaders, 19 year old WA walker **Don Keane** and **Athol Stubbs** of NSW, staged a mighty battle to break the Australian 2 Miles Walk record (both were awarded the same time of 13:43.6 with Keane being declared the winner) in what the media described as dubious circumstances. The photo of the finishing sprint (below left) does indicate that both walkers were pushing the absolute limit of what was acceptable at the time. To quote from the accompanying newspaper report “*The photo, taken during the last lap, raised a doubt whether either had heel or toe on the ground.*”



But the real clincher occurred further back in the field where WA walker **Donald Waters** (known rather disparagingly as ‘Running Waters’) finished in 4th place. The photos above (centre and right) show his technique midrace when walking alongside Ray Smith and Athol Stubbs. How did his technique satisfy even one judge much less a whole panel?

Yet in a sense this exciting race was a turning point. As one newspaper quote

Critics of the heel-and-toe, who have been trying to get this event eliminated from championships, must have gazed ruefully at the two-mile walk, which evoked tremendous enthusiasm as the title-holder, 40-year-old Sydney publican Athol Stubbs, walked stride by stride over the last lap with WA champion D. Keane. Both men put on a great burst of speed in the straight, with Keane gaining the decision by inches to create a new Australian record.

Walking had shown that it could be a crowd pleaser and that it did indeed have a future as a sport, even if it was a controversial one.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 31 December 1949				
1	Don Keane	WA	13:43.6	
2	Athol Stubbs	NSW	13:43.6	
3	Don Bridle	NSW		
4	Don Waters	WA		
5	Richard Southee	VIC		
6	Rex Mitchell	SA		
7	Ray Smith	VIC		

From then on, things seemed to improve. On the track front, Don Keane made the National Track title his own, winning it a record 7 times (1950-54, 1957-58) in the next 9 years. Luckily for Australian walking, his technique was rarely in doubt and his straight leg walking was an example to others of how to walk fast and within the rules. His 10th place in the 1952 Olympic 10,000m walk did a lot to raise the sullied profile of Australian walking.

For many walkers, however, the damage had already been done. During this postwar period, as walking had lurched from one controversy to another, a number of walkers simply stopped competing. It did not seem to matter how well they walked. Sometimes they were beaten by others who either 'ran' or 'creeped'. At other times whole fields were devastated by over zealous judging that failed to discriminate between good and bad walkers.

1950 Australian 10,000m Track Championship Sydney, Saturday 26th August 1950

The 1950 Australian 10,000m track walk championship in Sydney saw **Ted Allsopp** retain his title by just over 30 seconds. It was the second of 7 consecutive wins that he would accumulate in this event.

Second place went 19 year old **Don Keane** who was quickly making his presence felt on the national stage. He had come to national attention in sensational circumstances earlier that year, when he fought out the Australian 2 Mile Track Walk Championship with **Athol Stubbs**. They had staged a mighty battle to break the Australian 2 Mile Walk record (both were awarded the same time of 13:43.6 with Keane being declared the winner) in an event that generated a lot of media attention. They met again in this race, with Keane taking silver and Stubbs bronze.

Stubbs was now nearly 40 years of age and had, for the last 4 years, faced stiff competition from his interstate rivals. This was his last race; he now retired from top level competition.

NSW won the Teams Championship from Victoria on a countback.

1950 Australian 10,000m Championship, Sydney, 26 th August				
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	47:48.6	
2.	Don Keane	WA	48:19	
3.	Athol Stubbs	NSW	48:45	
4.	Arthus Malpas	VIC	49:00	
5.	Donald Bridle	NSW	49:10	
6.	George Kenyon	NSW	50:29	
7.	Ray Smith	VIC	50:58	
8.	John Webster	NSW	51:10	
9.	William Metcalf	NSW	52:12	
10.	Geoff Williams	VIC	52:20	
11.	William Grandy	VIC	52:22	
12.	Frank McGuire	VIC	52:41	
13.	Donald Waters	WA	53:45	
14.	Ronald Cohen	WA	54:20	
15.	Edward Edwards	NSW	56:43	
-	Victor Dawson	QLD	DNF	
Senior Teams	NSW	18	VIC	18

1950 Alexander Cup 50km Adelaide, Saturday 16th September 1950

In 1949, South Australia had hosted an inaugural 50km race, in an effort to re-establish a walking club in that State. A preliminary meeting of the new club was held in Adelaide in January 1950 on the occasion of the Australian T&F Championships. The new club was duly confirmed and indicated that it hoped for participate in the Glover Shield and the Alexander Cup competitions.

The 1950 Alexander Cup 50km was quickly allocated to Adelaide and scheduled for Saturday 16th September 1950. Teams from Victoria, NSW and SA contested the championship, with Victorian **Len Chadwick** leading home an all

Victorian trifecta with a time of 5:22:00. **Gus Theobald** improved from 3rd in 1948 to second in this race with 5:23:46, while **Robert French** took third with 5:37:50. Again, the standard was disappointingly poor.

Victoria won the Teams Race comfortably ahead of NSW, while SA, with only 2 finishers, failed to finish a team.

