

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1960 - 1966

This follows on from 3 previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1960.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)

Our story continues from 1961.

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.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1960-61 Lang Park, Brisbane, Queensland, 4 & 5 March 1961

Frank Clark had only contested his first national race in the 1960 Glover Shield but he was quick to build on that performance with second place behind **Bob Gardiner** in a closely contested 2 Miles Track Walk at the 1961 T&F Titles in Brisbane. It was also a big breakthrough for Gardiner, with his first national title. Noel Freeman, who had been so dominant in the leadup to the 1960 Olympics, had now virtually disappeared from the racing scene, only appearing occasionally in 1961 and 1962 before starting his next Olympic campaign in earnest in 1963.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 4 March 1961			
1	Bob Gardiner	VIC	14:40.2
2	Frank Clark	NSW	14:44.8
3	Peter Waddell	NSW	14:45.4
4	Logan Irwin	NSW	15:02.4
	Harry Summers	VIC	DQ
	K. Jolly	QLD	

1961 Australian 10,000m Track Walk Redcliffe, Brisbane, Saturday 22nd July 1961

1961 saw the final Australian 10,000m Track Championship, held in Redcliffe, just outside Brisbane, on Saturday 22nd July. From 1963, a 20km roadwalk championship would replace it.

Ted Allsopp had won every Australian 10,000m title (1948, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957 and 1959) up till now. Finally he stepped aside, allowing a new champion to be crowned, and that champion was **Ron Crawford**. Ron had achieved a number of second places in National titles but a first place had so far eluded him. This win, with a time of 48:20.4, ticked that box. Overall, NSW fielded a very strong team and completely overwhelmed what had been thought to be a strong Victorian challenge. **Bob Gardiner**, second with 49:05, was the only Victorian to provide any real opposition. The strongly fancied Victorian team had been unable to handle the change in conditions, from Melbourne's cold weather to Brisbane's deceptive humidity.

1961 Australian 10,000m Track Championship, Redcliffe			
1.	Ron Crawford	NSW	48:20.4
2.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	49:05
3.	Logan Irwin	NSW	49:38
4.	Frank Clark	NSW	49:41
5.	Kenneth Keogh	NSW	50:25
6.	Alan Taylor	VIC	50:35
7.	Peter McCullagh	VIC	51:13
8.	James Henderson	VIC	51:14
9.	Rod Bambery	VIC	51:16
10.	Keith Jolly	QLD	51:25
11.	Raymond Reilly	NSW	51:29
12.	Lindsay Fortune	VIC	51:44
13.	Sydney Bray	QLD	53:16

14.	Edward Edwards	NSW	56:11
15.	Reg Tarte	NSW	56:17
-	Peter Waddell	NSW	DNF
-	Peter Tierney	VIC	DNF
Teams	NSW	13	VIC 23

1961 Alexander Cup 50km

Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 16th September 1961

The 1961 Alexander Cup 50km was a bit of an anticlimax after the previous year's Olympics, in which Noel Freeman and Ron Crawford had represented Australia. With neither of them in attendance, it was left to the evergreen **Ted Allsopp** to provide his own one man show. While his winning time of 4:28:56 was a good one, the lack of depth (**Jim Gleeson** was second in 4:54:08) and numerical strength (only 8 starters) showed that the Alexander Cup might perhaps be losing its relevance. The surprise of the race was the performance of 19 year old **Norm Marr**, taking third place with 4:59:33.

The VAWC Heel and Toe reported that the last two walkers to finish were both big surprises – 73 year old Harry Barrett covered the distance in 6:23:12 and former Greek marathon runner George Pagonis caused a sensation in his first attempt at walking by finishing in 6:27:51. Unfortunately the official results show them both as disqualified, leaving NSW with insufficient competitors finish a team. That gifted the teams race to Victoria.

