

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1971 - 1976

This follows on from my previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1970.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1961-1966.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1967-1970.pdf](#)

Our story continues from 1971. The top walkers were now all getting older. Noel Freeman, aged 32, had been suspended for 13 months in 1970, thus ending his career. Over the next couple of years, Bob Gardiner (aged 34) and Ted Allsopp (aged 44) would also disappear from the national stage, opening the door for the next generation of walkers. Frank Clark (aged 27) was the youngest of the top group but he subsequently contracted a bad dose of glandular fever in the early seventies, one from which he never really fully recovered. He continued racing off and on until 1978, but his last national race was in 1972 when he won the Glover Shield 10km in Brisbane.

The next generation were led by Graeme Nicholls (aged 22), Ross Haywood (aged 23), Steve Hausfeld (aged 18) and the older ex-British international Peter Fullager (aged 27). But Bob and Ted and Frank had a few final races yet before they hung up the shoes.

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1970-71 Lang Park, Brisbane, Queensland, 12-14 March 1971

Ross Haywood had returned after a 3 year absence from racewalking (he had been running, his last major walk race having been in the 1968 Australian 3000m walk, when he had been disqualified) and had won the Victorian 3000m walk in February 1971 (12:56.8). He had battled it out with **Graeme Nicholls**, before Graeme's eventual disqualification. As an aside, this was the first major race on the newly laid rubber-bitumen track at Olympic Park in Melbourne. Gone was the old black cinders track that had regularly ensured that running shoes and socks and legs were covered in a layer of dark grit that was well nigh impossible to remove.

The same scenario unfolded in the National 3000m track walk championship in Brisbane, with Ross winning his first senior national title (the first of 6) with 12:59.6 and Graeme again disqualified. Junior champion **Steve Hausfeld** improved to a PB of 13:04.4 to take silver ahead of SA veteran **Frank Leonard**. Surprise of the day was the failure of SA record holder **Peter Fullager** who could only manage 6th with 14:11.6. It was the smallest walks field for some time.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Saturday 13 March 1971

1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:59.6
2	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	13:04.4
3	Frank Leonard	SA	13:15.6
4	Greg Deale	NSW	13:44.6
5	Bob Foster	TAS	13:56.6
6	Peter Fullager	SA	14:11.6
7	Robin Wood	VIC	14:13.2
-	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	DQ

1971 Alexander Cup 30km Men Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 15th May 1971

The September 1970 annual conference of the AFORWC had amended its Alexander Cup distance from 50km to 30km. This was the first time that a 30km distance had been raced at this level in Australia and **Peter Fullager** (SA) showed he meant business by leading all the way to win easily in 2:27:36. **Graeme Nicholls** finally got the all clear from the judges, taking second with 2:32:51, ahead of Victorian teammate **Justin Coxhead** (2:34:36).

In a surprise result, Victoria was relegated to third place in the coveted Teams competition, when three of its Number 1 team failed to finish – Bob Gardiner, Robin Wood and Andrew Jamieson. The only walkers to finish from that team were Graeme Nicholls (2nd) and **Ted Allsopp** (5th).

Alexander Cup 30km, Melbourne, Saturday 15th May 1971

1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:27:36	
2.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:32:51	
3.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	2:34:36	
4.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:35:23	
5.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	2:37:27	
6.	Frank Leonard	SA	2:38:21	
7.	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	2:38:35	
8.	Dean Knight	SA	2:42:19	
9.	Ian Henderson	VIC	2:43:58	
10.	Dave Black	VIC	2:45:49	
11.	Brian Carmen	SA	2:49:12	
12.	Barry Whittaker	SA	2:50:06	
13.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	2:50:46	
14.	John Tormey	ACT	2:51:07	
15.	Peter Waddell	ACT	2:53:10	
16.	Graeme Evans	SA	2:54:01	
17.	Mike Barfoot	ACT	2:55:49	
18.	Keith Heness	NSW	2:57:14	
19.	Peter Whitham	SA	2:58:05	
20.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:01:10	
21.	Gwyn Jones	NSW	3:04:42	
22.	Rod Bambery	VIC	3:05:21	
23.	Claude Martin	VIC	3:07:07	
24.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:09:22	
25.	D. Buxton	SA	3:10:05	
26.	Tony Andrew	ACT	3:15:54	
27.	Ted Edwards	NSW	3:15:59	
28.	Bill Starr	SA	3:20:20	
29.	Tom Daintry	VIC	3:24:40	
30.	Nigel Crew	NSW	3:45:04	
-	Bob Gardiner	VIC	DNF	(24km 123:40)
-	Phil Hollis	SA	DNF	(24km 141:55)
-	Trevor Mayhew	VIC	DNF	(21km 105:16)
-	Graeme Russell	VIC	DNF	(21km 117:35)
-	F. Thorpe	VIC	DNF	(21km 124:46)
-	Paul Dorset	NSW	DNF	(21km 134:10)
-	Robin Wood	VIC	DNF	(18km 90:02)
-	Clarrie Jack	VIC	DNF	(18km 99:17)
-	G. Mills	VIC	DNF	(18km 103:53)
-	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF	(18km 104:41)
-	Kevin Finn	SA	DNF	(18km 111:15)
-	Roy Thomas	VIC	DNF	(18km 114:34)
-	Andrew Jamieson	VIC	DNF	(15km 79:05)
-	Ray Smith	VIC	DNF	(15km 84:19)
-	David Crook	VIC	DNF	(15km 87:20)
-	Greg Ellis	VIC	DNF	(15km 91:30)
-	G. Anderson	VIC	DNF	(15km 97:52)

Teams

1.	SA No. 1	11	1, 4, 6
2.	ACT	24	3, 10, 11
3.	VIC No. 2	26	2, 8, 16
4.	VIC No 3	31	7, 9, 15
5.	NSW	32	5, 13, 14
6.	SA 2	47	12, 17, 18

5th LBG Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1971

Ex. British international **Peter Fullager**, now well and truly settled in Adelaide, followed up his win in the Alexander Cup 30km in May, to win the 5th annual Lake Burley Griffin 20 miler in Canberra in June 1971, breaking Frank Clark's course record, after a tough battle with NSW youngster **Steve Hausfeld**. This win enabled the SA team of Fullager, **Frank Leonard** and **Dean Knight** to wrest the Teams event trophy from Victoria. **Justin Coxhead**, after his third place in the Alexander Cup 30km the month before, took another bronze here. 15 year old Victorian prodigy **Russell Miller** finished 8th with 3:00:37. He would burn brightly for a very short time before leaving the sport. With 104 walkers, this was the biggest LBG so far.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13 June 1971