1950 Alexander Cup 50km, Adelaide, Saturday 16th September			
1.	Leonard Chadwick	VIC	5:22:00
2.	Gus Theobald	VIC	5:23:46
3.	Robert French	VIC	5:37:50
4.	John Busst	VIC	5:37:59
5.	Sydney Rudman	NSW	5:45:00
6.	Norm Goble	VIC	5:48:31
7.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	5:50:30
8.	Francis Morrison	VIC	5:56:05
9.	Peter King	VIC	5:56:05
10.	Frederick O'Grady	VIC	5:57:40
11.	George Wilson	SA	6:01:13
12.	William Sutcliffe	SA	6:07:55
13.	Harry Barrett	NSW	6:08:43
14.	Thomas Kelly	VIC	6:14:15
-	Patrick Callery	SA	DNF
-	John Smyth	SA	DNF
-	F. Bertram	SA	DNF
-	William London	NSW	DNF
Teams:			
1.	VIC	6 pts	(1,2,3)
2.	NSW	15 pts	(4,5,6)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1950-51 North Hobart Oval, Hobart, Tasmania 3 and 5 March 1951

With Athol Stubbs now retired, **Don Keane** had the race to himself, winning the 1951 Australian 2 Miles Track Championship walk with 14:06.4, ahead of **Ted Allsopp** and **Ray Smith**. His time was relatively slow compared to the year before, and the field was disappointing small.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 3 March 1951			
1	Don Keane	WA	14:06.4
2	Ted Allsopp	VIC	14:19.8
3	Ray Smith	VIC	14:45.2
4	Geoff Boon	TAS	
	Rex Mitchell	SA	DNF

1951 Glover Shield 10,000m Track Walk Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Saturday 26th May 1951

While Don Keane was certainly the man of the moment in the short sprint walks, **Ted Allsopp** continued to dominate the longer walks, adding the 1951 Glover Shield crown to his two Australian 10,000m Walk Championship crowns. His winning time of 46:55.6 was his fastest time thus far and indicated that he would be one of main contenders for the 1952 Olympic 10,000m Walk trial. Victoria was an easy winner in the teams race, with **Arthur Malpas** and **Ray Smith** taking the minor medals.

NSW walker **Ted Edwards** was the first Junior to finish. This marked the start of a long and successful career for him. Also competing in the Junior race were Victorian **Gordon Doak** and NSW walker **John McDougall**. Both had interesting stories.

This was the first time that walkers from Western Australia had competed.

1951 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Melbourne, Sat 26th May			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	46:55.6
2.	Arthur Malpas	VIC	49:12

3.	Ray Smith	VIC	49:34		
4.	Edward Edwards *	NSW	50:40		
5.	Geoff Williams	VIC	51:05		
6.	Robert Gration *	VIC	51:31		
7.	Gordon Doak *	VIC	52:13		
8.	Robert French	VIC	52:37		
9.	James Matthews	VIC	52:48		
10.	William Metcalf	NSW	52:54		
11.	Bruce Brew	NSW	53:08		
12.	John McDougall *	NSW	53:18		
13.	Ronald Cohen *	WA	53:23		
14.	Francis Melligan *	WA	53:54		
15.	Geoffrey Hall *	VIC	54:39		
16.	Peter Phelan *	VIC	55:36		
17.	Leslie Ryman *	NSW	56:21		
18.	William Sutcliffe	SA	56:21		
* Juniors					
Senior Teams	VIC	11	NSW 25	SA and WA	DNQ
Junior Teams	VIC	10	NSW 11	WA	DNQ

Australian Track & Field Championships 1951-52 Exhibition Grounds, Brisbane, Queensland, 26, 28 January 1952

Sadly, the 1952 Australian T&F Championships in Brisbane attracted few walkers. It seemed that the longer distances (the Alexander Cup 50km, along with the Glover Shield and Australian 10,000m walks) were more attractive opportunities for the competitors to strut their stuff.

Don Keane was untroubled in winning his third successive 2 Miles Walk title, finishing over a minute ahead of **Ted Edwards**, with local **Tom Daintry**, now 40 years of age, in third. The infamous **Don Waters** was the only other finisher.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 26 January 1952			
1	Don Keane	WA	14:23.0
2	Ted Edwards	NSW	15:46.2
3	Tom Daintry	QLD	16:13.6
4	Don Waters	WA	17:26.4
	David Melzer	QLD	DNF

1952 Australian Olympic Trial – 10,000m Track Walk Olympic Park, Melbourne, Saturday 2nd February 1952

Ted Allsopp had dominated the local ranks from 1950 onwards. He won the Victorian 10km (45:56) and the Australian 10,000m (46:55) in 1951 and confirmed his status at the top of Australian walking with a string of dominant displays starting on 1st December 1951. On that occasion, he won a VAWC time trial at Olympic Park in 47:15. Two weeks later, he won a further track time trial in 46:54, again at Olympic Park. This was followed by a time of 46:31 at Malvern Cricket Ground on 22 January 1952.

He entered the Olympic 10,000m track walk trial, held in Melbourne on 2nd February 1952, as the clear favourite, but it was young WA speedster **Don Keane** who upset his plans and won with a time of 46:11. Allsopp was second in 47:16 and certainly deserved selection but only Keane was named in the team for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki (where he would walk well, coming 5th in his heat in the 10,000m with 46:55.2 and 10th in the final with 47:37.0).

1952 Australian Olympic 10,000m Walk Trial, Sat 2 nd Feb 1952			
1.	Don Keane	WA	46:11.8
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	47:16.4
3.	Arthur Malpass	VIC	49:36
4.	Edward Edwards	NSW	51:07
5.	John McDougall	NSW	52:15
6.	John Freeman	VIC	54:00

7.	James Matthews	VIC	56:24
8.	John Smyth	SA	59:51
-	Ray Smith	VIC	DNF
-	Raymond Monnery	VIC	DNF
-	Robert Gratton	VIC	DNF
-	George Nevitt	VIC	DNF
-	Ernest Ryall	VIC	DQ

Allsopp worked his way through the winter season with wins in the Victorian 10 km (45:38) and the Victorian 10 mile (78:39) and then won the Australian 10,000m track walk (46:08) – his third win in a row in this event. But they were poor compensation for losing out on the race of a lifetime.

1952 Australian 50km Championship and Olympic Trial Olympic Park, Melbourne, Saturday 2nd February 1952

With the 1952 Olympics featuring both a 10,000m track walk and a 50km road walk, the rush was on to find a 50km walker able to achieve the required A.A.A.U. standard of 4 hours and 55 minutes. The 1950 Alexander Cup had been won by Victorian **Len Chadwick** in a slow 5:22:00. Chadwick had also won the 1950 Victorian 50km (5:08:45) and the 1951 Victorian 50km (5:09:28). NSW did not even schedule it's first 50km championship until 1952, so they had no obvious contender.

