

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1981 - 1984

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 1980.

- [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](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1971-1976.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1977-1980.pdf](#)

Australian sport marked a significant milestone on January 26th 1981, with the official opening of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra. The need for such an establishment had been discussed in the early 1970s but the concept came of age in 1976 when the Australian Olympic team failed to win a gold medal at the Montreal Olympics, something which was regarded as a national embarrassment for Australia.

Athletics was one of the 8 founding sports when the residential program was setup to attract top athletes to Canberra. Racewalkers Sue Cook and Anne Miller were included in the initial Track & Field scholarship intake, with Sue's husband Bruce as the AIS walks coach for the first 2 years, before Craig Hilliard took over the coaching mantle.

For a period of 32 years, from 1981 to 2012, the AIS was a strong supporter of walking in Australia via its scholarship program and many Australian walkers benefited from it. The Institute's well-funded program has been regarded as a major reason for Australia's recent success in international sporting competitions.

New Zealand Games

Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday 24th January 1981 - Sunday 1st February 1981

An invitation had been issued for Australia to send 3 walkers to compete in a New Zealand Games 20km roadwalk, held in conjunction with the 4th Pacific Conference Games in Christchurch on Sunday 1st February. Willi Sawall, David Smith and Tim Erickson were initially selected. Sawall was an eventual scratching, due to injury, so Bill Dyer was selected in his place.

The race, which was held on a block course near the Queen Elizabeth II Park in Christchurch, saw **David Smith** go in as a firm favourite and he was untroubled in winning with 1:26:16, ahead of **Tim Erickson** with 1:28:59 and **Michael Parker** with 1:31:26.

NZ Games 20km Walk, Christchurch, Sunday 1 Feb 1981

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|-----------|
| 1. | David Smith | AUS | 1:26:15.6 |
| 2. | Tim Erickson | AUS | 1:28:58.4 |
| 3. | Michael Parker | NZL | 1:31:25.3 |
| 4. | Graham Seater | NZL | 1:34:53.9 |
| 5. | Bill Dyer | AUS | 1:37:21.5 |

Australian Track & Field Championships 1980-81

Olympic Park Sports Field, Adelaide, SA, 19-22 March 1981

The 1981 Australian T&F Championship 3000m track walk looked an interesting one on paper. **David Smith** had won the Victorian title with 11:49, ahead of **Willi Sawall** who was second with 12:01, while **Tim Erickson**, who had suffered a race disqualification, had also been in fine form, recording summer PBs of 5:36 (1500m), 11:53 (3000m) and 1:27:12 (20km). Smith had followed this win with a new Australian 3000m track walk record of 11:11.5 in the annual Alcoa Meet in Sydney in early March.

Brimming with confidence, Smith went straight to the lead in the National 3000m walk and was still in front with 2 laps to go when disqualified. He stormed off the track before the chief judge could serve the disqualification, took off his Victorian singlet and threw it on the ground in a show of disgust, then promptly accused one of the judges of having a

person vendetta against him. His actions were referred to the Victorian team management and it looked likely at one stage that disciplinary action might be taken against him.

With Smith removing himself from the track, the gold was gifted to **Willi Sawall** who won his fifth straight National T&F walk title with a time of 11:49.80, ahead of **Tim Erickson** and **Michael Woods**.

| 3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 22 March 1981 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|---------------|
| 1 | Willi Sawall | VIC | 11:49.80 |
| 2 | Tim Erickson | VIC | 12:13.73 |
| 3 | Michael Woods | NSW | 12:29.37 |
| 4 | Alan Muir | NSW | 12:36.46 |
| 5 | Mark Wall | VIC | 12:44.45 |
| 6 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 12:48.59 |
| 7 | Bruce Cook | VIC | 13:04.53 |
| 8 | Rod Huxley | NSW | 13:13.85 |
| 9 | Barrie Birtchnell | VIC | 13:38.62 |
| - | Bill Dyer | VIC | DQ (13.01.90) |
| - | David Smith | VIC | DQ |

While Willi Sawall and David Smith lined up for the winter season, Tim Erickson was a notable absentee, walking away from the sport and announcing that he had had enough. It seemed that his cut from the 1980 Olympic team had taken a toll on him. He spent the next few months doing the fun run circuit (fun runs were huge at that time, with events scheduled literally every weekend), and it was not until late May that he finally turned his mind again to racewalking. After a couple of low key races at Albert Park, he joined the fray in the LBG Carnival.

15th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 7th June 1981

The LBG Carnival continued to grow in popularity, with the Women's 5km walk attracting a record 52 entrants and the Men's 20 Mile attracting its usual big field of nearly 40 entrants. **Willi Sawall** continued his domination with yet another superb time of 2:22:14, ahead of **Tim Erickson** who walked 2:27:23 for second. A young **Bill Dyer** showed great maturity to take third with his own sub 2:40:00 walk. Victorian women **Shiela Miller** and **Marlaine Stanway** both started the 20 mile event but only Shiela completed the event. Her time was an excellent 3:14:08. **David Smith** was a DNF, obviously not ready yet for the longer distances.

| LBG Carnival 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 7 June 1981 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 2:22:14 |
| 2. | Tim Erickson | VIC | 2:27:23 |
| 3. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 2:39:56 |
| 4. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:44:13 |
| 5. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 2:45:48 |
| 6. | John Sheard | VIC | 2:47:45 |
| 7. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 2:50:14 |
| 8. | John Smith | NSW | 2:51:11 |
| 9. | Colin Donald | VIC | 2:51:37 |
| 10. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 2:51:54 |
| 11. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 2:53:02 |
| 12. | Harry Summers | VIC | 2:53:40 |
| 13. | Mark Wall | VIC | 2:55:23 |
| 14. | Ian Jack | VIC | 2:56:35 |
| 15. | Stuart Cooper | VIC | 2:57:51 |
| 16. | David Cash | VIC | 2:59:04 |
| 17. | John Cust | VIC | 3:05:13 |
| 18. | Bruce Cook | ACT | 3:07:12 |
| 19. | Peter McCullagh | ACT | 3:09:37 |
| 20. | Claude Martin | VIC | 3:10:18 |
| 21. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:10:18 |
| 22. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 3:12:02 |
| 23. | Roy McFadden | SA | 3:13:16 |
| 24. | Shiela Miller (F) | VIC | 3:14:08 |

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|---|---------|
| 25. | Alan Hancock | NSW | 3:14:47 |
| 26. | William Cook | QLD | 3:17:23 |
| 27. | Fred Sawyer | NSW | 3:18:56 |
| 28. | L Alderton | NSW | 3:19:42 |
| 29. | Brendan Hyde | NSW | 3:26:41 |
| 30. | Bill Gould | ACT | 3:27:03 |
| 31. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 3:27:18 |
| 32. | Ron Whitham | NSW | 3:31:40 |
| 33. | Ralph Field | VIC | 3:37:50 |
| 34. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:43:49 |
| 35. | Tony Michelson | NSW | 3:52:04 |
| 36. | Paul Dorsett | NSW | 3:54:10 |
| - | Barry Birtchenell | VIC | DNF |
| - | David Smith | VIC | DNF |
| - | Marlaine Stanway (F) | VIC | DNF |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | Willi Sawall, Tim Erickson, Bill Dyer | |
| 2. | NSW | Keith Knox, Rod Huxley, John Smith | |
| 3. | VIC No 2 | Clarrie Jack, Colin Donald, Harry Summers | |

The 1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup was to be held in Valencia in Spain on 3-4 October, with the men to contest the usual 20km and 50km (billed as the Lugano Cup) and the women to contest 5km (separately billed as the Eschborn Cup). The Australian trial dates were set for July 1981 and, after the great first up World Cup performances in 1979, there were high expectations.

1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup - Australian 20km trial West Lakes, Adelaide, Sunday 12th July 1981

The first trial was the men's 20km, set for Adelaide on 12th July 1981. **David Smith** and **Willi Sawall** stormed away from the rest of the field and battled side by side for most of the race. Smith had done a Commonwealth best of 1:21:39 in May and eventually broke away to win the trial, recording 1:23:31 as against Sawall's time of 1:25:56 (a PB at 39 years of age!). 20 year old **Bill Dyer** and 18 year old **Michael Harvey** were 3rd and 5th respectively and were obviously going to be in contention for spots in the final team, as was **Tim Erickson** who finished 4th with 1:32:58. **Keith Knox** of NSW finished 6th in 1:34:47 but was subsequently disqualified. However, luck was on his side because, when the selectors finally met after all the trials had been completed, he found himself one of the four walkers selected in the 20km team. The fact that 9 of the first 10 places in the trial were Victorian indicated the depth of the sport in that State and the dearth in the other States.