1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:40:08
2.	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	2:40:21
3.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	2:44:43
4.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:49:46
5.	Ian Henderson	VIC	2:50:35
6.	Frank Leonard	SA	2:57:36
7.	Rod Bamberry	VIC	2:59:25
8.	Russell Miller	VIC	3:00:37
9.	Dean Knight	SA	3:00:57
10.	Barry Whittaker	SA	3:01:40
11.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	3:02:05
12.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:02:45
13.	Robin Wood	VIC	3:03:50
14.	Brian Carman	SA	3:04:07
15.	Mike Barfoot	ACT	3:10:14
16.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	3:10:17
17.	Alan Lucas	VIC	3:11:04
18.	Peter Whitham	SA	3:11:31
19.	John Tormey	ACT	3:12:52
20.	Ray Smith	VIC	3:13:44
21.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:17:13
22.	Reg Tarte	NSW	3:17:40
23.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:20:32
24.	Graeme.Evans	SA	3:21:04
25.	Vic Townsend	NSW	3:24:24
26.	D Buxton	SA	3:26:14
27.	Ken Menser	NSW	3:26:39
28.	R Hutton	???	3:31:47
29.	Sid Bray	QLD	3:33:48
30.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:36:56
31.	Nigel Crew	ACT	3:44:01
32.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:46:59
33.	Bill Starr	SA	3:49:21
34.	Pat Fisher	ACT	4:00:00
-	Keith Heness	NSW	DNF
-	Gwyn Jones	NSW	DNF
-	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	DNF
-	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	DNF
-	Dave Black	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Ellis	VIC	DNF
-	Trevor Mayhew	VIC	DNF
-	D Blaske	?	DNF

USA vs USSR vs World All Stars meet

Edwards Stadium, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, 3-4 July 1971

Bob Gardiner had participated in the 1967 USA vs British Commonwealth meet and Frank Clark had participated in the 1969 USA vs USSR vs British Commonwealth meet. Bob was selected for the 1971 meet which was billed this time around as USA vs USSR vs World All Stars.

Although the majority of events were held in the Edwards Stadium, the 20km roadwalk was held on a 5km lap in the Golden Gate Park. Paul Nihill and Nikolay Smaga walked together the whole way and crossed the line side by side, with the nod going to Nihill. Their 5km splits (22:45, 45:43, 68:02, 90:08) show that the pace increased in the second half but neither walker cracked. Third placed Vladimar Shalosiyk had been disqualified at the 11km mark but had finished the race. He was eventually reinstated after a protest by Russian team management. Bob finished 5th with 1:34:15.

20km Walk, Berkeley, Saturday 3 July 1971			
1.	Paul Nihill	GBR	1:30:08.0
2.	Nikolay Smaga	USSR	1:30:08.0
3.	Vladimar Shalosiyk	USSR	1:33:27.0
4.	Tom Dooley	USA	1:33:59.6
5.	Bob Gardiner	AUS	1:34:15.0
6.	Goetz Klopfer	USA	1:36:26.6

The two 1972 Olympic walk trials had been set a week apart, with the 20km in Melbourne on 18th September and the 50km in Sydney on 25th September. Why so far out from the Olympics and why so close together? Two very good questions for which I don't have answers. The Australian selectors had not been kind to walkers in previous selections, and this timetabling was not going to help the walkers one iota.

1972 Olympic 20km Trial

Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 18th September 1971

Frank Clark had won the 1971 NSW 20km Championship with 1:36:03, nearly 3 minutes ahead of Steve Hausfeld, so with Noel Freeman off the scene and with Ross Haywood not yet ready to attack the longer walk distances, he and **Bob Gardiner** and **Peter Fullager** were the co-favourites in the Olympic 20km trial around Albert Park. With Frank a non-show and Peter Fullager disqualified, Bob was untroubled to win comfortably with 1:35:10. 19 year old **Steve Hausfeld** was second with 1:36:24 while the ever young **Ted Allsopp** was third with 1:37:05. **Graeme Nicholls** was amongst those who did not finish. **Ian Hodgkinson**, who finished in 6th place, had emigrated to Australia earlier in the year, having represented the Isle of Man in the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

20km Olympic Trial, Melbourne, Saturday 18th September 1971			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:35:10
2.	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	1:36:24
3.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	1:37:05
4.	Robin Wood	VIC	1:39:04
5.	Lloyd Davies	WA	1:40:00
6.	Ian Hodgkinson	WA	1:40:50
7.	Russell Miller	VIC	1:40:50
8.	Dean Knight	SA	1:41:52
9.	David Black	VIC	1:42:36
10.	Neil Larchin	VIC	1:43:09
11.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:44:21
12.	Brian Carmen	SA	1:44:48
13.	Barry Wittaker	SA	1:45:36
14.	Ray Smith	VIC	1:49:55
15.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:50:24
16.	William Ford	TAS	1:56:40
-	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	DNF
-	Philip Kerrison	TAS	DNF
-	Tim Branigan	VIC	DNF
-	Peter Fullager	SA	DQ
-	Owen Warner	NZL	DQ
-	Don Keane	WA	DQ

**1971 Australian 50km Championship and 1972 Olympic Trial
Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 25th September 1971**

The 50km Olympic trial was held a week later in Sydney in conjunction with the 1971 Australian 50km Championship. **Bob Gardiner** won again, with a time of 4:27:45, 8 secs ahead of **Ted Allsopp**, with **Peter Fullager** a further 2 minutes back in third place. **Ian Hodgkinson** also walked well, finishing only 20 seconds behind Fullager.

It was a great double for Bob.

Australian 50km Championship, Sydney, Sat 25 Sept 1971			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:27:57.4
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:28:05.2
3.	Peter Fullager	SA	4:30:30.4
4.	Ian Hodgkinson	SA	4:30:50
5.	Robin Whyte	NSW	4:41:11
6.	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	4:41:23
7.	Edward Dawkins	NSW	4:43:05
8.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	5:08:00
9.	Peter Waddell	NSW	5:12:16
10.	Michael Barfoot	NSW	5:19:42
11.	Tom Daintry	VIC	5:19:44
12.	Stan Malbut	SA	5:25:04
13.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	5:29:37
14.	John Lardi	QLD	5:31:42
15.	Peter Whitham	SA	5:36:39
-	Gwyn Jones	NSW	DNF
-	Dean Knight	SA	DNF
-	Russell Miller	VIC	DNF
-	Brian Carman	SA	DNF
-	Clarrie Jack	VIC	DNF
-	Sidney Bray	QLD	DNF
-	Robin Wood	VIC	DNF
Teams	1 VIC 10	2 NSW 15	3 SA 20

Bob Gardiner was the only racewalker named in the 1972 Olympic team, selected to walk the 20km / 50km double. Having won both trials, his selection was never in doubt. But sadly, Ted Allsopp missed out yet again, even though he finished only 8 secs behind Bob in the 50km trial and was third in the 20km trial. These performances were obviously not enough to impress the selectors. To his credit, Ted took it on the cheek, as he always did, no matter whether he won or lost.

**Australian Track & Field Championships - 1971-72
Perry Lakes Stadium, Perth, Western Australia, 22-26 March 1972**

The 1972 Australian T&F Championships 3000m in Perth saw a repeat win by **Ross Haywood**, with a much faster time than in 1971 And he needed to walk faster as well, with **Frank Clark** finishing less than 3 seconds in arrears in second place, well ahead of Leonard of SA.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 26 March 1972			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:44.8
2	Frank Clark	NSW	12:47.6
3	Ray Leonard	SA	13:09.0
4	Don Keane	WA	13:10.6
5	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	13:12.4
6	Phil Hollis	SA	13:20.0
7	Russell Edmunds	WA	13:30.5
8	Bob Foster	TAS	13:34.6
9	Lindsay Carrucan	NSW	13:48.0
10	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	13:51.6

1972 Glover Shield 10km
Redcliffe, Brisbane, Saturday 13th May 1972

The 1972 Federation Carnival was held in Brisbane in May, in conditions that were described as cool, wet and windy. The course was difficult, with a noticeable rise and fall, along with a rough surface. With 27 starters in the Glover Shield (Open 10km) and 17 in the Robinson Shield (Junior 10km), numbers were excellent.