With the 1952 Olympic Trial drawing closer and with no qualifiers as yet, the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club had even conducted its own pre-Olympic 50km road walk on Saturday 15th December 1951 at Albert Park. This event, sanctioned by the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association, started at 7:30AM and fingers were crossed that it would not be a torrid summer day. Luck was with the Victorians, with fine cool conditions greeting the walkers at the start line, and with rain falling for nearly 2 hours from the 6 miles to the 16 miles marks. Chadwick won with a PB time of 5:03:21, a good time but still some 8 minutes outside the Olympic standard

The official 50km Olympic trial was held on Saturday 2nd February 1952 in Melbourne, starting just after 11AM at Olympic Park. Interestingly, this was the same same day that the 10,000m track walk trial had been held.

This was the last roll of the dice for Chadwick and for any other potential Olympic 50km walkers. The event had been granted the status of the first ever Australian 50km Championship and from then on, an Australian 50km championship would be scheduled every even year.

The course saw walkers complete 2 laps of the track before proceeding along Batman Ave, Sturt St and Moray St to Albert Park, where they completed 7 laps of the lake before returning the same way to Olympic Park to complete a final 3 laps on the track. The weather was fine and sunny at the start and remained that way throughout the day, the temperature increasing as the race progressed and the torrid conditions taking an obvious toll on the field, only 3 of the 11 starters actually finishing.

Chadwick walked heroically, finishing over 30 minutes ahead of second placed **Bill Medcalf** of NSW, but again well outside the required 4:55:00. Youngster **Gordon Doak** put in a creditable performance in gaining third place but was badly effected in the heat. Sadly, Doak effectively retired from serious racewalking at that stage and turned to his other love of weight lifting. It was a case of waiting another 4 years for the next Olympics or getting on with his life.

1952 Australian 50km Championship and Olympic Trial, Melbourne, 2nd February 1952			
1.	Len Chadwick	VIC	5:10:58
2.	William Metcalf	NSW	5:44:22
3.	Gordon Doak	VIC	5:50:14
-	Don Waters	WA	DNF
-	Walter Knott	VIC	DNF
-	Cliff Barling	VIC	DNF
-	William Behan	NSW	DNF
-	George Kenyonq	NSW	DNF
-	Reg Tarte	NSW	DNF
-	Tom Daintry	QLD	DNF
-	Les Hellyer	VIC	DNF

The 1952 Olympics came and went, with only 1 Australian walker in attendance, namely Western Australian Don Keane, in the 10,000m walk. No walkers had reached the required 50km standard of 4:55:00 and none were selected.

1952 Australian 10,000m Track Walk
St Peter's College Oval, Adelaide, Saturday 23rd August 1952

The 1952 Australian 10,000m Walk Championship was held at St. Peter's College Oval, Adelaide, on 23rd August, and conducted by officials of the S.A.A.A.A. Teams from Victoria, NSW and SA competed, with some additional individual competitors from Queensland. The teams championship saw an easy win to Victoria.

With Don Keane an absentee after his Olympic walk, **Ted Allsopp** won yet again in a fast 46:08 (his third win in a row in this championship). With fellow Victorians **Ernie Ryall** and **George Nevitt** taking the minor medals, the teams event was a fait accompli for the Victorians. This championship marked a first appearance for NSW walker **Logan Irwin**. He would go on to win a huge number of medals in NSW State Championship competition, with a career spanning many years.

1952 Australian 10,000m Walk Championship, Adelaide			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	46:08
2.	Ernie Ryall	VIC	48:34
3.	George Nevitt	VIC	48:44
4.	John McDougall	NSW	48:55
5.	Edward Edwards	NSW	49:30
6.	Keith Guyot	VIC	49:59
7.	George Kenyon	NSW	50:30
8.	Leslie Ryman	NSW	50:50
9.	David Melzer	QLD	50:59
10.	Logan Irwin	NSW	51:15
11.	Robert Gration	VIC	51:35
12.	John Webster	NSW	51:50
13.	Rex Michael	SA	52:45
14.	Victor Sharp	SA	53:35
15.	Colin Francis	SA	54:55
16.	Barry Day	SA	55:35
	Arthur Malpas	VIC	DQ
Senior Teams		VIC	12
		NSW	24
		SA	42

1952 Alexander Cup 50km
Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Saturday 27th September 1952

The 1952 Alexander Cup was held in Melbourne one month after the Olympic Games, so it was very much an anti-climax.

Teams from Victoria and SA contested the meet, held in conjunction with the Victorian 50km Championship at the Royal Showgrounds in Ascot Vale, Melbourne. The V.A.W.C. Annual Report for that year commented:

Teams from SA and Victoria competed. Notable absentees from this event were our NSW friends who failed to send a team but who were represented in the race by that old evergreen among walkers Harry Barrett who has made more farewells than Madama Melba during her long career. Included in the South Australian team were Vic Sharp, former Secretary and Treasurer of the V.A.W.C, and Jack Webber, South Aust. 50 kilo champ, also former Victorian George Wilson who at 63 years is a remarkable example of how long distance runners can keep fit.

It saw a repeat win, and perhaps a bittersweet one, for **Len Chadwick** in 5:18:58, with fellow Victorians **Jim Short** and **Clive Mackay** taking the minor medals. **Les Hellyer**, in fourth place, would soon be amongst Australia's best 50km walkers. **Jack Webber** of SA was back in 5th place. He would go on to have an illustrious career on the South Australian front. But post Olympics, the standard was poor.

Victoria won the Teams Race ahead of SA, but unfortunately NSW, with only 1 walker, failed to finish a team.

