



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP DATE CHANGES

- World Athletics has frozen its Olympic qualifying window in response to the coronavirus pandemic. It is now suspended until the start of December, meaning any results achieved between now and then will not count towards either Tokyo 2020 places or world rankings. Should the pandemic allow, the qualification period will resume at the start of December and end up being four months longer in total than had been planned before the postponement of Tokyo 2020 until next summer. Read more at <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1092924/world-athletics-freeze-and-furlough>. It now looks like this (thanks to omarchador for the graphic below)



QUALIFICATION DATES

Race walk events	Entry standards period	World rankings period
50km	1 January 2019 – 5 April 2020	1 December 2018 – 5 April 2020
	1 December 2020 – 31 May 2021	
	21 months	22 months
20km	1 January 2019 – 5 April 2020	
	1 December 2020 – 29 June 2021	
	22 months	22 months

- The 2021 World Athletics Championships in Oregon have been rescheduled to July 15-24, 2022. The World Championships are moving from 2021 to avoid a clash with the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The Commonwealth Games will take place from July 27 to August 7 in Birmingham, with athletics competition expected to be scheduled in the final week of the Games. The European Championships will follow in Munich between August 11 and 21. "This will be a bonanza for athletics fans around the world," said Sebastian Coe. "They will be treated to six weeks of absolutely first-class athletics. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1092947/world-athletics-championships-july-2022>.

Add in the World Masters T&F Championships which are in Sweden from 7-17 August 2022 and you have an absolute smorgasbord of athletics.

July 15-24, 2021	18th World Athletics Championships , Eugene, USA
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022	XXII Commonwealth Games , Birmingham, GBR
Aug 7-17, 2022	24th World Masters T&F Championships , Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 11-21, 2022	European Athletics Championships , Munich, GER

Obviously Seb Coe believes that having the World championships in Oregon, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and European Athletics Champions in Munich in a 6 week span is achievable. It's not! I am reminded of 1978 when the Commonwealth Games were in Edmonton (Canada) and the European Championships followed shortly afterwards in Prague. If memory serves me correctly, the likes of Seb Coe and Steve Ovett did not go to Edmonton because of the big travel distances and times zones involved and the recovery time needed, so they chose to compete only at Prague.

Is Coe really sincere in now expecting that our current athletes will compete at all three of these meets? I doubt it, and herein lies the rub. Top athletes (walkers included) earn prize money and bonuses and attract sponsors by competing in these meets. Having to choose which meets they attend will have a direct impact on their annual earnings, their sponsorship and the amount of financial support they ultimately get from their own countries.

Realistically, one of the meets will come out as the winner and the other two will be losers.

- The need to train does not stop for our top walkers, as shown in this great article on Irish 50km walker **Brendon Boyce** – worth a read: <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/welcome-to-my-world-brendan-boyce-walks-on-as-everyone-else-joins-in-1.4224008>.
- What are we all up to? I invite VRWC members - at whatever age or level - to send in a brief paragraph (photos too, if you wish) of what kind of training or exercising you are engaged in during this time of isolation. Exercise is still a legitimate reason to be out of the house and I have been amazed at just how many people are now out and about on the Moonee Ponds Creek bike track where I walk each day. Officials, judges and family members, let's hear what's going on!

I kick things off with a photo of Masters supremo Andrew Jamieson on the treadmill in his back shed. Well done Andrew!



PAUL DEMEESTER CONTINUES HIS FOCUS ON THE WORLD ATHLETICS ORGANISATION

A Women's 50K Race Walk at Tokyo 2020 is Not Just a Moral Imperative But Also a Legal One

By Paul F. DeMeester

On 3 February 2020, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) announced that it had no jurisdiction over the exclusion of women from an Olympic event that is available to male athletes. CAS would rather be just a drug court. It also means that women athletes can turn to national courts to vindicate their rights. The women 50K-ers have a strong legal case. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is dead wrong. Here's why.

Men have been contesting the Olympic 50K Race Walk Event since 1932, with the exception of 1976. Women race walkers have been contesting the 50K at world level at IAAF/WA events since 2016, when Erin Taylor-Talcott competed at the World Race Walking Team Championships in Rome. But they are still excluded from the Olympic 50K Race Walk. Not for a lack of trying. In 2018, World Athletics, under the leadership of Council Member Abby Hoffman, asked the IOC to include them. In 2019, seven women 50K walkers and one male 50K two-time Olympian brought suit in CAS to seek inclusion. The IOC vigorously opposed both efforts.