Frank Clark cleared away from the rest of the field early on, going on to win comfortably from **Robin Whyte** and **Robin Wood**. From a teams perspective, the Glover Shield saw 1 Victorian team, 3 NSW teams, 1 ACT team and 2 QLD teams. The Victorian team won on a countback from NSW, being the first team to finish all 3 competitors.

This was Frank Clark's last national race and effectively marked the end of his national career.

Glover Shield 10km Walk, Brisbane, Saturday 13th May 1972			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	47:38
2.	Robin Whyte	ACT	48:36
3.	Robin Wood	VIC	49:48
4.	Varel Newmark	VIC	49:53
5.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	49:55
6.	Alan Lucas	VIC	50:12
7.	Logan Irwin	NSW	50:26
8.	Mike Barfoot	ACT	50:50
9.	Peter Waddell	NSW	51:04
10.	Terry Jones	ACT	51:16
11.	Frank Overton	NSW	51:33
Teams:			
1	VIC	13	3,4,6 (R Wood, V Newmark, A Lucas)
2.	NSW	13	1,5,7 (F Clark, E Dawkins, L Irwin)
3.	ACT	20	2,8,10 (R Whyte, M Barfoot, T Jones)

6th LBG Carnival
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1972

The 20 Mile event saw a popular and well deserved Teams Event win to the ACT home team of **Robin Whyte, Mike Barfoot** and **John Tormey**. The race provided the closest of finishes as SA scored the same number of points as ACT but lost on a countback. Victoria, with a large number of retirees, failed to finish any teams. **Peter Fullager** of SA led the field home in a course record of 3:39:39 in what was reported to be a disappointing race. The minor medals went to **Greme Nicholls** and **Steve Hausfeld**, so it was definitely a case of the top three walkers producing on the day.

The easier course and the ideal conditions had been expected to produce a much higher standard. Overall, 112 walkers made it the biggest carnival so far.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1972			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:39:39
2.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:43:48
3.	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	2:45:17
4.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:46:29
5.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	2:49:35
6.	Frank Leonard	SA	2:55:56
7.	Robin Wood	VIC	2:57:35
8.	Mike Barfoot	ACT	3:01:34
9.	John Tormey	ACT	3:03:29
10.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:04:55
11.	Jim Henderson	VIC	3:05:20
12.	Graeme Evans	SA	3:06:57
13.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:08:05
14.	Stan Malbut	SA	3:10:42
15.	Barry Wittaker	SA	3:12:29
16.	Gwyn Jones	NSW	3:15:43
17.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	3:16:04

18.	Kevin Finn	SA	3:16:46
19.	John Lardi	QLD	3:18:08
20.	Colin Hainsworth	SA	3:20:13
21.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:21:25
22.	R Byrnes	NSW	3:30:46
23.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:33:26
24.	Sid Bray	QLD	3:33:50
25.	John Harris	QLD	3:41:33
26.	J Forest	NSW	3:45:41
27.	Brian Hamer	NSW	3:55:00
-	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF
-	Ian Henderson	VIC	DNF
-	Dave Di Bondi	VIC	DNF
-	Ray Smith	VIC	DNF
-	Clarrie Jack	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Ellis	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Deale	NSW	DNF
-	Reg Tarte	NSW	DNF
-	K. Piscopo	NSW	DNF
-	Brian Carman	SA	DNF
-	Dean Knight	SA	DNF
-	Nigel Crew	ACT	DQ
Teams Event			
1.	ACT	16	Whyte, Barfoot, Tormay
2.	SA	16	Fullager, Leonard, Malbutt
3.	NSW	18	Hausfield, Dawkins, Jones
4.	SA No 2	33	Evans, Whittaker, Hainsworth
5.	NSW No 2	40	Overton, Byrnes, Dorsett
6.	QLD	48	Lardi, Bray, Harris

Bob Gardiner had been selected in the Australian Olympic team, to contest both the 20km and 50km walks, but in the final weeks before the team was due to leave for Europe, there were two key withdrawals due to injury - team captain and marathoner John Farrington and Bob. In Bob's case, a groin injury had flared up at just the wrong time. This disappointment (it would have been Bob's third Olympic appearance) forced him to reappraise his career and he decided it was time to retire from top level competition.

1972 Australian 20km Championship

Jackadder Lake, Woodlands, Perth, Western Australia, Saturday 9th September 1972

The first Australian roadwalk championship ever held in Western Australia saw the home team take the teams race ahead of Victoria and South Australia. **Peter Fullager** was the winner in a relatively slow time of 1:39:42, but with conditions described as very dry, hot and windy, with the temperature around 90°F, this was understandable. Newcomer **Lindsay Carrucan** was a surprise second with 1:41:38, ahead of former Isle of Man Commonwealth Games walker **Ian Hodgkinson**.

Australian 20km Championship, Perth, Saturday 9 Sept 1972			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	1:39:42.6
2.	Lindsay Carrucan	NSW	1:41:38
3.	Ian Hodgkinson	WA	1:42:37
4.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:44:14
5.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	1:45:28
6.	Robin Wood	VIC	1:45:58
7.	Lloyd Davies	WA	1:46:06
8.	Norman Christie	WA	1:46:40
9.	Alan Lucas	VIC	1:47:00
10.	Don Keane	WA	1:47:56
11.	Brian Carman	SA	1:48:01
12.	Frank Leonard	SA	1:50:14
13.	S. Lindsay	SA	1:52:50

14.	Stan Malbut	SA	1:54:04
15.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:55:36
16.	Neil Larchin	VIC	1:55:37
17.	Martin Davey	WA	1:58:00
18.	Kevin Finn	SA	2:00:52
19.	G. Meyers	WA	2:02:40
-	John Tormey	NSW	DNF

Teams: 1. WA 21 2. VIC 26 3. SA 31

A week later, on Saturday 16th September 1972, Ted Allsopp had his last serious race, winning his 12th Victorian 50km title in a time of 4:45:40. From 1946 to 1972, he had amassed 27 Australian Championship medals, 78 Victorian Championship medals and 6 Federation medals. He also represented Australia in two Olympics (1956 and 1964) but it could just as easily been six. He was the unlucky one to miss out in 1952, 1960, 1968 and 1972.

Now Allsopp, Gardiner, Clark and Freeman were gone. Who would assume the mantle?

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1972-73 E.S.Marks, Sydney, New South Wales, 23-25 March 1973

The 1973 Australian T&F Championships saw athletes return to the old cinders track at E.S. Marks Field in Sydney. As expected, **Ross Haywood** won his third 3000m track walk title with 12:52.4, but most interest was centred on second place getter **Don Cox** who has recently arrived from England and who was representing NSW. **Steve Hausfeld** took third place, with the remainder of the field not far behind.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 25 March 1973			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:52.4
2	Don Cox	NSW	12:55.2
3	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	13:15.4
4	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	13:30.4
5	Lindsay Carrucan	QLD	13:36.2
6	Robin Whyte	NSW	13:37.6
7	Phil Hollis	SA	13:42.0
8	Bill Cullen	VIC	13:52.0
9	Bob Foster	TAS	13:55.0
10	Greg Deale	NSW	14:42.0

1973 Alexander Cup 20km Sydney, Saturday 19th May 1973

At the annual conference of the AFORWC in June 1972, it was decided to reduce the distance of the Alexander Cup from 30km to 20km. Thus the 1971 Alexander Cup was a once off, with its 30km distance. From now on, it would be contested over 20km, starting in 1973.