1961 Alexander Cup 50km, Sydney, Saturday 16 September			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:28:56
2.	James Gleeson	VIC	4:54:08
3.	Norman Marr	VIC	4:59:33
4.	Gavan Breen	VIC	5:16:32
5.	John Ferguson	NSW	5:17:03
6.	Tom Daintry	VIC	5:26:00
7.	Lief Wernblad	NSW	5:56:31
-	Harry Barrett	NSW	DQ
-	George Pagonis	NSW	DQ
Teams	VIC	6 pts	(1,2,3)

It was a sparse year for the 50km rankings, with only 5 walkers under 5 hours

1961 Australian 50km Ranking (those under 5 Hours)

1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:28:56	16/09/1961, Sydney
2.	Logan Irwin	NSW	4:45:55	02/09/1961, Sydney
3.	Peter Waddell	NSW	4:53:35	19/06/1961, Sydney
4.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	4:54:08	16/09/1961, Sydney
5.	Norm Marr	VIC	4:59:33	16/09/1961, Sydney

Australian Track & Field Championships 1961-62

E.S. Marks Field, Sydney, NSW, 17 & 19 March 1962

After missing the 1961 National T&F Championships, **Noel Freeman** bounced back to win his third 2 Mile Walk national title at the 1962 National Meet in Sydney. Again, it was a small and low quality field, apart from Freeman and fellow Olympian **Ron Crawford**. It was one of his few appearances for the year.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 17 March 1962			
1	Noel Freeman	VIC	14.22.2
2	Ron Crawford	NSW	14.26.2
3	Frank Leonard	SA	14.50.8
4	Frank Clark	NSW	14.56.0
5	Logan Irwin	NSW	15.19.4
6	Ken Green	TAS	15.47.8
-	Bob Gardiner	VIC	DQ

1962 Glover Shield 10,000m Track Walk
Sydney Athletic Field, Sydney, Saturday 26th May 1962

A number of the top Victorians chose to bypass the Glover Shield 10,000m Track Walk, ensuring favouritism initially rested with the NSW home team. But as dual Olympian Ron Crawford was not racing, the scales seemed now seemed more balanced.

While the meet produced a breakthrough win for Victorian **Peter McCullagh**, it was NSW's race, with NSW walkers **Frank Clark**, **Bill Kirby** and **Logan Irwin** taking the next 3 places. Overall, NSW made the most use of its home ground advantage, winning both The Glover Shield and the Robinson Shield teams championships. The field was a large one, with 29 walkers contesting the combined junior and senior men's walk.

Glover Shield Open 10,000m Walk, Sydney, Saturday 26th May						
1.	Peter McCullagh	VIC			48:35	
2.	Frank Clark	NSW			48:58	
3.	William Kirby	NSW			49:11	
4.	Logan Irwin	NSW			49:12	
5.	Gavan Breen	VIC			49:35	
6.	Peter Waddell	NSW			49:54	
7.	Ray Smith	VIC			51:00	
8.	Kenneth Porter	QLD			51:45	
9.	William McAllister	NSW			52:48	
10.	Edward Edwards	NSW			53:03	
11.	Reginald Tarte	NSW			53:10	
12.	Leslie Buck	NSW			53:12	
13.	Graham Russell	VIC			53:20	
14.	Neil Mangels	NSW			53:31	
15.	Alan Pomeroy	VIC			53:38	
16.	Peter Tierney	VIC			53:45	
17.	Raymond Hunt	NSW			53:55	
18.	Leslie Wade	NSW			54:02	
19.	Colin Hancock	QLD			54:30	
20.	Barry Kendall	NSW			54:35	
21.	Graham Abbott	VIC			54:38	
22.	John McDougall	NSW			55:46	
23.	Terence Yelland	VIC			56:19	
24.	William McLean	VIC			56:36	
25.	Neville Danrow	QLD			56:40	
26.	Brian McMorrine	NSW			56:48	
27.	James Thomas	NSW			57:25	
28.	James Tray	QLD			60:23	
-	Lindsay Fortune	VIC			DQ	
Robinson Shield Junior 10,000m Walk						
1.	Frank Clark	NSW			48:58	
2.	Kenneth Porter	QLD			51:45	
3.	Leslie Buck	NSW			53:12	
4.	Graham Russell	VIC			53:20	
5.	Neil Mangels	NSW			53:31	
6.	Alan Pomeroy	VIC			53:38	
7.	Colin Haylock	QLD			54:30	
8.	Terence Yelland	VIC			56:19	
9.	.Neville Danrow	QLD			56:40	
Senior Teams	NSW	15	VIC	22	QLD	41
Junior Teams	NSW	9	VIC	18	QLD	18

1962 Australian 50km Championship Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 8th September 1962

Ted Allsopp had won the 1958 Australian 50km on the Centennial Park course in Sydney. Could he repeat the win in 1962 on the same course? He had been beaten in the 1960 title by Noel Freeman, but Freeman was absent this year.