The IOC's own Constitution, the Olympic Charter, expressly outlaws sex discrimination. Having an Olympic event for men but not for women is precisely that: sex discrimination. The IOC is bound by the Olympic Charter. But the Charter goes further than setting forth rights and prohibitions. The Olympic Charter imposes duties on the IOC that it, and its most powerful organ, the Executive Board, have to fulfill.

The IOC is tasked with the role of acting against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement and to encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women. The IOC Executive Board must monitor the observance of the Olympic Charter and take all decisions and promulgate regulations necessary to ensure the proper implementation of the Olympic Charter and the organization of the Olympic Games. In other words, the IOC did not have to wait for the IAAF request of December 2018 to include women. The IOC has had a duty to see to it that the 50K Race Walk Event was free of gender discrimination ever since the sex discrimination prohibition became part of the Olympic Charter's Fundamental Principles in September 2004, after the close of the Athens Games. This means that the IOC had a duty to include women 50K-ers in the Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016 Games without the need for a request or lawsuit. The IOC has failed to fulfill its required duties.

Sure, the concept of a duty to act sounds a bit legalese. What does it really mean? Think of the relationship between parent and child. The newborn baby does not look after itself. No, the law typically imposes a duty to act on the parent, a duty that lasts until the child is no longer a minor. The duty exists from the day the baby is born until the age of majority is reached and every day in between. And so it is with the IOC. Where the Olympic Charter imposes a duty to act on the IOC and its Executive Board, that duty exists every day and it is up to the IOC and Board to fulfill its duty to act on a daily basis.

The IOC excused its failure to act on a rule in the Olympic Charter that requires its Executive Board to decide on the Olympic Games events programme not later than three years prior to the opening of the Games. The Executive Board decided the Tokyo 2020 programme on 7 June 2017. The Men's 50K Race Walk was listed under the Men's Events but the corresponding space on the Women's Events side of the athletics programme was left blank.

The IOC excuse is a poor one and lacks a legal basis. The Olympic Charter consists of constitutional provisions and ordinary regulations. One does not have to be a lawyer to know that a constitutional rule is higher ranking than an ordinary one. This means that if there is a conflict between a constitutional principle, such as the prohibition against sex discrimination, and the implementation of the three-year event decision rule, the constitutional principle wins. So, the IOC excuse does not work.

But it gets worse. The three-year event programming rule has a waiver provision attached to it, as long as the IOC, the relevant International Federation and the Local Organising Committee agree. The IAAF, now World Athletics, had already approved the inclusion of women 50K walkers when it made its request to the IOC. That leaves the IOC and the local committee, both of which are bound to comply with the Charter. Their approval was mandatory based on the duty to act imposed on them by the higher ranking Olympic Charter's Fundamental Principles. Hence, they had no choice but to go along with the IAAF's request of December 2018. Again, the IOC excuse crumbles, undone by the Charter.

Moreover, the IOC missed a great opportunity to save face. The 50K Race Walk was already on the 2020 Tokyo events programme. But only for men. The IAAF has proved that 50K races can be conducted in joint fashion. Indeed, men and women have successfully raced together in Rome, London, Taicang and Doha. For the last three of those races, separate classifications were maintained for male and female competitors. Thus, all the IOC had to say was that given that the event was already on the programme, it would now become gender equal and that women 50K-ers would be included. Unfortunately, this simple fix bumped up against a stumbling block: IOC sexism. The postponement of the 2020 Games gives the IOC another chance to comply with its own Charter. It's not too late.

MARCIADALMONDO ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 3 press release for us this week.

- Sat 11 Apr - AtleticaViva Online: The 50km women's walk: history, analysis and evolution of a race http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3785
- Wed 8 Apr - The World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon have been re-scheduled to 2022 http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3784
- Tue 7 Apr - World Athletics suspends qualification period to Tokyo from April 6 2020 to November 30 2020 http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3783

You should also check out Omarchador which always has interesting articles. This week, I can point to this article in which Jared Tallent vows to fight on and race in Tokyo next year.