1952 Alexander Cup 50km, Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne			
1.	Len Chadwick	VIC	5:18:58
2.	James Short	VIC	5:20:25
3.	Clive Mackay	VIC	5:34:12
4.	Leslie Hellyer	VIC	5:36:21
5.	Jack Webber	SA	5:47:01
6.	Vic Sharp	SA	5:49:23
7.	Lindsay McGregor	VIC	5:54:35
8.	Frederick O'Grady	VIC	5:56:20
9.	George Wilson	SA	5:56:54
10.	Harry Barrett	NSW	6:14:16
-	Walter Knott	VIC	DNF
-	Ernest Ryall	VIC	DNF
-	Norm Goble	VIC	DNF
Teams	1. VIC	6 pts	(1,2,3)
	2. SA	15 pts	(4,5,6)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1952-53 Leederville Oval, Perth, 24 & 26 January 1953

A trip to Perth has always been regarded as a big ask for those in the Eastern states, and this was certainly the case with the 1953 Australian T&F Championships, when only 3 walkers attended. **Don Keane** won as he liked, with **Ted Allsopp** second. The presence of Australia's top two walkers added some lustre to what would otherwise have been pretty much a non-event.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 24 January 1953			
1	Don Keane	WA	13:54.6
2	Ted Allsopp	VIC	14:25.6
	Ted Edwards	NSW	DQ

1953 Australian 10,000m Track Walk Championships E.S. Marks Field, Sydney, Saturday 22nd August 1953

The 4th Biennial 10,000m Track Walking Championship of Australia was conducted under control of the NSW. A.A.A. at the E.S. Marks Memorial Athletic Field, Moore, Park, Sydney on Saturday 22nd August 1953.

Once again, defending champion **Ted Allsopp** proved his superiority as a track walker, winning in a time of 46:40. Six walkers had been chosen to represent Victoria (Allsopp, **George Nevitt**, **Keith Guyot**, **Peter Bethell**, **Keith Short** and **Ernie Ryall**) and their performances ensured that Victoria won the Teams Event with the minimum 10 pts.

1953 Australian 10,000m Walk Championship, Sydney			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	46:40
2.	George Nevitt	VIC	47:23
3.	Keith Guyot	VIC	48:08
4.	Peter Bethell	VIC	48:32
5.	John McDougall	NSW	48:49
6.	David Melzer	QLD	49:52
7.	George Kenyon	NSW	50:07
8.	Tom Daintry	QLD	50:24
9.	Keith Short	VIC	51:10
10.	Frank Leonard	SA	51:14
11.	William Metcalf	NSW	51:46
12.	Logan Irwin	NSW	51:59
13.	Donald Bridle	NSW	52:02
14.	Edward Edwards	MSW	52:02
15.	Colin Francis	SA	53:54
16.	Barry Glover	QLD	53:56
17.	Victor Sharp	SA	54:38
18.	Garry Adair	SA	54:56

19.	Richard Belson	QLD	55:37
20.	Frederick Scorer	QLD	61:40
-	Ernie Ryall	VIC	DQ
Teams	VIC 10	NSW 33	QLD 43 SA 50

1953 Alexander Cup 50km

South Parklands, Adelaide, Saturday 3rd October 1953

A number of Victorians had travelled to Sydney in August 1953 to compete in the NSW 50km Roadwalk Championship, a custom that had been in effect for a number of years. The race proved to be a triumph for the young **Les Hellyer** who won with a NSW State Record time of 4:58:41. Fellow Victorian **Len Chadwick**, the current Victorian and Alexander Cup champion, had been the next to finish, with 5:09:02.2.

The 1953 Alexander Cup had been allocated to South Australia and was to be held in conjunction with the 1953 South Australian 50km Roadwalk Championship on Saturday 3rd October. The race was conducted on a lap of the roads in the South Parklands of Adelaide city and consisted of 9 laps of 3 miles and 462 yards with a finishing section of 3002 yards. The race started at 10.17AM. in weather that was described as fine, but with gusty winds up to 30mph until the first 3 competitors had finished, then heavy rain.

After their efforts in Sydney, Hellyer and Chadwick went in as favourites and they did not disappoint. But it was Chadwick who won on this occasion, some 2+ minutes ahead of Hellyer. It was his third Alexander Cup win in a row. Times were generally slow in the trying conditions. The event attracted teams from Victoria, NSW and SA, with Victoria winning the Teams Race from SA and NSW.

1953 Alexander Cup 50km, Adelaide, Saturday 3 rd October			
1.	Leonard Chadwick	VIC	5:11:36
2.	Leslie Hellyer	VIC	5:14:02
3.	James Short	VIC	5:21:48
4.	Jack Webber	SA	5:36:30
5.	Edward Edwards	NSW	5:43:44
6.	Frederick O'Grady	VIC	5:44:20
7.	William Kirby	NSW	5:48:08
8.	Garry Adair	SA	5:54:43
9.	Lindsay MacGregor	SA	5:56:52
10.	Thomas Kelly	VIC	5:59:56
11.	Victor Sharp	SA	6:09:45
12.	Harry Barrett	NSW	6:20:33
-	Ron Flint	VIC	Retired at 22m. 1474y.
-	Geoff Williams	VIC	Retired at 19m. 1012y.
-	Norm Goble	VIC	Retired at 19m. 1012y.
-	John Smyth	SA	Retired at 16m. 550y.
Teams	1. VIC	6 pts	(1,2,3)
	2. SA	19 pts	(4,7,8)
	3. NSW	20 pts	(5,6,9)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1953-54