| IAAF RW Cup 20km Trial, Adelaide, Sunday 12 th July 1981 | | | |
|---|------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | David Smith | VIC | 1:23:31 |
| 2. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 1:23:56 |
| 3. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 1:32:24 |
| 4. | Tim Erickson | VIC | 1:32:58 |
| 5. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:33:32 |
| 6. | Peter Fullager | SA | 1:35:39 |
| 7. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 1:35:45 |
| 8. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 1:36:43 |
| 9. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:38:09 |
| 10. | John Sheard | VIC | 1:39:04 |
| - | David Cash | VIC | DQ |
| - | Barrie Birthnell | VIC | DQ |
| - | Mark Wall | VIC | DQ |
| - | Keith Knox | NSW | DQ |
| - | Ian Jack | VIC | DQ |

1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup - Australian 50km and 5km trials and Australian Championships Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne, Saturday 26th July 1981

The men's 50km and women's 5km trials were held 2 weeks later at Fisherman's Bend in Melbourne, as part of the Australian Roadwalk Championships. As usual over the longer distance, Willi **Sawall** was in a class of his own, winning in 3:53:55 although complaining of hamstring trouble. **Tim Erickson**, who had been expected to feature highly, was a surprise retirement at the 7.5km mark. This left **Peter Fullager** comfortably holding second spot until bad blisters forced him to retire at around the 35km mark. But he had done enough to satisfy the selectors and was subsequently selected in the 50km team. The lack of real depth in this event was seen in the fact that the eventual second place was 35 minutes behind the winner, recording 4:29:16. **Harry Summers**, at 46 years of age, took 3rd, a bare 3 seconds ahead of **Keith Knox**, and hence found himself in his first Australian team after 25 years of trying. He rated this selection as the "*personal highlight of my career*". At 46 years of age, he was the oldest athlete ever to represent Australia. He had finally gained his first international selection after 29 years of competitive walking.

| IAAF RW Cup 50km Trial, Adelaide, Saturday 25th July 1981 | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 3:53:55 |
| 2. | John Sheard | VIC | 4:29:16 |
| 3. | Harry Summers | VIC | 4:33:11 |
| 4. | Keith Knox | NSW | 4:33:14 |
| 5. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 4:39:20 |
| 6. | Terry Jones | WA | 4:47:21 |
| 7. | Stuart Cooper | VIC | 4:48:52 |
| 8. | Frank Overton | NSW | 5:07:09 |
| 9. | Alan Hancock | NSW | 5:13:01 |
| 10. | Brendan Hyde | NSW | 5:31:24 |
| - | Peter Fullager | SA | DNF |
| - | Tim Erickson | VIC | DNF |
| Teams | | 1. VIC 6 2. NSW 15 | |

The women's 5km trial was a more straight forward affair. **Sue Cook**, **Sally Pierson** and **Lorraine Young**, who had all repped in 1979, were once again to the fore, with young NSW walker **Ann Ryan** picking up the all important 4th spot. The results for the first 4 determined the team makeup

| IAAF RW Cup 5km Trial, Adelaide, Saturday 25th July 1981 | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. | Sue Cook | VIC | 22:58 |
| 2. | Sally Pierson | VIC | 23:04 |
| 3. | Lorraine Young | VIC | 24:14 |
| 4. | Ann Ryan | NSW | ? (check AA books) |

With Tim Erickson still ambivalent about the sport and declaring himself unavailable, the selectors simply worked their way down the trial results and named the following teams

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 20km: | David Smith (VIC) | Bill Dyer (VIC) | Michael Harvey (VIC) | Keith Knox(NSW) |
| 50km: | Willi Sawall (VIC) | John Sheard (VIC) | Harry Summers (VIC) | Peter Fullager (SA) |
| 5km: | Sue Cook (VIC) | Sally Pierson (VIC) | Lorraine Young, (VIC) | Anne Ryan (NSW) |

Erickson disappeared from the local walking scene once again, returning to the Victorian fun run circuit.

The European Zone Qualifiers

Most Europeans had an even tougher path to Valencia. Not only did they have to make their own national teams. They also had to participate in preliminary rounds, based on 3 regional zones. The first 2 countries from each zone were to go through to the final where they would meet Mexico, the Soviet Republic, East Germany, Italy, USA, Canada, Australia, China and Spain, the host country.

The results of the zone qualifiers were as shown below but that hardly does justice to the efforts put in by Norway to secure second spot in zone 2. Their top three walkers, Erling Andersson, Lars Ove Moen and Tore Stromoy, walked the 50km event on Saturday 29th and then walked the 20km event on Sunday 30th August. Andersson's individual effort was truly amazing – first he won the 50km event in 4:05:23 and then, after a break of only 15 hours, he shared the lead in the 20km event for most of the race, only fading in the final few kilometres to finish 3rd with 1:28:33.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Zone 1: St. Aubin-les-Elbeuf, France | 05-06/09/81 | FRA 77, SWE 75, SUI 39, NED 27, BEL 24 |
| Zone 2: Helsinki, Finland | 29-30/08/81 | GBR 49, NOR 44, FRG 37, FIN 28 |

The makeup of the final was now decided – the participating countries would be MEX, URS, GDR, ITA, USA, CAN, AUS, CHN, ESP, FRA, SWE, GBR, NOR, TCH and POL – 15 in total.

Federation Carnival, including Alexander Cup 20km Davies Park, Brisbane, Saturday 29th August 1981

Alas, another carnival for which results are limited. Luckily, I found Bert Gardiner's handwritten note with the results of the Alexander Cup 20km (see below). The VAWC Annual Report for the 1980/1981 Year, indicates that, due to the distance, cost and the impending trip to Spain, none of the the top Victorians attended. In fact, very few Victorians attended overall, mainly for the same reasons, and only one VAWC senior competitor travelled to Brisbane at all to compete in the 20km. The report continues:

The setup of Federation events, I feel, should be revised. To start with, a few years ago the events were transferred from the May School holidays to August. I think this has ruined the value of the events to senior competitors, who previously may have been able to use the events as a buildup to other events during the winter. It has also changed things for some under 20 and under 17 competitors who are reluctant to travel interstate in August as they are concentrating on studies. Besides, the season is over by the end of August, and most walkers are having a let-down before starting the inter-club season. Also the schedule of events leaves something to be desired. Very few senior walkers to whom I have spoken would travel interstate to compete in a 10km event, particularly in August. However, they would be happy to go interstate to compete in a 20km in May.

Alexander Cup 20km, Brisbane, Saturday 29 August 1981

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|-----------|
| 1. | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:38:57.6 |
| 2. | Michael DeClifford | ACT | 1:40:11.8 |
| 3. | John Harris | QLD | 1:40:38.8 |
| 4. | Greg Rowe | NSW | 1:41:51 |
| 5. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 1:44:26 |
| 6. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 1:44:26 |
| 7. | Bruce Cook | QLD | 1:49:03 |
| 8. | Paul Lilley | NSW | 1:55:39 |
| 9. | William Cook | QLD | 1:55:26 |
| 10. | D. Savage | NSW | 1:56:19 |
| 11. | Frank Overton | NSW | 1:57:23 |
| 12. | Graeme Strachan | NSW | 1:58:32 |
| 13. | M.Truswell | NSW | 1:59:11 |
| 14. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 2:00:13 |
| 15. | John Tormey | QLD | 2:03:55 |
| 16. | TonyAndrews | ACT | 2:05:08 |
| 17. | Paul Dorsett | NSW | 2:07:44 |
| 18. | Noel Philpott | VIC | 2:10:43 |
| 19. | Keith Heness | QLD | 2:11:51 |
| 22. | Reg Tarte | NSW | 2:12:06 |
| 23. | K or P Davis | QLD | 2:19:29 |
| 24. | Tony Michelson | NSW | 2:21:45 |

Teams

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| 1. | NSW 10 | 2. | QLD 18 | 3. | ACT 22 |
|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|

1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup Valencia, Spain, 3-4 October 1981

Now onto the 1981 IAAF Race Walking World Cup which was the last major meet for the year for Australian walkers.

Weather conditions were hot and windy on the first day of competition in Valencia so definitely not conducive to fast times. The women's 5km led off on the Saturday morning, with **Sally Pierson** (still only 18 years old) and **Sue Cook** walking superbly for 6th and 7th places respectively. Both had beaten 23 minutes regularly in the leadup to the event and Australians had perhaps expected even greater things but the world stage is a tough arena. **Lorraine Young** collapsed from heat exhaustion in the last 100m when in 15th spot, but **Ann Ryan** held on well behind her to come 20th out of 47

finishers. The relatively high positions of the first 3 Australians meant that they took third behind the Soviets (2nd, 3rd and 10th) and Sweden (1st, 5th and 11th) in the Teams event, one place better than their fourth in the Teams in 1979.

| Eschborn Cup 5km walk for Women, Saturday 3 October 1981 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Siw Gustavsson | SWE | 22:56.0 |
| 2. | Aleksandra Deverinskaya | URS | 23:17.2 |
| 3. | Lyudmila Khrustyeva | URS | 23:25.4 |
| | ... | | |
| 6. | Sally Pierson | AUS | 23:51.3 |
| 7. | Sue Cook | AUS | 24:04.9 |
| 20. | Ann Ryan | AUS | 25:14.2 |
| - | Lorraine Young | AUS | DNF |