With ideal weather conditions prevailing and a large representation from all States, everybody was set to enjoy a day of keen competition and good racing. The interest was centred on how the top NSW walkers would fare against South Australian **Peter Fullager**. Fullager put any thoughts of a close race out of mind in the first lap, when he opened up a large break. The lead was extended as the race progressed, seeing him win by over 5 minutes with 1:34:02. Alas, results are incomplete.

Alexander Cup 20km, Sydney, Saturday 19 May 1973			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	1:34:02
2.	Robin Whyte	ACT	1:39:12
3.	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	1:39:53
4.	Lindsay Carrucan	NSW	1:41:17
5.	Don Cox	SA	1:41:17
6.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	1:43:05
7.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:43:07
8.	Colin Campbell	NSW	1:43:30
		

Ian Jack	VIC	1:51:53
Ralph Field	VIC	1:58:08
Randall Kingsley	VIC	1:58:30
Robin Wood	VIC	DNF
Teams		
1. NSW 1	12 Pts	S Hausfeld, D Cox, L Carrucan
2. SA	21 Pts	P Fullager, T Thompson, D Knight
3. NSW 2	23 Pts	E Dawkins, P Deale, F Overton

Although Ross Hayward did not contest the Alexander Cup 20km, he did complete a VAWC 15km handicap race at Albert Park the following weekend in a time of 1:12:14. Was he getting ready at last for a serious tilt at a winter season? The answer was yes!

7th LBG Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 10th June 1973

Peter Fullager won his third LBG 20 Miles title in a row, ahead of **Graeme Nicholls** and **Robin Whyte**, while the NSW team of **Lindsay Carrucan**, **Colin Campbell** and **Eddie Dawkins** took the Teams event. In the first 4 years of the teams event, it has been won by 4 different clubs. Newcastle / Central Coast (NCC), a second NSW club, had now joined the Federation and fielded teams at the 1973 LBG Carnival.

7th LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 10 June 1973			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:40:04
2.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:43:25
3.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:46:13
4.	Lindsay Carrucan	NSW	2:58:27
5.	Brian Carman	NCC	2:59:44
6.	Colin Campbell	NSW	3:03:22
7.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	3:06:03
8.	Stan Malbut	SA	3:06:24
9.	David Bryson	SA	3:07:27
10.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:08:59
11.	Sid Bray	QLD	3:09:47
12.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:10:31
13.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:21:25
14.	John Harris	QLD	3:22:29
15.	Colin Hainsworth	SA	3:25:50
16.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:27:00
17.	Jack Webber	SA	3:29:41
18.	Brian Hamer	NSW	3:35:08
19.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:44:01
20.	Frank Kennett	NCC	3:46:25
21.	Charlie Baxter	NCC	3:48:12
22.	J Millington	NCC	3:48:20
-	J Kelly	NCC	DNF
-	Roy Thomas	VIC	DNF
-	Peter McCullagh	ACT	DNF
-	Keith Henness	NSW	DNF
-	John Tormey	NSW	DNF
-	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	DNF
-	Don Cox	NSW	DNF
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
Teams: 1. NSW Carrucan, Campbell, Dawkins			

1973 Australian 50km Championship Redcliffe, Brisbane, Saturday 11th August 1973

The 1973 Australian 50km Championship was up for grabs, given all the recent retirements amongst the elite walkers. The 11AM start time, the conditions which were warm and sunny and the testing hilly course meant that times were going to be effected, but it was only some years later that we learnt that the course itself was anything up to 1 mile over length. Now look, a 50km is hard enough at the best of times without that sort of thing!

After many years of minor medals, Canberra based **Robin Whyte** finally broke through for an Australian Championship win with 4:52:18. He was followed by five Victorians, ensuring that Victoria easily won the Teams Race. **Clarrie Jack**, another journeyman who had been chipping around the edges for a number of years, took second with 4:57:21, just ahead of **Robin Wood** with 4:57:47. It was **Tim Erickson**'s first year back in the sport after a 4 year break (he had walked as a schoolboys from 1966-1968) and he was pretty chuffed with my 5th place finish and my first ever 50km walk. Back in 11th place was 62 year old **Tom Daintry** who was actually the Victorian team captain.

Australian 50km Championship, Brisbane, Sat 11 August 1973			
1.	Robin Whyte	NSW	4:52:18
2.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	4:57:21
3.	Robin Wood	VIC	4:57:56
4.	Jim Henderson	VIC	5:08:47
5.	Tim Erickson	VIC	5:11:46
6.	Jock O'Connell	VIC	5:13:30
7.	Peter Waddell	NSW	5:23:57
8.	John Harris	QLD	5:30:51
9.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	5:40:07
10.	Tim Thompson	SA	5:49:58
11.	Tom Daintry	VIC	5:57:47
-	Paul Dorsett	NSW	DNF
-	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	DNF
-	Sidney Bray	QLD	DNF
Teams	1. VIC 9	2. NSW 12	

1974 Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Trial Canberra, Saturday 22nd September 1973

The 1974 Commonwealth Games trial was held in Canberra on 17th September 1973 and, with Gardiner, Freeman, Allsopp and Clark all gone, it was left to the new generation of walkers to make their marks. Former British walkers **Peter Fullager** and **Ian Hodgkinson** went into the race as favourites, ahead of **Robin Whyte**, with Victorian hopes resting on **Graeme Nicholls** and **Ross Haywood**.

Although Ross Haywood had won the previous three Australian T&F Championships 3000m track walk, his efforts had till now been focused almost exclusively on the summer. 1973 was different. Ross had won in quick succession the Victorian 20km Championship (a slow 1:40:44) and the Victorian 30km Championship (another slow time of 2:39:52). He had then upped the ante with a big PB of 1:34:40 in winning a VAWC 20km handicap in August. Two weeks later he took fastest time in the VAWC Ian McDougall Memorial Handicap with an excellent 2:04:37. He would be a dark horse to watch in the trial.

The result turned out pretty much as expected with Fullager first (2:37:09), Hodgkinson second (2:39:04), Haywood third (2:43:00) and Whyte fourth (2:45:36).

Commonwealth Games Trial, Canberra, Saturday 22 Sept			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:37:09
2.	Ian Hodgkinson	WA	2:39:04
3.	Ross Haywood	VIC	2:43:00
4.	Robin Whyte	NSW	2:45:36
5.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	2:47:25
6.	Robin Wood	VIC	2:53:47
7.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:53:47
8.	Stan Malbut	SA	3:09:42
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF

-	Lindsay Cox	NSW	DNF
-	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF
-	Paul Dorsett	NSW	DNF

After all the years of minimal walks representations, it was wonderful to see the first three all selected to represent Australia in the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand.