Sydney Cricket Ground, NSW, 11 & 13 February 1954

The 1954 Australian T&F Championships in Sydney saw a classic battle between 23 year old **Don Keane** and 27 year old **Ted Allsopp**. Little separated them during the 8 laps but it was Keane who breasted the finishing tape first with 13:46.6, only 0.2 sec ahead of Allsopp. With Allsopp being subsequently disqualified, the minor medals were distributed to **George Nevitt** and **John McDougall**.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Thursday 11 February 1954			
1	Don Keane	WA	13:46.6
2	George Nevitt	VIC	14:12.4
3	John McDougall	NSW	14:27.0
4	David Melzer	QLD	14:41.0

5	Don Bridle	NSW	15:02.0
6	Barry Beaumont	NSW	15:59.0
7	Colin Francis	SA	16:10.0
	Ted Allsopp	VIC	DQ (13:46.8)
	Peter Bethell	VIC	DQ
	Frank Leonard	SA	DQ

**1954 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk
Adelaide, Saturday 15th May 1954**

1954 saw the Glover Shield competition back in Adelaide, with teams from NSW, Victoria and SA, along with a sole competitor from Queensland.

This year, a major naming change occurred, with the Junior Shield race being rebadged as the Robinson Shield. Now the Glover Shield would be awarded to the winning senior team and the Robinson Shield would be awarded to the winning junior team.

Victorian **George Nevitt** was the winner with 48:55, ahead of the lone Queenslander **David Melzer** (49:14) and NSW walker **John McDougall** (49:31). A number of new names were seen, all of whom have their own stories: **Ralph Field**, **Peter Waddell** and **Bob Gardiner**.

The teams championships saw two tight competitions, with Victoria winning in the Open and NSW winning in the Junior divisions. It was pleasing to see SA finishing teams in both divisions.

Glover Shield Open 10,000m Walk, Adelaide, Sat 15 May 1954						
1.	George Nevitt	VIC	48:55			
2.	David Melzer	QLD	49:14			
3.	John McDougall	NSW	49:31			
4.	Keith Guyot	VIC	50:22			
5.	Logan Irwin	NSW	50:39			
6.	Edward Edwards	NSW	51:05			
7.	Colin Francis	SA	51:03			
8.	Ronald Flint	VIC	51:58			
9.	Peter Alsop	VIC	52:03			
10.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	52:14			
11.	Ralph Field	VIC	52:28			
12.	Raymond Dunstan	VIC	52:56			
13.	Gary Adair	SA	53:14			
14.	Peter Waddell	NSW	53:27			
15.	Ronald Davies	VIC	53:55			
16.	Robert Gardiner	VIC	54:39			
17.	John Smyth	SA	54:57			
18.	Jack Webber	SA	54:58			
19.	William McAllister	NSW	57:14			
20.	William Kirby	NSW	57:19			
21.	Barry Bowden	SA	60:19			
22.	R. Muller	SA	61:34			
23.	Barry Day	SA	61:35			
Robinson Shield Junior 10,000m Walk						
1.	Logan Irwin	NSW	50:39			
2.	Colin Francis	SA	51:03			
3.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	52:14			
4.	Raymond Dunstan	VIC	52:56			
5.	Ronald Davies	VIC	53:55			
6.	Robert Gardiner	VIC	54:39			
7.	William McAllister	NSW	57:14			
8.	Barry Bowden	SA	60:19			
9.	R. Muller	SA	61:34			
Senior Teams	VIC	18	NSW	20	SA	39

Junior Teams	NSW	11	VIC	15	SA	19
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1954 Australian 50km Championship Sydney, Saturday 18th September 1954

The second Australian 50km Roadwalk Championship was held in Sydney on 18th September 1954, at the end of what had been a busy winter season for both NSW and Victorian walkers.

This proved a breakthrough for young Victorian walker **Les Hellyer**. He had won that year's Victorian 50km Championship (5:00:00) the previous month, just ahead of Ralph Field (5:00:55), and built on that with an even faster winning time in the Australian 50km Championship (4:59:37). It was the first time under 5 hours in Australia for quite a few years.

The race also introduced two new walkers to the Australian 50km landscape, namely fellow Victorians **Jim Short** and **Ralph Field**. Both had fine careers nationally and long careers with the VAWC. In fact, I remember Jim and Ralph at the back of the VAWC roadwalk fields in the 1970s, always strolling side by side and chatting as the race progressed.

1954 Australian 50km Championship, Sydney, Sat 18 Sept 1954			
1.	Les Hellyer	VIC	4:59:57
2.	Jim Short	VIC	5:04:31
3.	Ralph Field	VIC	5:05:47
4.	Bill Metcalf	NSW	5:15:54
5.	Eric Kirby	NSW	5:16:38
6.	Gary Adair	SA	5:22:58
7.	Harry Tetlow	NZL	5:23:34
8.	Len Chadwick	VIC	5:37:13
9.	Ronald Flint	VIC	5:41:03
10.	Frank McGuire	VIC	5:41:11
11.	Bernie Claughton	VIC	5:52:32
12.	George Kenyon	NSW	5:59:26
13.	Edward Edwards	NSW	5:59:26
-	Logan Irwin	NSW	DNF
-	William Kirby	NSW	DNF
-	Sydney Rudman	NSW	DNF
-	Keith Guyot	VIC	DNF
Victoria comfortably won the teams race, ahead of NSW			
1.	VIC	6 Pts	(1,2,3)
2.	NSW	15 Pts	(4,5,6)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1954-55 Kensington Oval, Adelaide, SA, 5 & 7 February 1955

Don Keane certainly seemed to be off form at the 1955 Australian T&F Championships, only able to take third place in the 2 Miles walk with a slow time of 14:52.2, well behind winner **Ted Allsopp** with 14:16.0 and **George Nevitt** with 14:42.2. It was Allsopp's first win in this event and followed Keane's 5 year winning streak.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 5 February 1955			
1	Ted Allsopp	VIC	14:16.0
2	George Nevitt	VIC	14:42.2
3	Don Keane	WA	14:52.2
4	Barry Beaumont	NSW	
5	David Melzer	QLD	
6	Edward Folland	SA	
7	Logan Irwin	NSW	

**1955 Australian 10,000m Track Walk
Exhibition Oval, Brisbane, Saturday 9th July 1955**

The 1955 Australian 10,000m Track Walk Championship was conducted on the Exhibition Oval in Brisbane on 9th July and attracted teams from QLD, NSW and Victoria, as well as a sole representative from SA.