The men's 20km was held later in the day and, although the weather was very hot at the start, the temperature dropped a few degrees in the last half hour as the sun went down. Times were slow overall as a war of attrition was waged at the front. The one Australian who might have been able to challenge, **David Smith**, retired at the half way mark with stomach cramps and that left the other 3 Australians on their own further back in the field. **Bill Dyer** reproduced another 1:32 minute walk to finish 29th out of the 59 starters but **Keith Knox** and **Michael Harvey** struggled in the conditions and finished well back. Little did anyone think that the inauspicious last place for a young Michael Harvey would be the start of an international career which would see him participate in a record 10 World Cups. The Australians were off to the worst possible start in the men's Team Event with 15 points and in dead last place.

| Lugano Cup 20km walk for Men, Saturday 3 October 1981 | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ernesto Canto | MEX | 1:23:52 |
| 2. | Roland Weiser | GDR | 1:24:12 |
| 3. | Alessandro Pezzatini | ITA | 1:24:24 |
| | ... | | |
| 29. | Bill Dyer | AUS | 1:32:52 |
| 41. | Keith Knox | AUS | 1:37:41 |
| 49. | Mike Harvey | AUS | 1:46:17 |
| - | David Smith | AUS | DNF |

The men's 50km was held on the Sunday morning, with conditions warm at the start and becoming hotter as the morning progressed. The combination of heat, wind and changing surfaces caused a large number of retirements and saw only 6 walkers finishing under 4 hours, compared to 20 in 1979. **Willi Sawall** was troubled by the changing surfaces and retired at the 35km mark with shin soreness, while in 12th place. As with David Smith in the 20km event, Australia had lost its top gun. When **Peter Fullager** was disqualified, things went from bad to worse and it was left to **John Sheard** and **Harry Summers** to claw back a bit of honour with their finishes. We were one of a number of countries to suffer in this way and ended up in 11th place in the 50 km Teams event.

| Lugano Cup 50km walk for Men, Sunday 4 October 1981 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Raul Gonzales | MEX | 3:48:30 |
| 2. | Hartwig Gauder | GDR | 3:52:18 |
| 3. | Sandro Bellucci | ITA | 3:54:57 |
| | ... | | |
| 33. | John Sheard | AUS | 4:38:48 |
| 38. | Harry Summers | AUS | 4:43:43 |
| - | Peter Fullager | AUS | DQ |
| - | Willi Sawall | AUS | DNF |

Australian Track & Field Championships 1981-82 QEII Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland, 18-21 March 1982

David Smith and Willi Sawall continued to battle over the 1981/1982 summer, with Smith now the dominant walker - it was a case of youth eventually winning out. Sawall, now 40 years of age, continued to defy the years, winning the VAWC Christmas 20km with 1:26:55 and coming second to Smith in the Victorian T&F 3000m (11:38) and the Victorian 10,000m (41:17). But on each occasion, Smith was even faster, with 11:30 and 40:58 (this was a new Australian record).

With Sawall choosing to bypass the Australian T&F Championships in Brisbane, it was an easy victory for **David Smith** in hot and humid conditions, the first of 6 National track titles in a row. Second place went to 19 year old

Andrew Jachno, but this was not a real surprise. At that time, he held the Australian Junior records for 1500m (5:37), 5000m (21:30.5), 10km (44:24) and 20km (1:30:32) so was a class walker. He had a great battle with **Michael Woods**, eventually beating him by just under 1 second. Another youngster in **Alan Muir** finished just behind them but found out after the event that he had been disqualified, as had **Tim Erickson** in fifth place.

| 3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 21 March 1982 | | | |
|---|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 1 | David Smith | VIC | 12:00.00 |
| 2 | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 12:09.95 |
| 3 | Michael Woods | NSW | 12:10.94 |
| 4 | Mike Harvey | VIC | 12:40.38 |
| 5 | Clark Stone | NSW | 12:46.29 |
| 6 | Bruce Cook | ACT | 12:49.30 |
| 7 | Mark Wall | VIC | 13:30.28 |
| 8 | Dean Cruise | VIC | 13:34.33 |
| - | Alan Muir | NSW | DQ (12.12.82) |
| - | Tim Erickson | VIC | DQ (12.26.68) |
| - | John Smith | NSW | DQ |

16th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1982

The main reason that Willi Sawall had not travelled to Brisbane for the National T&F Championships was because he had taken extended long service leave from work and had committed himself fully to walking. As the winter season started, he moved up a notch and had his most convincing ever winter season start, with a string of high quality wins in the leadup to the LBG Carnival, including the Victorian 15km (1:04:55 – David Smith was sick and did not start the race), a VAWC 10km handicap (40:53), the Victorian 30 km (2:08:00.4) and a VAWC 10km (40:04).

Willi Sawall then won his seventh LBG title in a row, with his second fastest ever time of 2:18:18. With Tim Erickson racing overseas in Canada, the minor medals went to **Bill Dyer** and **Keith Knox**, both producing PBs. **David Smith** had been expected to be in the mix until he was disqualified. But this event is memorable for a very different reason – with Victorian walker **Mark Wall** being hit by a car and seriously injured when in sight of home. Mark described the scenario as follows:

It was near the start of the last mile and I was walking a stormer. I had passed Andrew Jachno at about 30 km, I was in fifth place, Rod Huxley in 4th, Bruce Cook 3rd in easy view. They apparently were bobbing like corks with fatigue. Rod was spent from trying to break away from me, I might even have got both, or so I believe. The bugger of the thing was that I had done the extreme Carbo depletion/ load, so I will never know if it works....ha ha !

The facts are these, it was the Commonwealth Drive Roundabout in Russell. It was uncontrolled and the motorist was looking only for traffic coming in from the normal direction. I took some evasive action but did not lift my left leg in time and ruptured ligaments. It was essentially the old 1 lap course with some bike paths, it did cause a change in subsequent years.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13 June 1982 | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 2:18:18 |
| 2. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 2:36:52 |
| 3. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:37:27 |
| 4. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:40:20 |
| 5. | Bruce Cook | ACT | 2:42:12 |
| 6. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 2:45:07 |
| 7. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 2:48:12 |
| 8. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 2:49:01 |
| 9. | Dave Cash | VIC | 2:50:16 |
| 10. | Harry Summers | VIC | 2:53:08 |
| 11. | Greg Rowe | NSW | 2:59:25 |
| 12. | William Cook | QLD | 3:04:05 |
| 13. | Ian Fay | SA | 3:06:15 |
| 14. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 3:08:29 |
| 15. | John Harris | QLD | 3:24:41 |
| 16. | Roy McFadden | SA | 3:26:34 |
| 17. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:27:15 |
| 18. | Paul Woodhouse | NSW | 3:27:15 |

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|---|---------|
| 19. | Marlaine Stanway (F) | VIC | 3:27:48 |
| 20. | John McPherson | QLD | 3:31:27 |
| 21. | Dan Reavey | SA | 3:33:40 |
| 22. | Brendan Hyde | NSW | 3:36:56 |
| 23. | Tim Thompson | SA | 3:37:40 |
| 24. | Peter Bethune | VIC | 3:37:56 |
| 25. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:44:08 |
| 26. | Paul Dorsett | NSW | 3:47:52 |
| - | Mark Wall | VIC | DNF |
| - | Alan Lucas | VIC | DNF |
| - | Andrew Jachno | VIC | DNF |
| - | Ian Jack | VIC | DNF |
| - | Colin Donald | VIC | DNF |
| - | Terry O'Neill | VIC | DNF |
| - | Ron Pilcher | VIC | DNF |
| - | Harold Van Beek | ACT | DQ |
| - | Robin Whyte | ACT | DQ |
| - | David Smith | VIC | DQ |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | Willi Sawall, Bill Dyer, Duncan Knox | |
| 2. | NSW | Keith Knox, Rod Huxley, Greg Rowe | |
| 3. | QLD | William Cook, John Harris, John McPherson | |

Australian 20km Championship Brisbane, Saturday 24th July 1982

Up till now, the Australian 20km Championship had been scheduled every second year. From 1982, it became an annual event.

Willi Sawall was proving to be unbeatable in 1982. Following on from his LBG win, he won the Victorian 20km title in early July with a PB 1:21:36, over 3 minutes ahead of David Smith who took second with 1:24:43, with Tim Erickson further back in third with 1:29:15. Three weeks later, he easily won the Australian 20km championship in Brisbane, ahead of **Keith Knox** and **Duncan Knox**.

| Australian 20km Championship, Brisbane, Sat 24th July 1982 | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 1:29:02 |
| 2. | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:35:02 |
| 3. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:35:17 |
| 4. | Michael De Clifford | ACT | 1:36:45 |
| 5. | Bruce Cook | ACT | 1:38:34 |
| 6. | George White | SA | 1:38:46 |
| 7. | Terry Jones | WA | 1:40:35 |
| 8. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 1:40:39 |
| 9. | Peter Vysma | VIC | 1:40:39 |
| 10. | Richard Everson | SA | 1:43:20 |
| 11. | John Harris | QLD | 1:44:17 |
| 12. | David Cash | VIC | 1:45:33 |
| 13. | Ian Fay | SA | 1:46:05 |
| 14. | David Brazel | SA | 1:48:40 |
| 15. | Robin Chapman | ACT | 1:49:06 |
| 16. | Ron Pilcher | QLD | 1:50:28 |
| 17. | Paul Lilley | NSW | 1:51:50 |
| 18. | John McPherson | QLD | 1:51:57 |
| 19. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 1:52:03 |
| 20. | Frank Overton | NSW | 1:55:36 |
| 21. | Paul Woodhouse | NSW | 1:58:16 |
| Teams 1. VIC 22 2. ACT 37 3. SA 38 4. NSW 39 | | | |

1982 Commonwealth Games - Australian 30km Walk Trial Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, Sunday 15th August 1982

The long awaited 1982 Commonwealth Games 30km trial was scheduled for mid August, with the main players as follows:

Willi Sawall, now 40 years of age but still keen to improve on his silver medal in Edmonton, was unbeaten so far in the winter and looked the man to beat.