As it turned out, the win was never in doubt, although Ted had to share the lead with fellow Victorian **Peter McCullagh** for the first 6 laps (30km). The seventh lap was the crucial one, as Ted increased his pace to establish a 16 second lead over his youthful challenger. From then on, Ted was unchallenged, going on for an easy win, ahead of Peter McCullagh and **Logan Irwin**. Victoria was the only State to finish the required 3 competitors, thus winning the Teams Race by default. For the first time, the name of **Bob Gardiner** featured in an Australian level 50km race. He would go on to win the next 3 Australian 50km titles and would dominate the Australian 50km scene up till his retirement from international walking in 1972.

1962 Australian 50km Championship, Sydney, Sat 8 Sept			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:35:06
2.	Peter McCullagh	VIC	4:44:30
3.	Logan Irwin	NSW	4:45:14
4.	Robert Gardiner	VIC	5:08:36
5.	George Buck	NSW	5:55:22
-	Ralph Field	VIC	DNF
-	Peter Waddell	NSW	DNF
-	Leslie Wade	VIC	DNF
-	Jim Gleeson	VIC	DNF
-	Gavan Breen	VIC	DQ
Teams	VIC	6 Pts	(1,2,3)

Again, the 50km standard was poor overall. Tedd Allsopp headed the Australian 50km rankings for 1962, with his time of 4:29:06, done in the Victorian 50km Championship on 8th September. The next fastest walker was Logan Irwin with his time of 4:42:47, done in winning the NSW 50km Championship on 18th August.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1962-63 Thebarton Oval, Adelaide, 23-27 March 1963

After 2 very quite years, Noel Freeman returned to serious training in 1963, intent on his next Olympic encounter. He comfortably defended his title in the 1963 Australian T&F Championships in Adelaide, finishing nearly 20 seconds clear of the young Frank Clark. Again, it was a disappointingly small field.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 23 March 1963			
1	Noel Freeman	VIC	14:32.1
2	Frank Clark	NSW	14:50.7
3	Frank Leonard	SA	14:59.3
	Peter McCullagh	VIC	DQ
	Peter Witham	SA	DQ
	Barry Hodby	SA	DQ

Australian 20km Championship Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 27th July 1963

1961 had seen the final Australian 10,000m Track Walk Championship. In 1963, it was replaced by an Australian 20km Championship. From then on, the 20km was contested every second year, alternating with the Australian 50km Championship.

The delay in removing the 10,000m Track Walk and implementing an Australian 20km is hard to understand. The 20km and 50km had been the designated Olympic distances since 1956, but it had taken Australia 7 additional years to follow suite.

Anyway, it had finally happened, and the 1963 Australian 20km Championship was expected to be an early pointer to possible selections for the 1964 Olympic Games. **Peter McCullagh** had beaten **Noel Freeman** in the Victorian 20km

Championship 2 weeks earlier and led the national rankings with a time of 1:34:09 so he and Freeman went into this race as dual favourites.

Freeman had headed out at what was noted as a suicidal pace in the Victorian 20km Championship and had been on target early for a sub-1:30:00 walk, something unheard of in those days. His opening pace was much more restrained in the Australian Championship, content to sit behind McCullagh for 10km (48:08) before drawing away to win comfortably with 1:36:38. McCullagh, who was reported as being sick and below top form, still held on well to take second with 1:38:26, while Bob Gardiner took bronze after passing both Frank Clark (who faded to sixth) and Logan Irwin in the final stages of the race.

16 year old **Ross Hayward** finished back in 9th place with 1:45:22. Ross was a very talented junior walker and runner, and would go on to set a new Australian Junior Steeplechase record, along with breaking most of the Victorian junior racewalking records. He would represent Australia as a racewalker at the 1974 Commonwealth Games and the 1976 Olympics.