It was not a simple case of flying in like nowadays. The large Victorian team travelled by train to Brisbane – the 6 official representatives Ted Allsopp, Harry Summers, George Nevitt, Ralph Field (Captain), Keith Short and Colin Fraser, along with VAWC President Alf Robinson with wife Mabel, club captain Frank McGuire and Mrs McGuire, along with Life Member and Vice President Jack Larkin. Alf Robinson acted as Chief Lap Steward, while Messrs Larkin and McGuire acted as walking judges. All the other officials were provided by the Queensland A.A.A..

Ted Allsopp won easily in the hot conditons, ahead of **Eddie Folland** and first time representative **Harry Summers**. **George Nevitt** struggled in the conditions, dropping to fourth but finishing valiantly. The meet also introduced NSW walker **Ron Crawford**, who would go on to represent Australia in 3 Olympics.

The teams championship saw a win to Victoria, ahead of NSW and Queensland.

1955 Australian 10,000m Walk Championship, Brisbane, 9 July			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	47:10
2.	Edward Folland	SA	49:02
3.	Harold Summers	VIC	49:21
4.	George Nevitt	VIC	50:12
5.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	50:25
6.	Logan Irwin	NSW	50:38
7.	Peter Waddell	NSW	51:06
8.	Ronald Crawford	NSW	51:40
9.	David Melzer	QLD	51:49
10.	John McDougall	NSW	52:12
11.	Keith Short	VIC	52:13
12.	Ralph Field	VIC	53:30
13.	Tom Daintry	QLD	53:34
14.	William Kirby	NSW	54:57
15.	Eric Milgate	QLD	58:25
16.	Richard Belson	QLD	59:10
17.	William Anderson	QLD	60:47
18.	Raymond James	QLD	64:51
-	Colin Fraser	VIC	DQ
Senior Teams	VIC	15	NSW 22 QLD 41

**1955 Alexander Cup 50km
Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 17 September 1955**

Victorian **Les Hellyer** had forced his way to the top 50km ranking in 1954, winning that year's Victorian 50km Championship (5:00:00), as well as the Australian 50km Championship in Sydney (4:59:37). But he did not go into the Alexander Cup as favourite, given a race that had taken place in Melbourne just 3 weeks before that Championship.

This additional event was the 1955 VAWC 50km club championship, held on 27th August on the 1956 Olympic Course, from Olympic Park to Springvale and return. The race had been included on the club winter season program for two reasons; one to enable competitors to experience walking on the course which had been chosen for the 1956 Olympics, and more particularly to exercise officials in the conduct of this event. The race saw fellow Victorian **Jim Short** win with 4:57:57, well ahead of Hellyer, who was a long way back with 5:06:27.

Now fast forward 3 weeks to the 1955 Alexander Cup 50km which was to be held in Centennial Park, Sydney, on 17th September 1955.

A large contingent of Victorians made the trip – a team of 5 walkers, along with 6 other officials and supporters. And it was lucky that such a strong team came, as the event provided one of the closest contests that had been held between these two dominant clubs, with Victoria narrowly winning the Teams race from NSW by a margin of 1 point.

Hellyer turned the tables on Short this time, winning in a new Australian record of 4:51.05. **Peter Waddell** of NSW, second with 5:53:33, also broke the record. Jim Short did a 3 minute PB to take third with 4:54:52, while **Eric Kirby** of NSW took fourth place with 4:56:25. With Jim Short and Eric Kirby also under the 5 hour mark, it was the highest quality 50km seen thus far in Australia. In fact, it was the first time that more than one walker had finished under the 5 hour barrier in any race on Australian soil.

1955 Alexander Cup 50km, Centennial Park, Sydney				
1.	Leslie Hellyer	VIC	4:51:05	AR
2.	Peter Waddell	NSW	4:53:33	
3.	James Short	VIC	4:54:52	
4.	Eric Kirby	NSW	4:56:25	
5.	Logan Irwin	NSW	5:10:43	
6.	Ralph Field	VIC	5:15:31	
7.	Edward Edwards	NSW	5:22:56	
8.	Stanley Rudman	NSW	5:29:27	
9.	John Busst	VIC	5:34:06	
10.	John Ferguson	NSW	5:34:14	
11.	Harry Barrett	NSW	6:11:18	
12.	Frederick O'Grady	VIC	6:24:21	
-	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	DNF	
-	Tom Daintry	QLD	DNF	
-	William Anderson	QLD	DNF	
-	John McDougall	NSW	DNF	
Victoria won the Teams Race, 10 pts to 20 pts.				
Teams	1. VIC	10 pts	(1,3,6)	
	2. NSW	11 pts	(2,4,5)	

By way of addendum, Jim Short won the Victorian 50km Championship 2 weeks later at the Royal Showgrounds in Ascot Vale with 5.06.21, ahead of Ray Smith (5.08.34) and Les Hellyer (5.26.14).