Tim Erickson, also keen on a second Commonwealth berth, was finally back in good form, with 2nd in the Victorian 30km in 2:19:40, 3rd in the Victorian 20km (1:29:15) and 1st in a VRWC 35km in 2:47:22 (with a 30km split of 2:17:22).

David Smith, better known for his 20km walking, had more speed than anyone else, with superb 10km and 20km times on the board. Could he hold his form sufficiently to challenge in the 30km.

Raceday saw Erickson absent, at home with influenza (1982 was a particularly bad flu year with a new variant called 1982 Hong Kong Flu). It now became a two man struggle between Smith and Sawall, and it was Smith who took the bull by the horns, striding to the front and leading until disqualified at the 22km mark (with 5 cautions and 4 reports, it was a clearcut decision). This left Sawall on his own well out in front and he powered home to win in 2:08:28. Coming off 4th place in the 1982 Victorian 30km title in 2:24:04, 20 year old **Andrew Jachno** surprised his senior opponents with a solid performance to finish 2nd in 2:19:55 while 19 year old **Michael Harvey** finished 3rd in 2:22:04. The first three were all under the Commonwealth Games qualifying standard of 2:25:00.

Harvey favoured his chances of selection, having taken third and broken the qualifying standard in the trial but the selectors chose Erickson in preference alongside Jachno and Sawall. Jachno, a Physical Education student at Footscray Tech, said that the selection was "*a dream come true. I never expected it to come so quickly.*"

| Commonwealth Games 10 Miles Trial, Melbourne, 15 Aug 1982 | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 2:08:28 |
| 2. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 2:17:52 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:22:04 |
| 4. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:25:30 |
| 5. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 2:26:00 |

Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 10km Richmond, NSW, Saturday 28th August 1982

Alas, I have been unable to find much at all on this Federation meet, held in Richmond, NSW, during the Second Term School Holidays. All I have is the first 4 placings in the Glover Shield and the Teams results for a couple of the races, but no more at this stage. Once again, **Willi Sawall** won, continuing his unbeaten winter, with a PB 40:08, while Commonwealth Games team mate **Andrew Jachno**, nursing a leg injury, finished further back in the field in around 48 minutes. Erickson, still out of action with the aftermath of his flu, was not able to compete at all and was recuperating at home.

| Glover Shield 10km, Richmond, Saturday 28 August 1982 | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 40:08 |
| 2. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 43:40 |
| 3. | Keith Knox | NSW | 44:00 |
| 4. | Michael Woods | NSW | |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | NSW | Keith Knox, Michael Wood, Rod Huxley | |
| 2. | VIC | Will Sawall, Bill Dyer, Andrew Jachno | |

1982 Commonwealth Games 30km Walk Wynnum-Manly, Brisbane, Thursday 7th October 1982

The 30km event was held on the Wynnum-Manly foreshore and started in cool morning conditions with a slight breeze fanning the 19 competitors, but by the finish it was quite humid and steamy. Thousands of spectators lined the 2.5 km course and cheered the competitors on throughout the event.

With his 2 outstanding 30km times and his similar split in the Canberra 20 miles, **Willi Sawall** had the 3 top ranking times in the Commonwealth and he was once again an unbackable favourite. But as in 1978, it was a case of a great season followed by a disappointing finale, as he was once again nursing injuries in the final weeks leading up to the Brisbane race and he entered the race a different walker.

Steve Barry, a plasterer from Cardiff in Wales, had been unlucky to miss selection for England in the 1980 Olympics but had shown great form since then over the shorter distances and was one of the minor medal chances behind favourite Sawall. Sawall headed off hard as usual with everyone else chasing. It was Barry who bridged the gap at the 7.5km mark and he was never headed after that, finishing in 2:10:16 to break the Games record by 12 minutes. His comment after the race "*Everything hurts now but I'm elated – I'll get plastered tonight.*"

Barry, whose father David was nine times Wales walk champion, crossed the finish line to the cheers of a large Welsh contingent, not only from the Games Village, but also including local residents who strung flags and signs out their windows.

The minor medals were taken by Canada with veteran **Marcel Jobin** taking silver in 2:12:16 and the young **Guillaume Leblanc** taking bronze in 2:14:56. Sawall struggled home in fourth with 2:14:56, knowing that any of his three 2:08 times would have secured him the gold. He commented "*Once I moved over a certain pace, I started to limp so it was all I could do to push through the pain and finish the race.*"

A second young Canadian, **Francois Lapointe**, was fifth in 2:17:02 while **Tim Erickson** struggled to finish 6th in 2:19:45, still not fully recovered from the effects of his bout of illness. **Andrew Jachno**, the third Australian, finished a creditable 9th in 2:24:15 after being forced to take a cordisone injection in the leadup for a troublesome leg injury.

| Commonwealth Games 30km Walk, Brisbane, Thu 7 Oct 1982 | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Steven Barry | Wales | 2:10:16 |
| 2. | Marcel Jobin | Canada | 2:12:24 |
| 3. | Guillaume Leblanc | Canada | 2:14:56 |
| 4. | Willi Sawall | Australia | 2:15:23 |
| 5. | Francois Lapointe | Canada | 2:17:02 |
| 6. | Tim Erickson | Australia | 2:19:45 |
| 7. | Roger Mills | England | 2:21:54 |
| 8. | Murray Lambden | Isle of Man | 2:22:18 |
| 9. | Andrew Jachno | Australia | 2:24:15 |
| 10. | Robert Elliott | Guernsey | 2:24:28 |
| 11. | Michael Parker | New Zealand | 2:26:07 |
| 12. | Graham Young | Isle of Man | 2:27:04 |
| 13. | Paul Blagg | England | 2:30:42 |
| 14. | Mutai Kiplangat | Kenya | 2:34:51 |
| 15. | Kevin Taylor | New Zealand | 2:37:37 |
| 16. | Elisha Kasuku | Kenya | 2:39:32 |
| 17. | John Mutinda | Kenya | 2:50:54 |
| - | Chand Ram | India | DNF |
| - | Robert Lambie | Isle of Man | DQ |

Australia vs Italy Challenge Match

Olympic Park, Melbourne, Thursday 30th December 1982

The top 3 walkers were rewarded for their efforts in 1982, being selected to represent Australia in a track 10,000m walk at Olympic Park in Melbourne as part of an Australia vs Italy Challenge Match on 30th December. **Willi Sawall** won, ahead of **David Smith**, with **Tim Erickson** fourth. **Michael Harvey** and **Bill Dyer** had been given permission to compete by invitation, and 20 year old Harvey walked excellently to take third overall.

| Australia vs Italy 10,000m Walk, Melbourne, Thu 30 Dec 1982 | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | AUS | 41:30.0 |
| 2. | David Smith | AUS | 43:01.7 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 44:00.6 |
| 4. | Tim Erickson | AUS | 44:21 |
| 5. | Raffiello Ducceshi | ITA | 45:30 |
| 6. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 45:50 |
| 7. | Paulo Ghedini | ITA | ? |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|---|
| 8. | Maurizio Chiarello | ITA | ? |
|----|--------------------|-----|---|

1982 had been a forgettable year for David Smith and he was keen to make amends in 1983. He worked his way through the summer with a number of very fast track races but did have a few blips along the way. He was disqualified in the VAWC Christmas 20km walk, while 4 minutes ahead of Willi Sawall and on his last 2km lap and on target for around 1:21:00, and was disqualified in the Victorian 10,000m track championship around the 6000m mark while leading. He bounced back to win the Victorian 5000m track championship with a Commonwealth Record time of 20:01.0 and went into the National Championships as the favourite, provided he could satisfy the judges.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1982-83 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 18-20 March 1983

1983 saw the Australian T&F Walk distance change from 3000m to 5000m. This new distance walk would continue to be scheduled until 1998 when it was decommissioned in favour of a 20km road walk.