In October 1973, Elliott Denham, 1956 US Olympic rep, reported in Runners World on a rumour that the IOC was targetting racewalking in the Olympics, recommending the elimination of the 50km and the reduction of our footprint to a single 20km walk, effective as of the 1976 Olympics. At the same time, the IOC was busy adding women's rowing and women's basketball to the Games, additions that was long overdue and very worthy. But was it a case of making room for new athletes in the village by getting rid of other events? We would hear lots more about this over the next couple of years.

Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk Christchurch, New Zealand, Tuesday 29 January 1974

English duo John Warhurst and Roy Thorpe led from the start, increasing the gap as the race progressed along the Avon River in Christchurch, and walking comfortably to gold and silver. **Peter Fullager**, walking a conservative race, came through in the second half to take bronze, while **Ian Hodgkinson**, who had challenged early, faded to fifth, and **Ross Haywood**, who was had stomach problems, struggled home for seventh. The Australians were all slower than in our trial, even though the course was flat and the conditions relatively mild.

1974 Commonwealth Games Walk, Christchurch, 29 Jan 1974			
1.	John Warhurst	England	2:35:23.0
2.	Roy Thorpe	England	2:39:02.2
3.	Peter Fullager	Australia	2:42:08.2
4.	Graham Young	Isle of Man	2:42:55.2
5.	Ian Hodgkinson	Australia	2:44:55.4
6.	Les Stevenson	New Zealand	2:46:56.2
7.	Ross Haywood	Australia	2:50:56.0
8.	John "Allan" Callow	Isle of Man	2:53:12.2
9.	Len Duquemin	Guernsey	2:53:37.4
10.	John Moullin	Guernsey	2:57:27.2
11.	Robin Waterman	Guernsey	3:00:14.2
12.	Derek Harrison	Isle of Man	3:00:32.4
	Carl Lawton	England	DNF
	Elisha Kasuku	Kenya	DNF
	Kevin Taylor	New Zealand	DQ

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1973-74 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 29-31 March 1974

Ross Haywood won his fourth National T&F Championships 3000m track walk in Melbourne in March 1974, finishing a couple of seconds ahead of **Peter Fullager**. Once again, **Graeme Nicholls** had fallen foul of the judges. The other disqualification was that of a relatively unknown young Victorian by the name of **David Smith**. We would hear more of him as the seventies proceeded.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 31 March 1974			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:55.6
2	Peter Fullager	SA	12:58.0
3	Don Cox	NSW	13:11.2
4	Paul Nugent	VIC	13:22.4
5	Lindsay Carrucan	NSW	13:39.6
6	Ian Hodgkinson	WA	13:47.4
7	Peter Bethune	VIC	13:57.0
8	John Harris	QLD	15:04.0
-	Phil Hollis	SA	DQ (13.54.6)
-	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	DQ
-	David Smith	VIC	DQ

It was at this stage that Graeme Nicholls announced his retirement from racewalking. His career had been mixed, with great success in the junior ranks but a series of key disqualifications impeding his rise in the open ranks. To his credit, he went on to become an official and administrator, working tirelessly in various roles from then on. In 2012, he was honoured for 50 years membership of Athletics Victoria, a feat that few can match.

**1974 Glover Shield 10km
Adelaide, May 1974**

Alas, no results of any sort are to be found from this carnival. It seems, from the VAWC annual report of that year, that SA did not distribute the results to the member states. The only thing known is that the South Australian team of **Peter Fullager, Duncan Faux** and **David Bryson** won the teams event. I'm guessing that Peter Fullager would have won.

**8th LBG Carnival
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 9th June 1974**

With 121 starters, the 8th LBG Carnival was the biggest yet. The 20 Mile walk saw 39 starters, representing NSW (9), VIC (15), QLD (1), SA (5), ACT (5) and Newcastle / Central Coast (4). **Peter Fullager** won his fourth title in a row with his easiest win so far, over 10 minutes ahead of Victorians **Clarrie Jack** and **Tim Erickson** who crossed the line locked together with 2:53:52. With 18 year old **Russell Miller** coming in in 5th place, Victoria had an easy win in the Teams event.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 9 June 1974			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:43:36
2.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:53:52
3.	Tim Erickson	VIC	2:53:52
4.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	2:57:18
5.	Russell Miller	VIC	2:59:49
6.	Robin Whyte	ACT	3:03:24
7.	Kevin Green	ACT	3:04:19
8.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:06:05
9.	Claude Martin	VIC	3:06:25
10.	Ian Jack	VIC	3:08:07
11.	Bill Dillon	VIC	3:09:43
12.	Brian Hamer	NSW	3:10:46
13.	Peter Bethune	VIC	3:13:08
14.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:15:18
15.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:16:06
16.	Keith Heness	NSW	3:17:08
17.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:17:51
18.	Tom Daintry	VIC	3:24:15
19.	Geoff Major	VIC	3:29:32
20.	John Harris	QLD	3:31:38
21.	Roy Thomas	VIC	3:36:06
22.	Jack Webber	SA	3:40:01
23.	Alan Minter	VIC	3:40:43
24.	J Millington	NCC	3:41:06
25.	Fred Redman	VIC	3:41:50
26.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:45:22
27.	Ern Geering	NCC	3:54:28
28.	J. Kelly	NCC	4:03:56
-	Brian Carman	NSW	DNF
-	Stan Malbut	SA	DNF
-	David Bryson	SA	DNF
-	Frank Kennett	NCC	DNF
-	Duncan Faux	SA	DNF
-	R. Byrnes	NSW	DNF
-	Peter McCullagh	ACT	DNF
H. C. Campbell Shield			
1.	Victoria	Clarrie Jack, Tim Erickson, Russell Miller	

**1974 Australian 20km Championship
Brisbane, Saturday 24th August 1974**

1974 was certainly **Peter Fullager**'s year, and the Australian 20km Championship in Brisbane saw him add another title to his resume. **Ross Haywood** continued his own good form, coming second, ahead of New Zealander **Mike Parker** who took third. They were the only 3 walkers to break the 1:40 mark, in a race which saw a big field but not much depth.

Australian 20km Championship, Brisbane, Sat 24 August 1974			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	1:34:45.6
2.	Ross Haywood	VIC	1:37:40
3.	Michael Parker	NZL	1:38:47
4.	Bill Cullen	VIC	1:40:05
5.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	1:41:07
6.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:41:50
7.	Ken Green	NSW	1:41:56
8.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:42:02
9.	Terry Jones	NSW	1:42:03
10.	Paul Nugent	VIC	1:42:45
11.	Norman Christie	WA	1:42:53
12.	Richard Keam	NSW	1:43:33
13.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:44:10
14.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:44:20
15.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:46:37
16.	Jock O'Connell	VIC	1:47:30
17.	John Lardi	QLD	1:47:49
18.	John Pottage	VIC	1:48:09
19.	Geoff Barrow	VIC	1:48:24
20.	Duncan Faux	SA	1:50:33
21.	Stan Malbut	SA	1:51:16
22.	Steve Barrulet	QLD	1:52:53
23.	Bruce Cook	QLD	1:53:51
24.	Sidney Bray	QLD	1:57:12
-	Tim Thompson	SA	DQ
-	John Harris	QLD	DQ
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
-	John Tormey	QLD	DNF
-	Lloyd Davies	WA	DNF
-	Russell Miller	VIC	DNF
Teams:	1. NSW 22	2. VIC 23	3. QLD 56