Australian 20km Championship, Melbourne, Saturday 27 July					
1.	Noel Freeman	VIC	1:36:38		
2.	Peter McCullagh	VIC	1:38:26		
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:39:45		
4.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:40:29		
5.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	1:40:52		
6.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:41:35		
7.	Bill Kirby	NSW	1:43:27		
8.	Alan Pomeroy	VIC	1:44:09		
9.	Ross Hayward	VIC	1:45:22		
10.	Peter Waddell	NSW	1:45:29		
11.	Gavan Breen	VIC	1:45:39		
12.	Noel Norris	QLD	1:46:53		
13.	Alan Hancock	VIC	1:47:20		
14.	Leslie Wade	NSW	1:48:09		
15.	Peter Witham	SA	1:52:44		
16.	John Corrie	SA	1:53:11		
17.	Fraham Free	QLD	1:54:09		
18.	Jack Webber	SA	1:55:01		
19.	Bill Starr	SA	2:04:21		
-	Edward Folland	SA	DQ		
-	Dean Knight	SA	DQ		
Teams		VIC	11	NSW	25
		SA	42		

In August 1963, Peter McCullagh travelled to England as a Rhodes Scholar, prematurely ending what had been a very promising Australian racewalking career. During his time at Cambridge University, he continued his walking, soon being recognised as one of the best in England. He won the 1966 National 10 Mile Title, a prestigious win indeed. He eventually returned to Australia in late 1966 with his PhD (he would be known from then on as Dr Peter McCullagh) and settled in Canberra, joining the Australian National University Athletics Club and resuming racewalking here. He raced nationally for a couple of years but times had moved on and the other walkers had improved. It was a different landscape now.

1963 Alexander Cup 50km

Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, Saturday 28th September 1963

The final Alexander Cup 50km, held on the Royal Showgrounds course in Melbourne on 28th September, 1963, saw a resurgence in numbers, with 16 competitors (10 Victorians and 6 from NSW) in attendance. Ted Allsopp had been the firm favourite on paper, so his scratching only days before the race, took a lot of the gloss off the event. It meant that, once again, none of the big guns were present.

The race developed into a three way struggle, with **Logan Irwin** and **Gavan Breen** a few minutes ahead of **Jim Gleeson** at the half way mark turn at Rockbank. But it was Jim who looked the freshest of the three, and with his trademark long striding gait, he eventually reeled them both in around the 40km mark, going on to win with 4:52:57.

Jim was in career best form at that time and this win was a fitting reward for his many long distance races over the last few years. Victoria took the first two placings in the Teams Championships, relegating NSW to third spot.

This race saw two names of interest. **Varel Newmark**, better known as a track / short distance specialist, had upped the ante and tested himself over the 50km, coming 4th with 5:13:31. Further down the list. **Fred Redman** finished 7th with 5:37:36. Fred had set a 10 mile Junior road walk world record of 1.14.30.6 in 1934 in his native England. He had emigrated to Australia in 1961, aged 50, and quickly involved himself in the local walking scene. He would go on to co-found the Australian Centurions in 1971.

1963 Alexander Cup 50km, Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne				
1.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	4:52:57	
2.	Logan Irwin	NSW	4:57:46	
3.	Gavan Breen	VIC	5:02:23	
4.	Varel Newmark	VIC	5:13:31	
5.	Len Chadwick	VIC	5:17:18	
6.	Irwin Saunders	VIC	5:22:29	
7.	Frederick Redman	VIC	5:37:36	
8.	Leslie Woods	NSW	5:58:40	
9.	Lief Wernblad	NSW	6:01:26	
10.	Jack Connelly	NSW	6:09:38	
-	Bruce Thorne	VIC	DNF	
-	Cliff Barling	VIC	DNF	
-	Ron Miller	VIC	DNF	
-	Leslie Wade	NSW	DNF	
-	Herbert Jones	NSW	DNF	
Teams	1.	VIC	8 pts	(1,3,4)
	2.	VIC B	18 pts	(5,6,7)
	3.	NSW	19 pts	(2,8,9)

Sadly, 50km walking seemed to have reached an all-time low in Australia, only 1 year out from an Olympics. Jim Gleeson (4:52:56) and Logan Irwin (4:52:35) were the only two walkers to better 5 hours that year.

All the other walkers had restricted their attentions to the shorter distances – the 20km rankings saw Peter McCullagh (1:34:09), Noel Freeman (1:36:37), Ron Crawford (1:37:46), Frank Clark (1:38:27) and Bob Gardiner (1:39:44) all in good shorter distance form, but would this translate to the 50km the following year?