Australian Track & Field Championships 1955-56 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 10 & 12 March 1956

Ted Allsopp retained his title in winning the 1956 Australian T&F Championship 2 Miles Walk, which was held in Melbourne in March of that year. The excitement of a home Olympics meant that the Championships were a huge affair, with lots of local media coverage. **Don Keane** had also been expected to feature in the medals but he was disqualified, meaning the minor placings went to Victorians **Harry Summers** and **Ray Smith**.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 10 March 1956			
1	Ted Allsopp	VIC	14:04.4
2	Harry Summers	VIC	14:15.0
3	Ray Smith	VIC	14:32.0
4	Bob Gardiner	VIC	14:45.2
5	Ron Crawford	NSW	14:50.4
6	Ken Keogh	NSW	15:02.2
7	William Kirby	NSW	15:14.0
-	Edward Folland	SA	DQ
-	Peter Bethell	VIC	DQ
-	Don Keane	WA	DQ

1956 Glover Shield 10,000m Track Walk Moore Park, Sydney, Saturday 28th April 1956

The 10,000m Walk had been replaced in the Olympics by a 20km roadwalk, but the 1956 Glover Shield competition still attracted plenty of walkers.

1952 Olympian **Don Keane** had realised that if he wished to pursue walking excellence, he needed to move to Victoria, the current walking powerhouse. In early 1956, he bit the bullet, packed his bags, made the long journey to from Perth

Melbourne and joined Glenhuntly Athletics Club and the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club. Although having no formal coach, he was always ready to listen to what others had to offer and gleaned his training ideas from the likes of Percy Cerutti, George Knott, Gus Theobald and Frank McGuire. It was Percy who started him on weight work that he then started to mix with his callisthenics and exercises each day.

He was now the spearhead of what had become a strong Victorian team and he surged to an easy victory time of 47:03 in the Glover Shield 10,000m track walk. Junior walker **Harry Summers** not only won the Junior race, he finished second overall, putting Victoria in a strong position with regard to the teams race. Yet it was not sufficient, with NSW winning the Senior Teams competition on a countback, due to strong walks from **Ken Keogh, Colin Walker** and **Ted Edwards**.

The Junior race featured **Harry Summers, Ron Crawford, Bob Gardiner** and **Noel Freeman** – what a group.

1956 Glover Shield Senior 10,000m Walk, Moore Park, Sydney						
1.	Don Keane	VIC	47:03			
2.	Harry Summers	VIC	49:23			
3.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	49:36			
4.	Colin Walker	NSW	49:59			
5.	David Melzer	QLD	50:15			
6.	Edward Edwards	NSW	50:57			
7.	William Kirby	NSW	51:03			
E8.	Leslie Hellyer	VIC	51:16			
E8.	Ron Crawford	NSW	51:16			
10.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	51:42			
11.	Cliff Barling	VIC	52:26			
12.	Noel Freeman	VIC	52:40			
13.	Peter Waddell	NSW	52:42			
14.	Ralph Field	VIC	53:05			
15.	Raymond Nixon	NSW	55:22			
16.	Jack Fitts	VIC	56:49			
17.	Rovert Jeremy	NSW	57:27			
18.	Bernard Cloughton	VIC	57:58			
19.	Sydney Bray	QLD	58:11			
20.	Eric Milgate	QLD	60:01			
21.	William Anderson	QLD	63:28			
22.	James Pedder	NSW	DNF			
Robinson Shield Junior 10,000m Walk						
1.	Harry Summers	VIC	49:23			
2.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	49:36			
3.	Ron Crawford	NSW	51:16			
4.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	51:42			
5.	Noel Freeman	VIC	52:40			
6.	Raymond Nixon	NSW	55:22			
Senior Teams	NSW	20	VIC	20	QLD	38
Junior Teams	VIC	10	NSW	11		

1956 Olympic 20km Trial Olympic Park, Melbourne, Saturday 14th July 1956

The Amateur Athletic Union of Australia chose Saturday 14th July as the date for the trial to select the 20 km contestants for the 1956 Olympics. Since the Games would be held in Melbourne, the venue was obvious – a shortened version of the projected Games course in inner Melbourne, on the bitumen sealed roads and footpaths encircling Olympic Park.

The race started at 2:33PM and was conducted by the Road Events Sub-Committee of the Olympic Games, for the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association. The first 3 placings would have a very strong case for Olympic selection and all the top walkers were in attendance.

The two top walkers for the past 4-5 years had been **Ted Allsopp** and **Don Keane** and they did not disappoint, clearing out early and definitively taking the first two places. In fact, Allsopp's time was a new Australian and Victorian best

ever time for the distance. But the battle for third place was wide open and young Victorian rising stars **Harry Summers** and **Bob Gardiner** looked set to battle it out at the 10 km mark, slightly in front of **Ray Smith** and **Norm Read** and well clear of anyone else. As the others faded slightly, Summers looked to have it sewn up by the 16 km mark but he did not bank on NSW walker **Ron Crawford** who finished like a steam train, overtaking him in the last 1 km and ultimately taking third place, 17 seconds ahead of him.

For Summers, it was a devastating blow and it would not be until 1981, when in cold windy conditions at Fishermans Bend in Melbourne, he finished 3rd in the Australian 50 km title in 4:33:11 that he made his first Australian team for the 1981 Lugano Cup team, He rates this selection as the "*personal highlight of my career*". He was the oldest athlete, at 46, to represent Australia. He had finally gained his first international selection after 29 years of competitive walking.

In the trial, 17 year old **Noel Freeman** had come 9th in 103:00, a best ever Victorian Junior time but well outside contention. But only weeks later, he recorded a fantastic 20 km track time of 1:36:47, nearly 1 minute faster than Ron Crawford's third place time finish. There was some discussion about whether Freeman or Crawford should be awarded the third Olympic 20 km walk berth but the selectors went with Ron and Noel had to wait a further 4 years for his chance.