With Willi Sawall sidelined by a troublesome hamstring, **David Smith** was untroubled to win the 5000m walk with 20:39.46. The minor medals went to **Simon Baker** and **Andrew Jachno**, both walking PBs. Promising Victorian youngster **Martin Richardson** was fourth but he would soon disappear to concentrate on his medical studies.

| 5,000m Track Walk - Men - Saturday 19 March 1983 | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | David Smith | VIC | 20:39.46 |
| 2 | Simon Baker | VIC | 20:51.48 |
| 3 | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 20:56.48 |
| 4 | Martin Richardson | VIC | 21:29.73 |
| 5 | Alan Muir | NSW | 21:33.78 |
| 6 | Mike Harvey | VIC | 22:19.94 |
| 7 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 22:28.99 |
| 8 | George White | SA | 22:34.52 |
| 9 | Steve Richardson | VIC | 22:54.40 |
| 10 | Richard Pestell | WA | 23:00.08 |
| 11 | Richard Everson | SA | 23:28.34 |
| 12 | Peter Le Rossignol | WA | 23:28.86 |
| - | Bruce Cook | ACT | DQ |
| - | Bill Dyer | VIC | DQ |
| - | Michael De Clifford | WA | DQ |

17th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 12th June 1983

As a result of the car accident the previous year, the 20 Mile start/finish was moved to Weston Park and a one lap course, utilising the lakeside cycle path, was used. This course was used right up till 2016 although, over the intervening years, various changes occurred. The carnival attracted a record 248 entries, with all of Australia's top walkers competing, except for Willi Sawall (injured) and Sue Cook (competing overseas).

With Sawall finally absent from Canberra, the stage was set for another winner to emerge and **David Smith** produced a time of 2:32:50 to win by some 3 minutes from a vastly improved **Duncan Knox**. This was the year when Smith finally emerged from the huge shadow cast by Sawall. As well as this Canberra win, he produced Commonwealth best times for 10km (39:41.7) and 20km (1:20:22.7) to match his Commonwealth leading track performances. The other faces to emerge were those of Victorian youngsters **Michael Harvey** and **Simon Baker** who took third and fourth.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 12 June 1983 | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | David Smith | VIC | 2:32:50 |
| 2. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 2:35:39 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:36:44 |
| 4. | Simon Baker | VIC | 2:38:47 |
| 5. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 2:39:44 |
| 6. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 2:43:47 |
| 7. | John Smith | NSW | 2:45:24 |
| 8. | Ian Fay | SA | 2:46:43 |

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|--|---------|
| 9. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:50:40 |
| 10. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 2:51:09 |
| 11. | Harry Summers | VIC | 2:53:01 |
| 12. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 2:53:43 |
| 13. | Jim Bannan | VIC | 2:55:53 |
| 14. | Mark Wall | VIC | 2:57:10 |
| 15. | John Harris | QLD | 3:00:41 |
| 16. | David Thomson | QLD | 3:05:58 |
| 17. | Paul Woodhouse | NSW | 3:07:00 |
| 18. | Logan Irwin | NSW | 3:07:20 |
| 19. | Tim Thompson | SA | 3:11:10 |
| 20. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:11:18 |
| 21. | Claude Martin | VIC | 3:14:57 |
| 22. | Bob Chapman | ACT | 3:16:43 |
| 23. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 3:17:13 |
| 24. | Graeme Strachan | NSW | 3:20:49 |
| 25. | Daryl Biggin | VIC | 3:22:48 |
| 26. | Robin Wood | VIC | 3:25:47 |
| 27. | Ron Whitham | NSW | 3:26:02 |
| 28. | Paul Dorsett | NSW | 3:30:32 |
| 29. | M Truswell | NSW | 3:33:31 |
| 30. | John Morrison | VIC | 3:36:45 |
| 31. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:36:48 |
| 32. | Brian Hamer | NSW | 4:02:12 |
| - | Andrew Jachno | VIC | DNF |
| - | Bruce Cook | ACT | DNF |
| - | Mark Donahoo | VIC | DNF |
| - | Barry Bitchnell | VIC | DNF |
| - | David Cash | VIC | DNF |
| - | Greg Rowe | NSW | DNF |
| - | Caleb Maybir | NSW | DNF |
| - | Tony Michelson | NSW | DNF |
| - | Roy McFadden | SA | DNF |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | David Smith, Bill Dyer, Michael Harvey | |
| 2. | NSW | Rod Huxley, John Smith, Keith Knox | |
| 3. | VIC No 2 | Duncan Knox, Harry Summers, Clarrie Jack | |

1983 Australian 10km Championship and IAAF Race Walking World Cup 10km Trial Adelaide, Saturday 25th June 1983

The women's World Cup 10km trial was held on Saturday 25th June 1983 in Adelaide, in conjunction with the Australian women's 10km roadwalk championship. **Sue Cook** and **Sally Pierson** had dominated the Australian walking scene for some years now, and they had no trouble taking the first two places. NSW youngsters **Ann Ryan** (20 years of age) and **Rachel Thompson** (also 20 years of age) were next to finish, confirming their places in the Eschborn Cup team alongside Cook and Pierson.

| IAAF RW World Cup 10km Trial, Adelaide, Sat 25 June 1983 | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Sue Cook | VIC | 47:24 |
| 2. | Sally Pierson | VIC | 47:45 |
| 3. | Ann Ryan | NSW | 48:47 |
| 4. | Rachel Thompson | NSW | |

1983 Australian 20km Championship and IAAF Race Walking World Cup 20km Trial Adelaide, Sunday 26th June 1983

The 1983 Australian 20km championship included the trials for the inaugural IAAF World Championships, to be held in Finland in August, and the IAAF Race Walking World Cup, to be held in Norway in October. There would be up to 3 spots on offer for the World Championships team and up to 4 spots for the World Cup team.

David Smith won comfortably with 1:26:00 and was selected for the IAAF World Championship and World Cup 20km events. He then travelled to Europe and completed a great series of races that included the British track title with a new British record of 11:36 and a super fast 20 km win in Luxemburg in 1:20:51. **Simon Baker** had signalled his intentions with a time of 1:28:51 in the Victorian 20km championship and people were starting to sit up and take notice of this tall lean walker with the long stride and fluent action. He walked a fine 2nd in Adelaide with 1:28:00, gaining spots in both the World Championships and World Cup teams. Interestingly, Baker had travelled from Melbourne to Adelaide via the overnight bus, but it did not seem to have any effect on his performance. **Willi Sawall** had finally overcome his hamstring issues and walked a conservative third place with 1:28:15, good enough to gain selection for the World Championships. He chose to bypass the World Cup, having spent too much time away from his work and family already. **Andrew Jachno** had finished 2nd in the Victorian 20km with 1:28:02 and followed it up with 4th place in Adelaide with, 1:29:23. This gained him selection in the 1983 World Walking Championships team. **Bill Dyer** and **Tim Erickson** filled the next two places (Erickson had just returned from another fun run sojourn and was obviously short on racewalking fitness) but both would fill spots in the World Cup 50km team.

| Australian 20km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 26 June 1983 | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | David Smith | VIC | 1:25:59 |
| 2. | Simon Baker | VIC | 1:28:00 |
| 3. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 1:28:15 |
| 4. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 1:29:23 |
| 5. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 1:29:49 |
| 6. | Tim Erickson | VIC | 1:30:17 |
| 7. | Michael Woods | NSW | 1:31:46 |
| 8. | George White | SA | 1:33:05 |
| 9. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:35:07 |
| 10. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:35:32 |
| 11. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 1:35:58 |
| 12. | Peter Fullager | SA | 1:36:40 |
| 13. | Ian Fay | SA | 1:36:58 |
| 14. | Reginald Rowe | NSW | 1:40:05 |
| 15. | Peter Ler Rossignol | WA | 1:42:27 |
| 16. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:44:54 |
| 17. | Robin Chapman | ACT | 1:47:05 |
| 18. | David Thompson | ACT | 1:47:27 |
| 19. | Peter Vysma | VIC | 1:50:54 |
| 20. | Paul Moritz | SA | 1:52:45 |
| - | Bruce Cook | ACT | DQ |
| - | Robin Whyte | ACT | DQ |
| - | Barrie Birtchnell | VIC | DQ |
| Teams 1. VIC 10 2. SA 26 | | | |

IAAF Race Walking World Cup and IAAF World Championships 50km Trials Holdsworth Army Base, Sydney, Saturday 9th July 1983

Two weeks later, walkers gathered in Sydney for the 50km trial to select competitors for the inaugural IAAF World Championships, to be held in Finland in August, and the IAAF Race Walking World Cup, to be held in Norway in October. There would be up to 3 spots on offer for the World Championships team and up to 4 spots for the World Cup team.

The course at the Holdsworth Army Base, Holdsworth, NSW, was a tough hilly one and performances were effected.

The pressure was on 20 year old **Michael Harvey**. He had finished well back in the 20km trial so his only chance of a team vest rested on his walk in the 50km trial. He started slowly but came through to pass **Tim Erickson** in the final laps and take the win. **Bill Dyer** and **Duncan Knox** took third and fourth places, ensuring an all Victorian team for the Lugano Cup 50km. Unfortunately, no performances were considered good enough for the World Championships.

Returning to Victoria on a high, Harvey won the Victorian 30 m title in 2:20:29. This was his first Victorian senior title after 9 fourth placings in a row!