- Thu 9 Apr - Tallent seeks redemption in Tokyo <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/tallent-procura-redencao-em-toquio.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- What a legend? Spanish walker **Jesús Ángel García** has confirmed he will aim to compete at a record eighth Olympic Games, despite the postponement of Tokyo 2020 to 2021. The 50-year-old featured at his first Olympics at Barcelona 1992, finishing 10th in the 50 kilometres race walk and has an unparalleled record in terms of longevity. He has competed at every Games since and is now focusing on Tokyo 2020, which has been rescheduled to July 23 to August 8 in 2021 due to the pandemic. See more at <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1093010/garcia-on-track-for-eighth-olympic-games> and <https://www.european-athletics.org/news/article=garcia-still-targets-olympic-farewell-tokyo-the-age/index.html>
- 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of Lithuanian racewalking so the **Lithuanian Race Walking Yearbook 2019** was even bigger and more sumptuous than normal. This is definitely the best produced and most impressive yearbook put out by any racewalking association and the 31st edition surpasses all previous efforts.

We are all used to meeting Kastytis Pavilionis, the President of Lithuanian race walking association, at the various international racewalking meets, and he is normally there handing out copies of their latest Yearbook. I have quite a few of them on my bookshelves. You can now read the yearbook online at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NLI1tgJW5H3p-u5KFUvMhsj0BqKrUrB1/view?usp=sharing>.

- What is a safe distance when running, biking and walking during COVID-19 times? It is further than the typical 1–2 meter as prescribed in different countries! As we are all going out for our self-isolation daily exercise at the moment, this article is of particular importance. See <https://medium.com/@jurgenthoelen/belgian-dutch-study-why-in-times-of-covid-19-you-can-not-walk-run-bike-close-to-each-other-a5df19c77d08>.

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Here are the answers to last week's 5 questions. Duncan Knox was the best with 3 out of 5.

6. Which Australian walker has the most appearances in the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships?

Victorian **Michael Harvey** leads the pack with a superb 10 team vests, every World Racewalking Cup from 1981 (when he was 19 years of age) to 1999 (when he was nearly 40). Behind him, **Jared Tallent**, **Chris Erickson**, **Duane Cousins** and **Luke Adams** sit on 7. These walkers all competed before the U20 10km walks were added. Nowadays, young walkers can tick off one or two extra vests due to the earlier start. Of the 'youngsters', **Rhydian Cowley** leads the pack with 6 vests.

10	Harvey, Mike	VIC	1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999
7	Tallent, Jared	VIC/SA	2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
7	Erickson, Chris	VIC	2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
7	Cousins, Duane	VIC	1995, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008
7	Adams, Luke	NSW	1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012
6	Smith, David	VIC	1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1991
6	Rutter, Adam	NSW	2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014
6	Cowley, Rhydian	VIC	2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018
6	Baker, Simon	VIC	1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993
5	Jachno, Andrew	VIC	1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991
5	Bird-Smith, Dane	QLD	2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018
5	A'Hern, Nick	NSW	1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999

Jane Saville and **Kerry Junna-Saxby** lead the way in the women's count, with 7 vests apiece, ahead of **Lorraine Young** and **Sue Cook**. The men's counts are generally higher as they can choose from 20km and 50km. The women only had a single distance option up till 2018, so it was harder for them to make the teams year after year.

7	Saville, Jane	NSW	1993, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008
7	Junna-Saxby, Kerry	NSW	1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1999
6	Young/Jachno, Lorraine	VIC	1979, 1981, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991
6	Orr/Cook, Susan	VIC	1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1991
5	Woods/Tallent, Claire	SA	2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2018

7. Which Australian walker has broken the most number of official world records?

Ok, I didn't specify whether I was referring to Open or Masters so I will give both answers.

- The most Open World Records goes to **Kerry Saxby-Junna** who set 32 World Bests/Records in race walking. I won't list them all but take my word for it.
- The most Masters World Records go to **Heather Carr**. She broke her first World Masters records in the W40 division (49:37 for 10km and 1:42:22 for 20km) and she continues to rewrite the record books in her current W70 division. That makes 7 age group divisions in all. I can't give a definitive answer but I suspect the overall number must be somewhere between 40 and 50. Heather will probably be able to tell me.

8. Who was the first Australian walker to have a performance recognised as an official World Record?

The idea of founding a world body to govern athletics kicked off in 1912 and, in 1913, the IAAF was officially established. As early as the second congress in 1913, the question of world records came up for discussion. At the fifth congress in 1921, the IAAF's first list of World Records was submitted. Where results could be checked by reliable documents, old performances were recognised. This was the case, for instance, for the Englishman Shrubbs's fantastic series of records dating from the years 1903-04, and the American Wefer's short distance results from around about 1896.

I haven't been able to find which racewalking events made the cut on this 1921 list. Certainly, it would have been a subset and would have included the 1920 Olympic distances of 3000m and 10,000m. It may not have included the 20km and 50km distances as they were not yet contested internationally at that stage.