**Australian Track & Field Championships 1974-75
Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, South Australia, 21-23 March 1975**

Ross Haywood won his fifth National T&F 3000m track walk in a row, with a good 12:49.4, ahead of Victorian youngster **Paul Nugent** with 12:54.8, with **Peter Fullager** third with 13:00.4.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 23 March 1975			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:49.2
2	Paul Nugent	VIC	12:54.8
3	Peter Fullager	SA	13:00.4
4	William Cullen	VIC	13:10.5
5	Arthur Jones	SA	13:15.1
6	Phil Hollis	SA	13:16.4
7	Robin Whyte	NSW	13:27.0
8	Norm Christie	WA	13:27.0
9	Peter Bethune	VIC	13:47.0
10	Gerard Bluett	VIC	14:11.0
11	Bruce Cook	QLD	14:23.0
-	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	DQ (13:10.0)

Alexander Cup 20km

Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 10th May 1975

The annual Alexander Cup Carnival was 2km lap on Lakeside Drive in Albert Park on Saturday 10th May. Although VAWC members were used to fighting it out with the traffic on the shared road, it did not suit the interstate competitors and traffic interference was an issue according to reports.

The Men's 20km got off to an inauspicious start when South Australian champion **Peter Fullager** refused to race, deeming the traffic conditions unsatisfactory. That opened it up for the Victorians, who filled 16 of the 20 first places and had the first 4 teams in the Teams Race. This was indicative of the times – the home club usually had a huge advantage in this yearly carnival, with interstate walkers often choosing the LBG Carnival in June ahead of this carnival. If it was held in Melbourne or Sydney, numbers were big. If it was held anywhere else, numbers were questionable. Youngster **Bill Cullen** turned the tables on **Ross Haywood**, winning with 1:35:33, with Ross relegated to second place and **Robin Whyte** in third. **Tim Erickson** continued his steady improvement, finishing 4th with another big PB. Further back, **Tom Daintry** set an M60 World Best with his time of 1:50:34.

Alexander Cup 20km, Melbourne, Saturday 10 May 1975

1.	Bill Cullen	VIC	1:35:33.6
2.	Ross Haywood	VIC	1:37:35.0
3.	Robin Whyte	ACT	1:37:35.0
4.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:38:30.6
5.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:41:44.0
6.	Ziggy Sokolowski	VIC	1:43:41.2
7.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:43:59.4
8.	Ian Jack	VIC	1:44:02.2
9.	Kevin Green	ACT	1:44:27.8
10.	Jim Henderson	VIC	1:45:53.6
11.	Peter Vysma	VIC	1:46:13.4
12.	Terry O'Neil	VIC	1:46:38.4
13.	Brian Carman	NSW	1:47:02.0
14.	Jock O'Connell	VIC	1:47:13.2
15.	Claude Martin	VIC	1:47:21.6
16.	Bill Dillon	VIC	1:47:49.8
17.	Bill Ford	VIC	1:49:05.0
18.	Peter Whitham	SA	1:49:34.2
19.	Greg Ellis	VIC	1:49:51.2
20.	Tom Daintry	VIC	1:50:34.6
21.	Alistair (?) Johnston	NSW	1:51:56.4
22.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	1:53:39.2
23.	Ron Crawford	NSW	1:55:24.2
24.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:55:50.2
25.	Keith Henness	NSW	1:57:29.2
26.	Bruce Conboy	VIC	1:57:37.4
27.	Mike Porter	VIC	1:58:10.6
28.	G. Wilson	NSW	1:59:20.2
29.	N. Anderson	VIC	2:00:11.4
30.	Mark Wall	VIC	2:01:38.8
31.	Alan Hancock	NSW	2:02:22.4
32.	Ralph Field	VIC	2:03:43.6
33.	Keith Coster	VIC	2:04:16.6
34.	Brian Hamer	NSW	2:06:53.2
35.	Gus Theobald	VIC	2:09:01.8
-	Paul Dorsett	NSW	DNF
-	Phil Hollis	SA	DNF
-	Peter Bethune	VIC	DNF
-	Gavan Breen	VIC	DNF
-	K. Piscopo	NSW	DNF
-	Paul Nugent	VIC	DNF
-	Graeme Dent	VIC	DNF
-	Paul Francis	SA	DQ

Teams

1.	VIC 1	6	1, 2, 3
2.	VIC 2	20	5, 6, 9
3.	VIC 4	24	4, 8, 12
4.	VIC 3	28	7, 10, 11
5.	NSW 1	48	13, 16, 17
6.	NSW 2	57	15, 20, 22
7.	VIC 5	58	14, 21, 23
8.	VIC 6	61	18, 19, 24

9th LBG Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 15 June 1975

With a total entry of 184 walkers, the LBG Carnival was now Australia's biggest walks meet, a title it has held since. **Peter Fullager** walked to his fifth win in a row, his time of 2:40:51 just one minute outside his event record. No one had been able to match his speed and strength over the Canberra Hills. **Robin Whyte** produced a 5 minute PB for second, and **Tim Erickson** was not far behind in third with a huge PB of 2:42:51. The SA team of Fullager, **Tim Thompson** and **Stan Malbut** took the Teams race from Victoria on a countback.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 15th June 1975			
1.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:40:51
2.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:42:12
3.	Tim Erickson	VIC	2:42:51
4.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	2:50:45
5.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	2:51:51
6.	Richard Keam	QLD	2:58:12
7.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	2:58:41
8.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:00:06
9.	Ian Jack	VIC	3:00:19
10.	John Tormey	QLD	3:01:36
11.	Brian Carman	NSW	3:02:54
12.	Bill Dillon	VIC	3:03:38
13.	Peter Waddell	ACT	3:04:42
14.	Bill Ford	VIC	3:05:28
15.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:06:57
16.	Stan Malbut	SA	3:09:04
17.	John Harris	QLD	3:10:03
18.	Frank Overton	NSW	3:11:11
19.	Paul Francis	SA	3:14:37
20.	Peter Bethune	VIC	3:14:51
21.	L Alderton	NSW	3:16:46
22.	Tom Daintry	VIC	3:19:49
23.	Claude Martin	VIC	3:19:49
24.	J Forest	NSW	3:26:04
25.	Ron Crawford	NSW	3:27:58
26.	Keith Heness	NSW	3:28:08
27.	Mike Porter	VIC	3:28:15
28.	George Buck	QLD	3:30:47
29.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:33:56
30.	Jack Webber	SA	3:37:26
31.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:38:02
32.	Geoff Peters	SA	3:39:28
33.	Len Buck	ACT	3:41:42
34.	Brian Hamer	NSW	3:53:12
35.	Vin Meade	VIC	3:59:04
-	Tony Andrews	ACT	DNF
-	Ern Gerring	NCC	DNF
-	Paul Nugent	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Ellis	VIC	DNF
-	K Piscopo	NSW	DNF
-	Ross Haywood	VIC	DNF
-	Terry O'Neil	VIC	DNF