IAAF RW World Cup 50km Trial, Sydney, Sat 9 July 1983

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:18:09 |
| 2. | Tim Erickson | VIC | 4:21:55 |
| 3. | Bill Dyer | VIC | 4:27:07 |
| 4. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 4:27:15 |
| 5. | Keith Knox | NSW | 4:28:11 |
| E6. | Ian Fay | SA | 4:36:20 |
| E6 | Peter Fullager | SA | 4:36:20 |
| 8. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 4:37:19 |
| 9. | Colin Donald | VIC | 4:43:51 |
| 10. | John Smith | NSW | 4:44:07 |
| 11. | John Harris | QLD | 4:53:42 |
| 12. | Tim Thompson | SA | 4:55:29 |
| 13. | Frank Overton | NSW | 4:59:47 |
| 14. | Greg Rowe | NSW | 5:02:16 |
| 15. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 5:25:34 |
| 16. | Steel Beveridge | NSW | 5:32:04 |
| 17. | Ronald Whitham | NSW | 6:01:14 |
| - | Rod Huxley | NSW | DNF |
| - | Bruce Cook | ACT | DNF |
| - | David Thomson | ACT | DNF |
| - | David Cash | VIC | DNF |
| - | Graeme Strachan | NSW | DNF |
| - | Andrew Jachno | VIC | DNF |
| - | Clarrie Jack | VIC | DNF |
| - | Mark Wall | VIC | DNF |

The team for the IAAF Race Walking World Cup was soon announced, with a good mix of experience and youth. The Victorian dominance was evident, with 9 of the 12 team members coming from that State. Harry Summers had been in the team in 1981. In 1983, he travelled as manager.

20km Men Andrew Jachno (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC), Michael Woods (NSW), David Smith (VIC)
50km Men Bill Dyer (VIC), Duncan Knox (VIC), Tim Erickson (VIC), Michael Harvey (VIC)
10km Women Sue Cook (VIC), Sally Pierson (VIC), Rachel Thompson (NSW), Ann Ryan (NSW)
Manager Harry Summers (VIC)

The team for the IAAF World Championships was much smaller, with competitors in the men's 20km only. No women's walk was included, and it would be quite some time before this anomaly was rectified.

20km Men Andrew Jachno (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC), Michael Woods (NSW), David Smith (VIC)

1983 IAAF World Championships Helsinki, Finland, 7-14 August 1983

The inaugural 1983 World Championships in Athletics were run under the auspices of the IAAF and were held at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki, Finland between 7th and 14th August 1983.

After some superb racing in Europe, **David Smith's** 15th place was perhaps disappointing, but at least he got an all clear from the judges. He, **Simon Baker** and **Willi Sawall** all walked similar races times to the trial in Adelaide, where it had perhaps been hoped that one or more of them would produce a faster time.

| IAAF World Championship 20km Walk, Helsinki, 7 Aug 1983 | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ernesto Canto | MEX | 1:20:49 |
| 2 | Jozef Pribilinec | TCH | 1:20:59 |
| 3 | Yevgeniy Yevsyukov | URS | 1:21:08 |
| ... | | | |
| 15 | Dave Smith | AUS | 1:25:23 |
| 29 | Simon Baker | AUS | 1:28:09 |
| 30 | Willi Sawall | AUS | 1:28:16 |

1983 Australian 50km Championship Canning Vale, WA, Saturday 27th August 1983

Up till now, the Australian 50km Championship had been held every two years. From 1983 onwards, it became an annual championship.

The 1983 Australian Roadwalk Championships, which were held in Canning Vale, Western Australia, on 27-28 August, included the Australian 50km Championship. This was seen as a fairly open event as it was scheduled only a couple of weeks after the IAAF World Championships and a month before the 1983 World Cup, to which we were sending a large team. Consequently, all the top Australian walkers were missing from Perth. This, of course, created an opportunity for the remaining walkers. **Keith Knox** (4:28:20), **Ian Fay** (4:29:16) and **Colin Donald** (4:39:35) made the most of the opportunity, taking the championship medals.

| Australian 50km Championship, WA, Sat 27 August 1983 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Keith Knox | NSW | 4:28:20 |
| 2. | Ian Fay | SA | 4:29:16 |
| 3. | Colin Donald | VIC | 4:39:35 |
| 4. | David Cash | VIC | 4:41:06 |
| 5. | John Harris | QLD | 4:42:16 |
| 6. | Richard Pestell | WA | 4:43:50 |
| 7. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 4:44:14 |
| 8. | Tim Thompson | SA | 4:50:23 |
| 9. | Terry Jones | WA | 4:55:16 |
| 10. | Frank Overton | NSW | 4:57:21 |
| 11. | Harry Summers | VIC | 4:59:13 |
| 12. | Peter Vysma | VIC | 5:30:58 |
| 13. | Jim Turnbull | WA | 5:33:11 |

Federation Carnival including Alexander Cup 20km Adelaide, Saturday 3rd September 1983

Held only a week after the Australian 50km in Western Australia, the Alexander Cup scheduling was a tough ask. **Willi Sawall** had recently returned from Europe and had no trouble winning with a time of 1:25:10. I am sure he was asking himself why he had not produced that sort of time in Helsinki. **Keith Knox** backed up well from his Australian 50km win the previous weekend, taking second behind Sawall with 1:37:30.

Sadly, that's all I have been able to find about this meet, apart from a couple of entries in my archives and some engravings for team winners on old perpetual trophies. South Australia seemed to consistently fail in its duty to forward results to member Federations.

| Alexander Cup 20km Walk, Adelaide, Saturday 3 Sept 1983 | | | |
|--|--------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 1:25:10 |
| 2. | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:37:30 |
| Teams 1. VIC 8 2. NSW1 14 3. NSW2 25 4. QLD 31 | | | |

1983 IAAF Race Walking World Cup Bergen, Norway, 24-25 September 1983

David Smith and Simon Baker stayed in Europe after the World Championships and eventually joined the rest of the Australian World Cup team who had based themselves in London for a few weeks before travelling to Bergen, completing a number of warmup races around England.

And now on to the final big meet for the year, the 1983 IAAF World Cup, held in Bergen, Norway, on 24-25 September. The meet was full of great walking and exciting competition. The Soviet walkers were in great form and swept all before them in the two men's races but it was the women's race which caused the greatest excitement. Here, walkers from China, competing internationally for the first time, captured the team title and provided the individual winner. All the races were held in cold and sometimes windy conditions on a flat twisty circuit which had to be covered three times for every five kilometres.

The first of the races was the women's 10km, held on the Saturday morning. Victory went to Chinese walker Yong Ju Xu with a new world road best of 45:13.4. **Sue Cook** and **Sally Pierson** had been sitting in second and third positions but were passed by the Russian Natalya Sharypova who snatched silver, relegating Cook had to third and Pierson to fourth. The first 4 girls all bettered the existing road world best. With **Rachel Thompson** in 15th place and **Ann Ryan** in 20th, the Australian team finished in third place overall, only 4 points adrift of Russia in second. It was a historic team win for the Chinese women.

| Eschborn Cup 10km Women, Norway, Saturday 24 Sep 1983 | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Xu Yongjiu | CHI | 45:13.3 |
| 2. | Natalya Sharypova | RUS | 45:25.2 |
| 3. | Sue Cook | AUS | 45:26.4 |
| 4. | Sally Pierson | AUS | 45:39.4 |
| | ... | | |
| 15. | Rachel Thompson | AUS | 47:50.5 |
| 20. | Ann Ryan | AUS | 49:04.8 |
| 62 finishers, 2 DQ | | | |
| Teams: 1. CHN 132 2. RUS 130 3. AUS 126 | | | |

The men's 20km was held on the Saturday afternoon, and the pace was on from the gun, with the lead group passing the 5km mark in 19:55, the fastest start ever in a major event. The pace continued relentlessly, with the halfway mark passed with 39:55. Shortly after 10km, **David Smith** opened up a small gap but was disqualified soon afterwards. By 15km, the leading group was down to six and it was soon reduced to three as Jozef Pribilinec, Ernesto Canto and Anatolij Solomin went for broke. It looked like a replay of Helsinki but, with just over a kilometre to go, Pribilinec put in a remarkable kick and Canto had to give way. The Czech had what appeared to be a winning lead but suddenly the Mexican responded and began to close the gap. But it was too late and Pribilinec hit the line first in a fantastic 1:19:29.6 - he had covered the last 5km in 19:27! Canto was second (1:19:40) but was almost caught by Solomin (1:19:42) who produced his finest walk since his third place in Prague 5 years previously.