Australian Track & Field Championships 1963-64 Olympic Park, Melbourne, 21-24 March 1964

An Olympics year normally brings the big guns to the fore and this was certainly the case in 1964, with **Noel Freeman** winning the 2 Miles walk for the third year in a row, ahead of **Bob Gardiner**, **Frank Clark** and **Ted Allsopp**. The only name missing was Ron Crawford. Noel had taken the lead in the second lap, after a first lap of 1:44, and was not challenged from then on. This was Noel's fifth Australian 2 Mile win, only two behind the great Don Keane who had captured the title 7 times in 9 years.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 21 March 1964				
1	Noel Freeman	VIC	13:58.6	
2	Bob Gardiner	VIC	14:36.6	
3	Frank Clark	NSW	14:40.2	
4	Ted Allsopp	VIC	15:03.0	
	Logan Irwin	NSW	DQ	(15:10.8)
	Kevin Green	TAS	DQ	(15:41.4)
	Gavan Breen	VIC	DQ	

1964 Australian 50km Championship and Olympic Trial Adelaide, Saturday 6th June 1964

A lot can sometimes change in two years and this was certainly the case for Bob Gardiner. Fourth in the 1962 Australian 50km Championship, he had quickly developed into one of the top contenders for Olympic selection. Bob trained hard and raced hard. In 1964 as part of his Olympic buildup, he regularly clocked up training weeks of 100 miles. In May of

that year, he showed his true potential with a wonderful 40km time of 3:22:37 at Albert Park. His splits were 51:24, 50:28, 50:16 and 50:28.

The Olympic 50 km trial was held on an out-and-back course in Adelaide, starting and finishing at the R.A.A.F.'s Edinburgh Base oval. The early pace was very pedestrian, with the first 5km covered in 27:30 and with the favourites all playing cat-and-mouse. By the half way turn, reached in 2:10:31, they were all still together, and it was not till around the 35km mark that **Bob Gardiner** began to edge away. The first to drop off was **Ted Allsopp**, then **Ron Crawford** and finally **Frank Clark**. Bob went on to win comfortably with 4:24:19, a time that actually bettered the current Olympic 50km record. Ted recovered to take second with 4:30:55, just ahead of Frank (4:31:21), and a long way ahead of Ron who eventually faded to fifth place with 4:41:20.

1964 Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, Sat 6 June			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:24:19.4
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:30:56
3.	Frank Clark	NSW	4:31:22
4.	Noel Norris	QLD	4:33:28
5.	Ron Crawford	NSW	4:41:00
6.	Logan Irwin	NSW	4:41:20
7.	Alan Hancock	VIC	4:52:26
8.	Peter Waddell	NSW	4:54:15
9.	Gavan Breen	VIC	4:58:33
10.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	4:58:33
11.	Leslie Wade	NSW	5:01:54
12.	John Croft	NSW	5:05:47
13.	Ron Miller	VIC	5:06:11
14.	Graeme Free	QLD	5:11:11
15.	Irwin Saunders	VIC	5:15:44
16.	Adrian Jones	VIC	5:20:48
17.	Dean Knight	SA	5:39:08
18.	Jack Webber	SA	5:40:36
19.	Peter Whitham	SA	5:54:39
20.	John Corrie	SA	5:55:58
21.	William Starr	SA	5:57:46
22.	Martin Davey	SA	5:59:20
-	Frank Leonard	SA	DNF
-	Edward Polland	SA	DNF
Teams			
VIC	1.	9 Pts	(1,2,6)
NSW	2.	12 Pts	(3,4,5)
SA	3.	24 Pts	(7,8,9)

1964 Olympic 20km Trial Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 18th July 1964

To complete the Olympic story, the 1964 Olympic 20km trial was held on 18th July 1964 in Centennial Park in Sydney. **Noel Freeman** went in as a clear favourite, having won the Victorian 20km title in a career best 1:32:06. His win in the Australian Championship in Sydney was in another good time (1:34:20), but it was done the hard way. He raced from the front as usual, passing the first 10 km in 42:30. But then he started to cramp and struggled home to just outlast a fast finishing **Ron Crawford** who crossed the line only 30 seconds in arrears. Ron had walked the entire race on his own in second place, and had made up over 2 minutes in the final 2 miles on a slowing Freeman.