-	G Rae		VIC	DNF
-	Russell Miller		VIC	DNF
-	Justin Coxhead		VIC	DNF
Teams Race				
1.	SA	25	P Fullager, T Thompson, S Malbut	
2.	VIC	25	T Erickson, C Jack, P Bethune	
3.	VIC2	30	S Cooper, I Jack, W Ford	
4.	NSW	31	E Dawkins, B Carman, P Dorsett	
5.	QLD	33	R Keam, J Tormey, G Buck	
6.	ACT	39	R Whyte, P Waddell., L Buck	
7.	VIC3	55		
8.	NSW2	62		

1975 Australian 50km Championship Perth, Saturday 16th August 1975

The 1975 Australian 50km championship, held in Perth in August, saw a breakthrough win for **Tim Erickson**. **Robin Whyte** had gone in as favourite, after winning the NSW 50km title the month before in 4:29:59. Dual Commonwealth Games walker **Ian Hodgkinson**, with a PB of 4:23:56, was also expected to challenge. In fact, Hodgkinson had led the field out in the early stages, only to flag and retire. Erickson, who had been walking with training partner **Clarrie Jack**, then took his opportunity, breaking clear and going on to win with a big PB of 4:33:05. Clarrie held on for a good second place with 4:41:00, while MUAC training partners **Jim Henderson** and **Peter Vysma** crossed the line together in 4:45:21, hoping to be awarded equal third. The officials would have none of it and deemed that Henderson had crossed first and was to be a sole third place finisher. Amongst the DNFs was an unknown Victorian newcomer **Willi Sawall**. He would not be unknown for long!

Australian 50km Championship, Brisbane, Sat 16 August 1975				
1.	Tim Erickson		VIC	4:33:05
2.	Clarrie Jack		VIC	4:41:00
3.	Jim Henderson		VIC	4:47:21
4.	Peter Vysma		VIC	4:47:21
5.	Robin Whyte		NSW	4:56:45
6.	Bill Ford		VIC	4:59:53
7.	Ian Jack		VIC	5:03:03
8.	Eddie Dawkins		NSW	5:06:32
9.	John Harris		QLD	5:14:39
10.	Tim Thompson		SA	5:25:25
11.	Paul Dorsett		NSW	5:26:00
-	Ian Hodgkinson		WA	DNF
-	Willi Sawall		VIC	DNF
-	Peter Waddell		NSW	DNF
Teams	1. VIC	6	2. NSW	15

Australian Track & Field Championships 1975-76 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 18-21 March 1976

Ross Haywood was proving unbeatable on the track, winning his sixth National T&F 3000m track walk in a row, his time an Australian record of 12:17.2. **Willi Sawall**, who had appeared from nowhere the previous winter, took second with an impressive 12:38.8, ahead of youngster **Graham Dent**, third with 12:56.8.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 21 March 1976			
1	Ross Haywood	VIC	12:17.2
2	Willi Sawall	VIC	12:38.8
3	Graham Dent	VIC	12:56.6
4	Dave Smith	VIC	13:09.0
5	Robin Whyte	NSW	13:10.2
6	Rod Huxley	NSW	13:27.4
7	Bruce Cook	QLD	13:28.0

8	Tim Erickson	VIC	13:31.6
9	Phil Hollis	SA	13:46.8
10	John Tormey	QLD	13:50.6
11	Peter Bethune	VIC	13:55.8
12	Tony Cavanagh	VIC	13:59.0
13	Greg Ellis	VIC	14:02.2
14	Zyg Sokolowski	VIC	14:17.6
-	Gerard Bluett	VIC	DNF

The 1973 rumour that the 50km walk was going to be dropped from the Olympics proved to be true. Now walkers had only one Olympic discipline – the 20km walk. An Australian trial was duly scheduled for 3rd April in Melbourne.

The IAAF, a strong supporter of walking in those years, determined to stage its own IAAF World Championship 50km. The date was set for Saturday 18th September and the host city was to be Malmo in Sweden. The A.A.U. of Australia decided not to hold a trial as such, but to select a team of up to 3 walkers based on current form.

Tim Erickson, as the current Australian Champion, was a front runner, but it depended on what times other walkers could put on the board. More of that later in the discussion.

1976 Olympic 20km Trial Melbourne, Saturday 3rd April 1976

Ross Haywood was the walker of the hour, easily withstanding any challenges and winning the 1976 Olympic 20km trial at Albert Park in Melbourne in early April in a PB 1:30:31. He had been challenged early by newcomer **Willi Sawall** who had been eventually disqualified. When the other main contenders, **Peter Fullager** and **Don Cox**, both failed to finish, it was a long way back to the minor placings, with Robin Whyte 1:38:11 and Tim Erickson 1:41:09.

1976 Olympic 20km Trial, Melbourne, Saturday 3 April 1976			
1.	Ross Haywood	VIC	1:30:31
2.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:38:11
3.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:41:09
4.	Richard Keam	VIC	1:43:46
5.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:46:32
6.	Bruce Cook	QLD	1:47:01
7.	Ian Jack	VIC	1:47:14
8.	Claude Martin	VIC	1:50:40
9.	Bill Dillon	VIC	1:54:24
-	Willi Sawall	VIC	DQ
-	Peter Fullager	SA	DNF
-	Don Cox	NSW	DNF
-	Gerard Bluett	VIC	DNF
-	Graham Dent	VIC	DNF
-	Geoff Barrow	VIC	DNF
-	Greg Ellis	VIC	DNF

Ross Haywood was subsequently named as our sole Olympic racewalking representative.

Three weeks later, Ross recorded his best ever 10,000m walk in the Victorian title at the Box Hill track with a time of 43.51. Yet on that occasion he was beaten by newcomer **Willi Sawall** whose 43:36 was a new Victorian record. In truth, the Olympic 20km walk trial was just a month too early for Sawall. From this race onwards, he was untouchable. As the season now progressed, he won the Glover Shield 10km (45:01.2), the Victorian 30km (2:23:30), the Victorian 15km (1:07:34), the LBG 20 miles title (2:33:29), the Victorian 20 km (equalling Noel Freeman's Australian best time of 1:29:12) and the Australian 20km Championship (1:39:03.6). Willi was beating his PB literally every time he stepped on the start line.

Glover Shield Carnival Gosford, NSW, Saturday 15th May 1976

Alas, yet another carnival for which the results have been lost. All I have at this stage are the first 3 places in each event, along with the teams placings. The Glover Shield saw a breakthrough win for **Willi Sawall**, with 45:01.2.