The team event concluded with Russia (packing three in the first eight) winning from Italy with Czechoslovakia third. Mexico 4th and Australia an excellent 5th, even with the disqualification of Smith. **Simon Baker**, 14th with 1:24:42, **Andrew Jachno** 18th with 1:25:50 and **Michael Woods** 30th with 1:28:17, all played their parts. Baker's time was a 5 minute PB and both he and Jachno bettered the 1984 Olympic standard, which had been set for 1:26:00.

| Lugano Cup 20km Men, Norway, Saturday 24 September 1983 | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. | Jozef Pribilinic | CZE | 1:19:29.6 |
| 2. | Ernesto Canto | MEX | 1:19:40.4 |
| 3. | Anatolij Solomin | RUS | 1:19:42.2 |
| | ... | | |
| 14. | Simon Baker | AUS | 1:24:42.1 |
| 18. | Andrew Jachno | AUS | 1:25:50.7 |
| 30. | Michael Woods | AUS | 1:28:17.2 |
| - | David Smith | AUS | DQ |
| 51 finishers, 4 DQ | | | |
| Teams: 1 RUS 113 2 ITA 107 3 CZE 101 5 AUS 73 | | | |

The final event, the men's 50km, was held on the Sunday morning and it provided a stage for Raul Gonzales to strut his stuff. He was a convincing winner with 3:45:36. It was his third World Cup victory and, although not as impressive as his majestic win in Valencia, it was still a fine walk. Sergey Jung's second place in 3:48:26 was achieved with a fine technique and, coupled with his Worlds bronze, more than compensated for his second last place finish (4:35:02) in Athens the previous year. The experienced Viktor Dorowski was 1:20 back in third place, the same position as in Eschborn 4 years before. Only 8 walkers broke 4 hours but one who narrowly failed was Chris Maddocks of Great Britain whose 4:02:38 was a new U.K road best.

Michael Harvey's second Lugano Cup appearance was a case of too hard early. After being well up in the first half of the race, he folded at 30km and eventually retired at 42km. **Tim Erickson** walked his usual solid race, coming home as the leading Australian with 4:15:12. **Duncan Knox** was the only other Australian to finish, coming 39th with 4:35:12. **Bill Dyer** had won the Victorian 50km title in June in 4:31:11, then come 3rd in the Lugano Cup trial with 4:27:05. His final hitout before Bergen was a 10km at Newmarket in England where he finished 3rd in a PB of 43:18. His disqualification in Bergen was a great letdown for Bill. His progression up till that point had been continuous and impressive. The Australian team badly missed Willi Sawall and finished way back in 12th place.

Lugano Cup 50km Men, Norway, Sunday 25 September 1983

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. | Raul Gonzales | MEX | 3:45:36.2 |
| 2. | Sergey Jung | RUS | 3:48:26 |
| 3. | Viktor Dorowski | RUS | 3:49:46.9 |
| | ... | | |
| 25 | Tim Erickson | AUS | 4:15:12.7 |
| 39 | Duncan Knox | AUS | 4:35:12.2 |
| - | Bill Dyer | AUS | DQ |
| - | Michael Harvey | AUS | DQ |

39 finishers, 6 DQ, 6 DNF
Teams: 1 RUS 118 2 FRA 95 3 ESP 93 12 AUS 27

The 1983/1984 Australian summer saw David Smith consolidate his position as Australia's top shorter distance walker. He set a new Commonwealth 5000m track record of 19:20.6 in October 1983 and reduced his 20km road time to 1:20:22.7 in December 1983. For good measure, he topped things off with a 10,000m Commonwealth record in winning the Victorian title in the time of 39:41.7 at the Clifton Hill track in February 1984. He was the firmest of favourites for the 1984 Olympic trial which was to be held in Sydney in early March.

Willi Sawall gamely chased him all summer, recording excellent times, as did the youngsters Andrew Jachno and Simon Baker. The one absentee was Tim Erickson, who had finally succumbed to a troublesome knee issue and had announced his retirement. This time it would be permanent!

**Australian 20 km championship (incorporating Olympic 20km trial)
Centennial Park, Sydney, Sunday 4th March 1984**

As expected, **David Smith** easily won the Olympic trial with 1:23:00, but the walk of the day was probably by 42 year old **Willi Sawall** who took second place with 1:23:56, less than 1 minute behind. **Simon Baker**, who was third with 1:25:06, was also under the Olympic qualifying standard of 1:26:00, so was also expected to be named in the Olympic team.

Australian 20km Championship, Sydney, Sunday 4 March 1984

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | David Smith | VIC | 1:23:00 |
| 2. | Willi Sawall | VIC | 1:23:56 |
| 3. | Simon Baker | VIC | 1:25:06 |
| 4. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:29:31 |
| 5. | Martin Richardson | VIC | 1:32:23 |
| 6. | Michael Woods | NSW | 1:34:34 |
| 7. | George White | SA | 1:34:32 |
| 8. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 1:35:46 |
| 9. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:35:46 |
| 10. | Ian Fay | SA | 1:36:14 |
| 11. | Richard Everson | SA | 1:36:56 |
| 12. | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:36:57 |
| 13. | John Harris | QLD | 1:37:34 |
| 14. | David Thompson | ACT | 1:38:57 |
| 15. | Ben Cullen | NSW | 1:39:56 |
| 16. | Colin Barnett | NSW | 1:40:31 |
| 17. | Reginald Rowe | NSW | 1:41:12 |
| 18. | Mark Wall | VIC | 1:41:13 |
| 19. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 1:42:07 |
| 20. | Peter Le Rossignol | WA | 1:41:43 |
| 21. | Tomasz Kozak | WA | 1:42:08 |
| 21. | Terry Jones | WA | 1:43:18 |
| 23. | Tim Thompson | SA | 1:44:33 |
| 24. | Alex Crawford | NSW | 1:45:58 |
| 25. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:48:01 |
| 26. | Jack Grimaldes | NSW | 1:48:32 |
| 27. | Hany El Saleh | WA | 1:58:07 |

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|-----|
| - | Bill Dyer | VIC | DQ |
| - | Per Neilsen | Denmark | DNF |
| - | Alan Muir | NSW | DNF |
| - | Frank Overton | NSW | DNF |
| - | Steven Donald | NSW | DNF |
| Teams 1. VIC 10 2. NSW 35 3. SA 36 4. WA 55 | | | |

Australian 50km Championship Adelaide, Sunday 18th March 1984

Andrew Jachno had walked the 20km Olympic trial on painkillers and could only manage a disappointing 6th place with 1:35:46. That meant he would miss Olympic selection unless he tried for a 50km spot. Once his wisdom teeth had been taken out, he was back into training and he surprised everyone, winning the Australian 50km title in 4:01:02, 9 minutes under the Olympic qualifying standard and the second fastest time ever by an Australian. It was his first 50km event and an impressive debut. After the event, he said *"I was close to retiring from the event several times because of cramps in both legs. I had to stop very half kilometre to massage my hamstrings but I had a bit of reserve and was able to finish"*. **Michael Harvey** also walked a big PB of 4:04:00 for second place, well under the Olympic qualifying standard of 4:10:00.

| Australian 50km Championship, Adelaide, Sun 18 March 1984 | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Andrew Jachno | VIC | 4:01:02 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:04:00 |
| 3. | Keith Knox | NSW | 4:21:27 |
| 4. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 4:41:05 |
| 5. | Harry Summers | VIC | 4:45:49 |
| 6. | Tim Thompson | SA | 5:00:44 |
| 7. | Greg Rowe | NSW | 5:02:19 |
| 8. | John Harris | QLD | 5:05:40 |
| 9. | Con Kozak | WA | 5:06:41 |
| 10. | George Audley | WA | 5:17:10 |
| 11. | Frank Overton | NSW | 5:44:33 |
| 12. | Bill Starr | SA | 5:46:48 |
| 13. | Jim Turnbull | WA | 5:59:59 |
| Teams: VIC 7 NSW 16 WA 22 | | | |

There were no surprises in the Olympic selections, with the 5 Victorians all getting the nod. For Sawall and Smith, it was their second Olympics For Jachno, Baker and Harvey, it was their first.

20km Walk David Smith (VIC), Willi Sawall (VIC), Simon Baker (VIC)
50km Walk Andrew Jachno (VIC), Willi Sawall (VIC), Michael Harvey (VIC)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1983-84 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 30 March - 1 April 1984

Two weeks later, the walkers gathered in Melbourne for the Australian T&F 5000m track walk, which turned out to be the fastest ever seen in Australia. **David Smith** scored his third win in a row with 19:31.53. 42 year old **Willi Sawall** excelled with his second placed time of 19:45.65, while **Simon Baker** did a huge PB to take third with 19:57.68.

| 5,000m Track Walk - Men - Saturday 31 March 1984 | | | |
|--|------------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | David Smith | VIC | 19:31.53 |
| 2 | Willi Sawall | VIC | 19:45.65 |
| 3 | Simon Baker | VIC | 19:57.68 |
| 4 | Mike Harvey | VIC | 20:40.83 |
| 5 | Alan Muir | NSW | 21:11.77 |
| 6 | Steve Richardson | VIC | 21:25.35 |
| 7 | Duncan Knox | VIC | 21:43.83 |
| 8 | Keith Knox | NSW | 21:47.11 |
| 9 | Richard Everson | SA | 21:56.41 |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------|---------------|
| 10 | Mark Wall | VIC | 22:24.38 |
| 11 | Mark Dossetor | VIC | 22:35.67 |
| 12 | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 22:41.20 |
| 13 | Rob McFadden | SA | 22:46.44 |
| 14 | Peter Le Rossignol | VIC | 22:55.01 |
| - | George White | SA | DQ (21.33.47) |
| - | Per-Henrik Nielsen | Denmark | DQ |
| - | Bill Dyer | VIC | DQ |
| - | Richard Pestell | WA | DNF |