1956 Olympic 20km Trial, Melbourne, Saturday 14th July 1956												
1.	Edward Allsopp	VIC	9:14	18:32	27:58	37:30	46:50	56:03	65:20	74:34	84:18	94:26.6
2.	Don Keane	VIC	9:14	18:32	27:38	36:45	45:59	55:14	64:40	74:20	84:34	95:26.0
3.	Ron Crawford	NSW	9:19	19:09	29:33	39:28	49:34	59:30	68:59	78:42	88:22	97:52.0
4.	Harry Summers	VIC	9:14	18:37	28:23	38:20	48:16	57:56	67:49	77:48	87:52	98:09.6
5.	Robert Gardiner	VIC	9:20	18:58	28:50	38:36	48:16	58:02	68:05	78:15	88:10	98:29.0
6.	Ray Smith	VIC	9:29	19:12	28:55	38:42	48:39	58:36	68:48	78:59	89:13	99:33.6
7.	Norm Read	NZ	9:14	18:54	28:37	38:31	48:30	58:34	68:45	78:59	89:34	100:25.2
8.	Les Hellyer	VIC	9:26	19:34	29:40	39:48	50:03	60:27	71:02	81:37	92:08	102:27.7
9.	Noel Freeman	VIC	9:17	18:50	28:50	38:52	48:59	59:11	69:36	80:15	91:19	103:00.8
10.	Tom Daintry	QLD	9:33	19:32	29:54	40:23	51:06	61:30	72:06	83:13	94:35	106:21.2
11.	Eddie Folland	SA	9:32	19:32	29:33	39:28	49:34	59:34	70:09	81:04	93:40	109:39.0
12.	Harry Tetlow	NZ	10:34	21:33	32:33	43:36	54:45	66:02	77:23	89:00	101:14	114:49.4
13.	Ted Edwards	NSW	9:38	20:17	30:35	40:59	51:25	61:45	72:25	85:48	100:50	116:06.5
-	Dave Melzer	QLD	9:14	19:01	29:20	39:46	50:30	61:30	73:35	Retired		
-	Colin Frazer	VIC	9:38	20:17	30:48	42:08	53:32	64:31	Retired			
-	C. Walker	NSW	9:30	19:34	29:33	39:46	50:07	61:33	Retired			
-	Bernie Claughton	VIC	9:59	20:25	31:29	42:41	54:13	Retired				
-	Harry Larchin	VIC	9:37	19:54	Retired							
-	L. (Peter) Waddell	NSW	Retired									

Scratched: D. Thomson (NZ) and E. Kirby (NSW)

1956 Australian 50km Championship and Olympic Trial Melbourne, 9th September 1956

The 1956 Australian 50km Championship, which doubled as the official Olympic trial, was held on the Olympic Games course in Melbourne on 9th September 1956. A strong field of 17 walkers had lined up on a very wet day with a cold breeze blowing. The course was an out and back route along Dandenong Rd to Oakleigh, but starting and finishing at Olympic Park rather than at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

None could withstand the effort of New Zealand walker **Norm Read**, whose winning time of 4:30:16.8 was a new Australian Open record. Second placed **Ray Smith** of Victoria, in only his second 50km race, set a new Australian Residential record with his time of 4:40:24.6. Third placed **Ron Crawford** of NSW (4:45:19.2) and fourth placed **Kevin Keogh** of NSW (4:45:35.6) were also under the old record.

With the first 7 finishers all bettering 5 hours, it was the highest quality 50km seen thus far in Australia. Teams from Victoria and NSW contested the teams races and, with 3 New Zealand walkers present, it could perhaps be viewed as an informal Australasian championship. The teams event was very close, with NSW bettering Victoria, 10 points to 11.

1956 Australian 50km Championship, Melbourne, 9 th Sept				
1.	Norm Read	NZL	4:30:16.2	AOR
2.	Ray Smith	VIC	4:40:24.6	ARR
3.	Ron Crawford	NSW	4:45:19.2	

4.	Kevin Keogh	NSW	4:45:35	
5.	David Melzer	QLD	4:53:03	
6.	Jim Short	VIC	5:54:43	
7.	Harry Tetlow	NZL	4:59:54	
8.	Colin Walker	NSW	5:00:43	
9.	Bill Kirby	NSW	5:05:30	
10.	Tom Daintry	QLD	5:06:07	
11.	John Busst	VIC	5:08:36	
12.	Eric Waite	NZL	5:10:17	
13.	Peter Waddell	NSW	5:11:00	
14.	Len Chadwick	VIC	5:16:28	
-	Les Hellyer	VIC	DNF	
-	Harry Summers	VIC	DNF	
-	John Smyth	VIC	DNF	
-	Edward Edwards	NSW	DQ	
Teams	1.	NSW	10 Pts	(2,3,5)
	2.	VIC	11 Pts	(1,4,6)

Fast forward 3 weeks to the 1956 Victorian 50km Championship, contested at the Royal Showgrounds on 29th September. Norm Read, fresh from his victory in the Australian Championship, looked a sure winner at the 20 Mile post, but Victorian **Ted Allsopp**, contesting his very first 50km, took the lead in the dying stages and won in a new Australian record of 4:24:24. Read had perhaps paid the price of trying to walk two high quality 50km races in such a short timeframe.

1956 Victorian 50km Championship, Melbourne, 29 th Sept				
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:24:24	AR
2.	Norm Read	NZ	4:45:40	
3.	Tom Daintry	QLD	4:54:30	
4.	Harry Tetlow	NZ	4:58:33	
5.	David Melzer	QLD	4:59:56	
6.	Les Hellyer	VIC	5:04:23	

Allsopp's astonishing 50km debut performance was not really a shock to those who had watched his winter season. He had won the 1956 Olympic 20km walk trial in July (1:34:26) and, in early September, he set an official world record of 16 miles 403 yards in a special 2 Hour Track Walk put on by the VAWC at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

The 1956 Olympic 50km featured 3 Australians (Ray Smith, Ted Allsopp and Ron Crawford) and one New Zealander (Norm Read), while the 1956 Olympic 20km featured 3 Australian walkers (Don Keane, Ted Allsopp and Ron Crawford).

You can read about their fortunes at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwc56ol.shtml>.

Tim Erickson
Friday 12th June 2020