Glover Shield 10km, Gosford, Saturday 15 May 1976

1. Willi Sawall	VIC	45:01.2
2. Robin Whyte	ACT	47:49.8
3. Graeme Dent	VIC	49:13.2

Teams 1. QLD 19 2. VIC 21 3. GOS 30

10th LBG Carnival**Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1976**

The 10th LBG Carnival 20 Mile Championship saw **Peter Fullager** dethroned by Victorians **Willi Sawall** (with a 6 minute race record) and **Tim Erickson**. This would be the first of 7 consecutive wins for Sawall who went on to make the event his own personal property. The Victorian team of Sawall, Erickson and **Peter Bethune** took the teams event, the first of 17 wins in a row. The VAWC domination of the Teams Event would not be broken until a break away Victorian club called Proclamation Park would take the title in 1993.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13 June 1976

1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	2:33:29
2.	Tim Erickson	VIC	2:40:43
3.	Peter Fullager	SA	2:44:55
4.	Robin Whyte	ACT	2:49:20
5.	John Tormey	QLD	2:53:28
6.	Bruce Cook	QLD	2:56:39
7.	Peter Bethune	VIC	2:57:27
8.	John Smith	NSW	2:57:40
9.	Richard Keam	VIC	3:02:19
10.	Terry O'Neill	VIC	3:02:54
11.	John Lardi	QLD	3:03:35
12.	Tim Thompson	SA	3:05:11
13.	Eddie Dawkins	NCC	3:06:22
14.	F Sawyer	NCC	3:08:18
15.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:08:35
16.	Paul Dorsett	NSW	3:11:16
17.	Bill Dillon	VIC	3:11:28
18.	John Harris	QLD	3:15:58
19.	Frank Overton	NCC	3:18:24
20.	Tom Daintry	VIC	3:18:59
21.	Mark Wall	VIC	3:20:40
22.	Ian Jack	VIC	3:20:52
23.	Ron Crawford	NSW	3:24:40
24.	David Gaff	VIC	3:25:59
25.	Ralph Field	VIC	3:29:03
26.	Mike Porter	VIC	3:30:20
27.	Colin O'Brien	SA	3:35:42
28.	Vin Meade	VIC	3:42:13
29.	K Piscopo	VIC	3:44:27
30.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:45:47

Team Race

1.	VIC	9	Willi Sawall, Tim Erickson, Peter Bethune
2.	QLD	18	John Tormey, Bruce Cook, John Lardi
3.	NSW	34	John Smith, Brendan Hyde, Paul Dorsett
4.	SA	35	Peter Fullager, Tim Thompson, Colin O'Brien
5.	NCC	39	Eddie Dawkins, F. Sawyer, Frank Overton

1976 Olympic 20km Walk Montreal, Canada, Friday 23 July 1976

The 38 contestants in the 1976 20km walk covered one of the widest age ranges in the Olympics. Eighteen -year old Bengt Simonsen of Sweden finished 26th while 48 year old Alex Oakley of Canada placed 35th. History shows that Bernd Kannenberg, the world record holder, failed to finish. Losing contact with the leading group, he eventually retired. He did not race again in major competition. The winner, Daniel Bautista, brought Mexico its first ever track and field gold medal. He was so dehydrated at the end that he had to drink 10 cans of soft drinks before he could produce enough urine for the dope test.

Australia's sole walking representative was Victorian **Ross Haywood**. His 12th placing in the walk (out of 38 finishers) in 1:30:59 cemented his place as an international standard walker.

1976 Olympic 20km Walk, Montreal, Friday 23 July 1976

1.	Daniel Bautista	MEX	1:24:40.6
2.	Hans-Georg Reimann	GDR	1:25:13.8
3.	Peter Frenkel	GDR	1:25:29.4
	...		
12.	Ross Haywood	AUS	1:30:59.2

The VAWC decided to give its walkers a chance to qualify for the upcoming IAAF 50km Championship during the VAWC Chesty Bond 40km Club Championship, to be contested around Albert Park Lake in Melbourne on Sunday 18th July 1976. A 50km option was officially added to the program, with permission from the A.A.U. of Australia. **Willi Sawall** rose to the challenge, breaking the Australian record with a magnificent 4:12:20.6. **Tim Erickson** also responded with his second place finish in a huge PB of 4:20:41.5. **Peter Vysma** came in third in 4:34, a long way back.

Robin Whyte had the next best 50km time of 4:29:59.2, done in winning the NSW 50km Championship the previous year.

The Australian selectors subsequently named a team of 3, **Willi Sawall**, **Tim Erickson** and **Robin Whyte**, to represent Australia in the IAAF 50km Championship in Sweden. While Willi and Tim were relative newcomers to the national walking scene, Robin had been a regular Australian Championship competitor since 1964. After 12 years, his efforts were finally rewarded.

Australian 20km Championship Sydney, Saturday 31st July

The 1976 Australian 20km championship was held 2 weeks after the VAWC 50km trial and a week after the Olympic 20km walk. As Ross Haywood was not yet back from Canada, it looked on paper to be an easy victory for **Willi Sawall**. But **Robin Whyte** responded to the stimulus of being named in his first Australian team, finishing only a minute behind Willi to take second place. **Tim Erickson** had made the mistake of getting his overseas injections in the lead up to this race and was quite sick, struggling home in 4th place, behind **Peter Vysma**. The course was tough, with grass verges and gutters to negotiate, and it was a humid day, leading to slow times overall.

Australian 20km Championship, Sydney, Saturday 31st July

1.	Willi Sawall	VIC	1:39:03.6
2.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:40:28
3.	Peter Vysma	VIC	1:41:25
4.	Tim Erickson	VIC	1:42:11
5.	John Tormey	QLD	1:44:05
6.	John Smith	NSW	1:45:15
7.	Ken Green	NSW	1:45:35
8.	Terry Jones	NSW	1:45:59
9.	Bruce Cook	QLD	1:46:32
10.	Richard Keam	VIC	1:47:34
11.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	1:48:24
12.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:48:41
13.	Greg Sockhill	QLD	1:49:19
14.	Peter Bethune	VIC	1:51:11
15.	William Kirby	NSW	1:52:02

16.	Jock O'Connell	VIC	1:52:31
17.	Eric Wade	TAS	1:52:59
18.	John Harris	QLD	1:53:20
19.	Russell Willis	SA	1:53:54
20.	Anthony Cavanagh	VIC	1:55:40
21.	James Smith	WA	1:56:11
22.	Mark Wall	VIC	1:57:31
23.	David Moore	TAS	2:00:28
24.	Frank Overton	NSW	2:01:55
Teams			
1.	VIC	18 pts	1,3,4,10
2.	NSW	23 pts	2,6,7,8

Willi Sawall finished his astonishing winter season with a win in a VRWC track 50km walk at the Glenhuntly track, further improving his time to a new Commonwealth Record of 4:06:39.0.

IAAF 50km World Championship Malmö, Sweden, Saturday 18th September 1976

The 1976 World Championships in Athletics was the first global, international athletics competition organised by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Hosted on 18th September 1976 in Malmö, Sweden, it featured just one event: a men's 50km race walk contest. The course passed through the streets of the city and the start and finish points were within Malmö Stadion. 42 walkers were sent by the various member federations, with Russian champion Veniamin Soldatenko winning with 3:54:40. One can only guess at the mighty battle which would have ensued if it had remained an Olympic event and Soldatenko and Bernd Kannenberg had faced the starter's gun shoulder to shoulder.

The 3 Australians all performed creditably, with **Willi Sawall** 22nd (4:18:27), **Tim Erickson** 23rd (4:20:23) and **Robin Whyte** 29th (4:30:08). However, it is fair to say that Sawall paid the penalty for his long and amazingly high quality winter season. He was not same walker in Malmö that he had been during the winter.

IAAF 50km World Championship, Sweden, Sat 18 Sept 1976			
1.	Veniamin Soldatenko	URS	3:54:40
2.	Enrique Vera	MEX	3:58:14
3.	Reima Salonen	FIN	3:58:53
...			
22.	Willi Sawall	AUS	4:18:27
23.	Tim Erickson	AUS	4:20:23
...			
29.	Robin Whyte	AUS	4:30:08