18th Lake Burley Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 10th June 1984

Simon Baker and **Michael Harvey** improved their times from the 1983 LBG and were a long way ahead of anyone else. Their first and second placings heralded a new era and a passing of the baton from the Sawall / Erickson / Smith era of the late seventies / early eighties. A number of talented young walkers would emerge over the next few years and make their mark.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 10 June 1984 | | | |
|---|------------------|---|---------|
| 1. | Simon Baker | VIC | 2:28:00 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:29:39 |
| 3. | Colin Barnett | NSW | 2:43:49 |
| 4. | David Thomson | QLD | 2:45:40 |
| 5. | Richard Everson | SA | 2:46:02 |
| 6. | Keith Knox | NSW | 2:46:15 |
| 7. | Clarrie Jack | VIC | 2:46:34 |
| 8. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 2:47:22 |
| 9. | Dave Cash | VIC | 2:47:37 |
| 10. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 2:50:59 |
| 11. | John Harris | QLD | 2:51:27 |
| 12. | Harry Summers | VIC | 2:53:40 |
| 13. | Bruce Dudon | VIC | 2:57:42 |
| 14. | Colin Donald | VIC | 2:58:28 |
| 15. | Greg Rowe | NSW | 3:01:03 |
| 16. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:01:46 |
| 17. | Bill Cullen | VIC | 3:07:13 |
| 18. | John Smith | NSW | 3:09:48 |
| 19. | Frank Overton | NSW | 3:12:38 |
| 20. | Roy McFadden | SA | 3:15:19 |
| 21. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 3:18:39 |
| 22. | Theo Orr | VIC | 3:25:14 |
| 23. | Paul Moritz | SA | 3:27:59 |
| 24. | Colin Hainsworth | SA | 3:29:14 |
| 25. | Tim Thompson | SA | 3:35:45 |
| 26. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:36:06 |
| 27. | Brian Hamer | NSW | 3:53:51 |
| - | Andrew Jachno | VIC | DNF |
| - | John Morrison | VIC | DNF |
| - | Jim Leppik | VIC | DNF |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | Simon Baker, Michael Harvey, Mark Donahoo | |
| 2. | NSW | Keith Knox, Col Barnett, John Harrison | |
| 3. | VIC 2 | Clarrie Jack, Harry Summers, David Cash | |

1984 Olympic Games

Los Angeles, California, 28th July - 12th August 1984

The Olympic 20km walk, held on 3rd August, had an entry list of 42 competitors, of whom 38 started. It was not only a small field, but also one that lacked the usual depth, given the boycott led by Russia. Unlike the 1980 USA led boycott,

which had not really effected the walks, this boycott meant that the strong walks countries like Russia, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc, were all missing. By way of balance, whereas there were a large number of DQs in 1980, this time all 38 walkers finished the race. That must have been a first!

David Smith was the best of the Australians, finishing 10th with 1:26:48, a reasonable performance but a bit of a disappointment, given his PB of 1:20:22 and his recent spate of record breaking walking. **Simon Baker**'s Olympic walk was a repeat of his 1983 World Cup walk – 14th place. His slower time of 1:27:43 reflected the hotter conditions. In the space of 2 years, Simon had come out of nowhere and was now amongst our top walkers. **Willi Sawall**, at 42 years of age, was struggling with recurrent injuries but still knew only one way to race – from the front. He led early and toughed it out to finish 16th with 1:28:24. I rate his performance as the best of the three Australians from a relative perspective.

| 1984 Olympic 20km Walk, Los Angeles, USA, Fri 3 Aug 1984 | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ernesto CANTO | MEX | 1:23:13 |
| 2. | Raul GONZALES | MEX | 1:23:20 |
| 3. | Maurizio DAMILANO | ITA | 1:23:26 |
| | ... | | |
| 10. | David SMITH | AUS | 1:26:48 |
| 14. | Simon BAKER | AUS | 1:27:43 |
| 16. | Willi SAWALL | AUS | 1:28:24 |
| (38 finishers, 0 DNF, 0 DQ) | | | |

The 50km field was even more decimated by the boycott and saw only 31 starters. If you were ever going to get a high place finish, this was the race for you. Well, except for the fact that you had to actually finish. The day was hot as the race started and it got hotter and hotter as the race progressed. On a course devoid of shade, world record holder Raul Gonzalez went out hard, taking his chances in the sauna like conditions and leaving the field in his wake. He powered through to win by almost six minutes, his time of 3:47:26 a superhuman effort in the conditions. Bo Gustaffson and Sandro Belluci took the minor medals with 3:53 performances. Overall, nearly half the field failed to finish, with 9 retirements and 5 DQs.

Michael Harvey, at only 21 year of age, was half the age of Willi Sawall but was already a seasoned international campaigner, having competed in 2 World Cups. Even though he went on to have an international career spanning 20 years and 10 World Cup representations, he ranks his effort at the 1984 Olympic 50km as his finest hour, finishing 11th in 4:09:18. Both **Willi Sawall** and **Andrew Jachno** succumbed to the conditions and were amongst the large list of retirees.

| 1984 Olympic 50km Walk, Los Angeles, USA, Sat 11 Aug 1984 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Raul GONZALEZ | MEX | 3:47:26 |
| 2. | Bo GUSTAFSSON | SWE | 3:53:19 |
| 3. | Sandro BELLUCCI | ITA | 3:53:45 |
| | ... | | |
| 11. | Michael HARVEY | AUS | 4:09:18 |
| - | Andrew JACHNO | AUS | DNF |
| - | Willi SAWALL | AUS | DNF |
| (17 finishers, 9 DNF, 5 DQ) | | | |

Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 10km Ballarat, Saturday 1st September 1984

The heading on the results sheets indicates that the carnival was conducted by the Ballarat Athletic Centre for the VAWC and indicates the venue as Llanberris Track, Ballarat, and that is correct. It remains one of the very few track based Federation Canivals. The then VRWC Secretary Alan Minter recently clarified it for me.

We asked the Ballarat centre if they would be interested in hosting the event in recognition of the number of walkers who had come from there over the years. They did an excellent job. One thing I clearly remember: we had changed the VAWC uniform a couple of years earlier from the old blue and white singlet to the all navy blue. I had written to the then secretary of the Federation advising of the change and we had competed in the new singlets in several Federation carnivals since the change. The 1984 Federation secretary, before the start of the first race, confronted me and threatened to disqualify all the VAWC walkers who competed in the new

singlets. She claimed that under the constitution, our uniform was the blue and white singlet and white shorts and all our walkers would be in wrong uniform. Obviously the previous secretary hadn't updated the records. It took a lot of convincing from myself, Ray Smith and a number of other committee members to change her attitude.

The numbers in the individual events were large and would have required a huge team of lapscorers to control. **Keith Knox** walked one his best ever races to win with 44:39.3, ahead of **Duncan Knox** with 44:45 and **Richard Everson** with 47:03. None of the Olympic walkers participated, content to sit it out so soon after their races in Los Angeles.

| Glover Shield 10km Walk, Ballarat, Saturday 1 Sept 1984 | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Keith Knox | NSW | 44:39.3 |
| 2. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 44:45 |
| 3. | Richard Everson | SA | 47:03 |
| 4. | Dave Cash | VIC | 47:50 |
| 5. | Steven Richardson | VIC | 48:03 |
| 6. | Ian Fay | SA | 48:05 |
| 7. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 48:05 |
| 8. | John Harris | NSW | 48:18 |
| 9. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 48:45 |
| 10. | Mark Wall | VIC | 50:54 |
| 11. | Paul Nunn | VIC | 51:10 |
| 12. | Michael Bodey | VIC | 51:21 |
| 13. | Harry Summers | VIC | 51:28 |
| 14. | Gerard Feain | VIC | 51:51 |
| 15. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 52:11 |
| 16. | Rod Huxley | NSW | 52:11 |
| 17. | Keith Law | NSW | 52:47 |
| 18. | Tim Thompson | SA | 53:29 |
| 19. | P. Alderson | SA | 53:57 |
| 20. | Daryl Biggin | VIC | 53:58 |
| 21. | J. Young | NSW | 54:12 |
| 22. | George Paton | VIC | 54:24 |
| 23. | Paul Moritz | SA | 54:49 |
| 24. | Frank Overton | NSW | 55:23 |
| 25. | D. Hill | NSW | 57:23 |
| 26. | Colin Hainsworth | SA | 57:39 |
| 27. | R. Johnson | NSW | 57:50 |
| 28. | Brian Hamer | ACT | 62:41 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | 11 | D. Knox, D. Cash, S. Richardson |
| 2. | NSW | 21 | K. Knox, J. Harris, R. Huxley |
| 3. | SA | 23 | R. Everson, I. Fay, T. Thompson |