Events which did not qualify for IAAF-ratified world records were typically referred to as World Bests. The 1 Mile walk and the 3500m walk were in that category. This leads me to my first contender, namely **William (Bill) Murray**, the Victorian walker who competed in the 1912 Olympics. He won the 1 Mile walk in the 1912 Victorian T&F Championships in a World Best time of 6:22.2. A month later, he established a new World Best for the 3500m walk with a time of 14:49.4. Rasmussen and Lassen officially acknowledge these 2 performance in their '*Evolution of Race Walking Record and Best Performances*' of April 1985.

Rasmussen and Lassen also officially acknowledge NSW walker **Athol Stubbs**' Stubbs' 1939 1 Mile walk time of 6:18.2 and his 1940 1 Mile time of 6:15.2 as World Bests.. They also acknowledge his 1940 1500m walk time of 5:50.0 as a World Best for that distance, breaking the then best time of 5:53.4.

Alas, none of these performances were in events officially recognised by the IAAF for World Record purposes. The first Australian walker to satisfy that requirement was Victorian **Ted Allsopp**, when competing in a 2 hour track race at the Olympic Park in Melbourne on Saturday 22 September 1956. This race still stands today as one of the most impressive races ever in Australian history. It resulted in

- A new World Record for the 2 Hour Walk Ted Allsopp
- 6 new Empire Records Don Keane and Ted Allsopp
- 10 new Australian Open Records Don Keane and Ted Allsopp
- 9 new Victorian Open Records Don Keane and Ted Allsopp
- 7 new Australian Junior Records Noel Freeman
- 7 new Victorian Junior Records Noel Freeman

Don Keane lead for the first 17 km while Ted fought out second spot with Norm Read. As Don tired, Ted stormed home to set the first ever officially recognised World Record by an Australian walker. Ted's 2 Hour World Record distance was 16 miles 403 yards (26.118km).

You can see Ted's performance listed in the most recent edition of the IAAF's World Record Progression (1915 edition) at <http://iaaf-ebooks.s3.amazonaws.com/2015/Progression-of-IAAF-World-Records-2015/projet/IAAF-WRPB-2015.pdf>.

9. Which Australian walker has the most medals from major championships (Olympics, World Champs, World Team Champs, Commonwealth Games)?

Some people suggested **Kerry Saxby-Junna** who won a record 27 National titles, set 32 World Best/Records in race walking and represented Australia in 24 major championships. She collected 9 medals in the major championships: 2 World Championship, 3 World Indoors, 1 World Walking Cup, 3 Commonwealth Games.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|----------|
| • 1987 World Championships | 10 km Walk | 2 | 44:23 |
| • 1989 World Indoor | 3,000m Walk | 1 | 12:01.65 |
| • 1989 Race Walking World Cup | 10 km Walk | 2 | 43:12 |
| • 1990 Commonwealth Games | 10 km Walk | 1 | 45:03 |
| • 1991 World Indoor | 3,000m Walk | 2 | 12:03.21 |

• 1993 World Indoor	3,000m Walk	2	11:53.82
• 1994 Commonwealth Games	10 km Walk	1	44:25
• 1998 Commonwealth Games	10 km Walk	2	44:27
• 1999 World Championships	20 km Walk	3	1:31:18

But she is eclipsed by **Jared Tallent** who has an amazing 15 medals in major world meets. In fact, between 2008 and 2016, he medalled in 11 of the 12 major internationals that he contested - Olympics, World Cup, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. That is an unbelievable performance and must be just about unmatched in walking. Here's his list of major medals. He stands alone!

• 2006 Commonwealth Games Melbourne	20 km Walk	3	1:23:32
• 2008 Olympic Games Beijing	20 km Walk	3	1:19:42
• 2008 Olympic Games Beijing	50 km Walk	2	3:39:27
• 2009 IAAF World Champs Berlin	20 km Walk	5	1:20:27
• 2009 IAAF World Champs Berlin	50 km Walk	6	3:44:50
• 2010 World Racewalking Cup Chihuahua	50 km Walk	3	3:54:55
• 2010 Commonwealth Games Delhi	20 km Walk	1	1:22:18
• 2011 IAAF World Champs Daegu	50 km Walk	2	3:43:36
• 2012 World Racewalking Cup Saransk	50 km Walk	1	3:40:32
• 2012 Olympic Games London	50 km Walk	1	3:36:53 (OR)
• 2013 IAAF World Champs Moscow	50 km Walk	3	3:40:03
• 2014 World Racewalking Cup Taicang	50 km Walk	3	3:42:48
• 2015 IAAF World Champs Beijing	50 km Walk	2	3:42:17
• 2016 World Racewalking Cup Rome	50 km Walk	1	3:42:36
• 2016 Olympic Games Rio	50 km	2	3:41:16

10. What are the longest standing and the most recent Australian racewalking records?

The longest standing Australian racewalking records are by **Michael Harvey** (male) and **Kerry Saxby-Junna** (female).