1964 Australian 20km Olympic Trial, Sydney, Saturday 18 July			
1.	Noel Freeman	VIC	1:34:20
2.	Ron Crawford	NSW	1:34:50
3.	Noel Norris	QLD	1:36:40
4.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:39:07
5.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:40:35
6.	Peter Waddell	NSW	1:43:35
7.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:47:06
-	Gavan Breen	VIC	DNF

-	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	DNF
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The trial placings had produced 6 different walkers, all with good times and all in contention. As the trial winners, Bob (50km) and Noel (20km) had to be selected. Ted (50km) and Ron (20km) had come second in the trials so would have to be the next picks. But how would the third spots in each event be decided? Both Frank Clark (20km) and Noel Norris (50km) had walked well, Frank in particular.

When the Tokyo team was about to be announced, only Noel and Bob were originally ratified by the Australian Olympic Committee, although other names were proposed by the athletics selectors. Then extra places were made available, and Ted and Ron were squeezed in. It was hard luck for Frank Clark and Noel Norris who had both probably done enough to be selected in an ideal world.

The Olympic team was duly named, with 4 walkers

Bob Gardiner	20km and 50km
Ron Crawford	20km and 50km
Noel Freeman	20km
Ted Allsopp	50km

Frank Clark's time would come, with representations in the 1966 Commonwealth Games and in the 1968 Olympics. For Noel Norris, he had missed his only chance.

The team announcement included a requirement that all members attend a 16 day Narrabeen training camp prior to embarkation. Noel wrote to the President of the A.A.U. of Australia requesting exemption – he had no need to prove his fitness and he had a business to run. The exemption was not forthcoming and Noel's Olympic campaign looked in jeopardy.

On August 15, Noel won a 20 Mile roadwalk at Albert Park in a wonderful time of 2:35:02, some 3:14 under his Australian record - a winning margin of 21 minutes in cold windy conditions. Two weeks later on August 27, he won again, this time at the Melbourne University track, in a special VAWC 20 mile time trial. He set new Australian records for the 30 km (2:25:02) and 20 miles (2:37:47) distances.

The next week, the news of his standoff over the Narrabeen camp burst into the open when the daily press learned of the situation and gave it wide publicity. The A.A.U. quickly backed down and granted Noel a partial exemption – he would now be required to only attend the final 6 days of the camp.

The four man Australian walks team duly went to Tokyo for the 1964 Olympics and all performed creditably, with Noel Freeman (4th in the 20km) and Bob Gardiner (5th in the 50km) leading the way.

Noel Freeman	20km Walk	4 th	1:32:06.8	
Bob Gardiner	20km Walk	DNF		
	50km Walk	5 th	4:17:06.8	Australian Record
Ron Crawford	20km Walk	22 nd	1:38:47.0	
	50km Walk	11 th	4:24:19.6	
Ted Allsopp	50km Walk	17 th	4:31:07.8	

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1964-65 North Hobart Oval, Hobart, Tasmania, 20-23 Feb 1965

Noel Freeman was relegated to second place, after winning in the 3 previous occasions, in the 1963 Australian T&F Championships 2 Miles Walk. It was a close race with only 6 secs between the medallists **Bob Gardiner**, Freeman and **Frank Clark**. In fairness to Noel, he had been busy the previous few months and was down on fitness.

2 MILES WALK - Men - Sunday 21 February 1965			
1	Bob Gardiner	VIC	14.10.2
2	Noel Freeman	VIC	14.16.6
3	Frank Clark	NSW	14.16.8
4	Ross Haywood	VIC	15.04.6
5	Peter Waddell	NSW	15.19.0
6	Logan Irwin	NSW	15.25.0

This was Noel's last race for quite some time. Over the next few years, he seemed to prefer distance running and steeplechasing with the Footscray club. It was not until mid-1967 that he decided to again try his hand at racewalking. Training twice a day, he was back in top form by the end of 1967 and ready for his third Olympic campaign. But that is a story for another day.

1965 Glover Shield and Robinson Shield 10,000m Track Walks Narrabeen, NSW, Saturday 22nd May 1965

The Australian 10,000m Track Championship might have been decommissioned but the Glover Shield continued on as a 10,000m track walk. The 1965 edition took place in Narrabeen, NSW, on Saturday 22nd May.

Frank Clark raced away at the gun to score easily in 47.47, with **Harry Summers** leading the Victorian team home in 49.31. **Peter Waddell** (50.01) made up a lot of ground on **John Croft** (50.02) in the last final laps to finish just ahead, with **Logan Irwin** hanging on well to clock 50.58. Overall, the Glover Shield Teams Race went to NSW, compliments of Clark, Waddell, Croft and Irwin, while the Victorian team scraped home to take second place, just 1 point ahead of the NSW No 2 team.

Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Narrabeen, NSW, Sat 22 May				
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	47:47	
2.	Harry Summers	VIC	49:31	
3.	Peter Waddell	NSW	50:01	
4.	John Croft	NSW	50:02	
5.	Logan Irwin	NSW	50:58	
6.	Robin Whyte	NSW	51:50	
7.	Varel Newmark	VIC	52:21	
8.	Terry Jones	NSW	52:22	
9.	Les Wade	NSW	52:54	
10.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	53:04	
11.	Gavan Breen	VIC	53:10	
12.	Jock O'Connell	VIC	53:33	
13.	Alan Lucas *	VIC	53:41	
14.	Graeme Nicholls *	VIC	54:34	
E15.	Graham Light *	NSW	54:54	
E15.	Frank Overton *	NSW	54:54	
17.	Bob Steadman	VIC	54:30	* query time
18.	Vic Townsend	NSW	55:27	
19.	Ken Widdison		55:34	
20.	Les Manktelow	NSW	55:46	
21.	Colin Scott		55:51	
22.	David Black	VIC	57:00	
23.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	57:39	
24.	John Sheard	VIC	59:35	
25.	Alan Viney		62:55	
-	Alan Taylor	VIC	DNF	
-	Robin Wood	VIC	DNF	
-	Peter Heeney		DNF	
* Junior				
Glover Shield Teams				
	1.	NSW	13 Pts	(1,3,4,5)
	2.	VIC	32 Pts	(2,7,11,13)
	3.	NSW2	33 Pts	(6,8,9,10)
Robinson Shield Teams				
	1.	NSW	8½ Pts	
	2.	VIC	12½ Pts	

1965 Australian 20km Championship Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 19th June 1965

Noel Freeman had won the inaugural Australian 20km Championship in 1963 but was a notable absentee in 1965. **Bob Gardiner**, still on a high from his win in the Australian 2 Mile Track Championship in February, fought out the lead

with **Frank Clark**, eventually beating Frank by 11 secs, 1:37:23 to 1:37:34, while the ever reliable **Ted Allsopp** took bronze.

Australian 20km Championship, Sydney, Sat 19 June 1965			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:37:23
2.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:37:34
3.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	1:38:10
4.	Peter Waddell	NSW	1:41:35
5.	Harry Summers	VIC	1:42:21
6.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:44:10
7.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:44:14
8.	Edward Dawkins	NSW	1:45:04
9.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:46:05
10.	Gavan Breen	VIC	1:46:10
11.	Leslie Wade	NSW	1:46:20
12.	Wayne Melville	TAS	1:47:21
13.	Graham Russell	VIC	1:50:53
14.	Leslie Manktelow	NSW	1:51:38
15.	Leslie Buck	QLD	1:54:05
16.	Peter Pashen	QLD	2:03:57
17.	Sydney Bray	QLD	2:05:28
18.	Noel Norris	QLD	2:14:14
-	John Croft	NSW	DQ
-	Ross Hayward	VIC	DNF
-	Kevin Green	TAS	DNF
Teams: VIC 17 NSW 18 QLD 45			

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1965-66 **Perry Lakes Stadium, Perth, Western Australia, 26-29 March 1966**

Championships went metric, as part of the 1966 Australian wide change from Imperial to Decimal Measurement. The Australian T&F Championships walk was one of many events effected, changing from 2 Miles to 3000m. 19 year old **Ross Hayward** broke through for his first Australian Open Championship win, the first of many. The ever consistent **Bob Gardiner** took second while **Don Keane**, who had retired after failing to make the 1960 Olympics, made a surprise return to take bronze in what was a local race for him.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 27 March 1966			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	13.20.1
2	Bob Gardiner	VIC	13.36.0
3	Don Keane	WA	13.43.0
4	Frank Leonard	SA	14.03.0
5	Wayne Melville	VIC	14.25.4
6	Robert Dell	WA	14.47.5
7	L. Davies	WA	

Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk Trial **Campbelltown, NSW, Saturday 7th May 1966**

The Australian Trial for the inaugural 20 Mile walk at the 1966 British Empire Games was held in Campbelltown in Sydney on Saturday 7th May 1966. The Games themselves were scheduled for August 1966.

Only one spot had been made available in the Australian team and it was expected to be a closely contested trial, with the favourites being **Bob Gardiner** (VIC), **Frank Clark** (NSW) and veteran **Ted Allsopp** (VIC), with **Noel Norris** (QLD) an outsider with a good chance. Noel Freeman would have been the clear favourite but he was having an extended break from the sport. It was not until mid 1967 that he would finally make a reappearance on the local walking scene.

As it turned out, Frank Clark literally “walked all over” the other entrants and led from start to finish to book his place to Jamaica. His early pace was fast with the 2 mile mark passed in 15:05. The following pack included Victorians

Gardiner, Allsopp and Summers. At 6 miles, he surged further ahead and the more experienced competitors felt certain that this furious pace could not last, and that they would catch him after 10 miles.

The half way mark of the race was passed in the fantastic time of 73:39 and Clarke showed no signs of fading. Gardiner was next in 76:36 with Allsopp third in 78:32.

At about 15 miles, Gardiner took a wrong turn and, by the time he had made his way back to the correct road, Allsopp had caught up to him and neither of them had much chance of winning. At the 17 mile mark, Allsopp decided to have a bit of a go and went after Clarke. However, it was much too late and Clarke coasted home in the world class time of 2:36:16 with Ted following him in 2:39:59 and Bob strolling the last few miles to finish in 2:46:17.

1.	Frank Clark	NSW	2:36:17
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	2:39:59
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	2:46:17
4.	Peter Waddell	NSW	2:48:59
5.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:54:50
6.	John Croft	NSW	2:56:28
7.	Dean Knight	SA	2:59:10
8.	Leslie Manktelow	NSW	3:03:24
9.	Leslie Wade	NSW	3:04:40
10.	Bob Steadman	VIC	3:14:22
-.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	DQ
-.	Logan Irwin	NSW	DNF
-.	Robin Whyte	NSW	DNF
-.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	DNF

Two weeks later, Clarke's name was amongst the 22 athletes named in the Australian Track and Field Team for Kingston, Jamaica.

Disappointingly, he struggled in the tropical Jamaican heat, failing to finish the Commonwealth Games walk.

1966 Australian / Alexander Cup 50km Melbourne, Saturday 24 September 1966

Fast forward to late September for the Australian 50km Championship in Melbourne, where the first 3 walkers from the Commonwealth Games trial also took the first 3 places. Only the finish order varied, **Bob Gardiner** winning with 4:18:20.4, **Ted Allsopp** second with a PB 4:20:00 and **Frank Clark** third with 4:28:06. The race attracted 25 competitors, including entrants from Queensland, SA, NSW and Victoria. Overall, it was the strongest 50km walk ever seen in Australia, with the first 9 walkers all bettering the 5 Hour standard, and with Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp both bettering the fastest time ever recorded in Australia (although Gardiner had done a faster time of 4:17:06.8 in Tokyo in 1964).

This event included the 1966 Alexander Cup 50km Championship. Placings were the same, with Victoria winning the Alexander Cup Teams Race ahead of NSW.

1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:18:20.4
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:20:00
3.	Frank Clark	NSW	4:28:06
4.	Harry Summers	VIC	4:48:55
5.	Peter Waddell	NSW	4:52:20
6.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	4:53:20
7.	Leslie Wade	NSW	4:57:55
8.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	4:58:32
9.	Leslie Manktelow	NSW	5:06:27
10.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	5:09:18
11.	Victor Townsend	NSW	5:10:10
12.	Varel Newmark	VIC	5:18:46
13.	Robert Steadman	VIC	5:20:51
14.	David Black	VIC	5:22:37

15.	Tom Daintry	VIC	5:31:31
16.	Sydney Bray	QLD	5:32:54
17.	John Sheard	VIC	6:13:36
-.	Leonard Hart	SA	DNF
-.	John Smyth	SA	DNF
-.	Geoff Peters	SA	DNF
-.	Robin Whyte	NSW	DNF

Australian Championship Teams Race

VIC	1.	7 Pts	(1,2,4)
NSW	2.	14 Pts	(3,5,6)

Alexander Cup Teams Race

VIC	1.	7 Pts	(1,2,4)
NSW	2.	14 Pts	(3,5,6)