• Aust U20 20,000m Track Walk	1:36:39.7	27-Jun-81	Melbourne	Michael Harvey	VIC
• Aust National 10,000m Track Walk	41:29.71	27-Aug-88	Canberra	Kerry Saxby-Junna	NSW

The most recent Australian records are by **Claire Tallent** (female) and **Declan Tingay** (male).

• Aust National 50km Road Walk	4:09.33	5-May-18	Taicang Prc	Claire Tallent	SA
• Aust U20 10,000m Track Walk	40:49.72	14-Jul-18	Finland	Declan Tingay	WA

Well, just about true, except for one slight tweak, with Swedish walker **Perseus Karlstrom** setting an Australian All-Comers record in 2019.

• Aust Allcomers 5000m Track Walk	18:32.56	8-Mar-19	Melbourne	Perseus Karlstrom	SWE
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Check out all the Australian records at <https://www.athletics.com.au/info-hub/results-rankings-records/#records>

And now to this week's questions – some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

11. What parent/child combinations have both represented Australia in major racewalking competitions (Olympics, World Champs, Commonwealth Games, World Cup, etc)?
12. Who was the first female Australian walker to officially complete 100 miles walking in 24 hours?
13. Which Australian walker has swum the English Channel?
14. Has any Australian competed in both walking and running events at the same Olympic Games?
15. Which Australian walker represented Australia at three IAAF World Junior Championships?

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RACEWALKING IN AUSTRALIA: UP TILL 1940

I am indebted to Athletics Australian statistician **Paul Jenes** for much of the information in this potted history of the early Australasian Track and Field Championships. His monumental tome *Fields of Green Lanes of Gold*¹, published in 2001, tells the story in great detail. My short piece focuses on the racewalks and tries to place them in the wider context.

All results are taken from the website *A History of Athletics in Australia*,² compiled by and maintained by Paul Jenes, Peter Hamilton, David Tarbotton, Fletcher McEwen.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) was founded in 1912 by 17 national athletic federations who saw the need for a governing authority, for an athletic programme, for standardised technical equipment and world records. The IAAF was quick to embrace men's athletics but they dragged their feet with regard to including women.

It was not until 1921 that the IAAF held an international track and field meeting in Monte Carlo for women. This was followed a few months later by the formation of the Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale and the first women's international match was held in Paris between France and Britain. In 1922, the Women's Amateur Athletic Association was formed in Britain and its inaugural championships were held in 1923.

When the modern Olympics were first held in 1896, women had not been allowed to compete, and it was not until 1922 that a first World Games for women (deemed a "Women's Olympics") was held in Paris in 1922. Women would have to wait until 1928 to get their own spot in the Olympics and women racewalkers would have to wait until 1992 before they could compete at an Olympic level.

The Australian Amateur Athletic Union has been asked by the IAAF to take charge of women's athletics, but it was not until 1926 that any form of official women's athletics took place in Australia and that was due to the NSW men's association which included women's events in their 1926 state championships. This was driven by the inclusion of women's athletics in the 1928 Olympics - Australian women needed some sort of official competition to prepare.

This slow acceptance of women's athletics in Australia is unusual, given the success of Australian swimmers Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie in the 1912 Olympics. The stage had been set, women could compete with distinction on the world stage.

The general attitude of the male-dominated society in Australia was not conducive to women's athletics. Many people felt that women would develop muscles and become unfeminine, even masculine. Women were actively discouraged from participating in sport. Nevertheless, there was no stopping the women and by 1928 three women's clubs had affiliated with the NSWAAA as part of men's clubs - Botany, Kensington and St George. In 1929, women's inter-club competition began in Sydney.

South Australia, Queensland and Victoria women also formed their own associations around this time. But it was not always easy. Early in 1929 a delegate from Glenhuntly AAC in Victoria moved that women's events be included in the state championships. The male delegates were shocked and the motion was soundly defeated. The women went their own way, forming the Victorian Women's Amateur Athletic Association (VWAAA) in December 1929. When the women's association tried to affiliate with the men, they were refused on the grounds that they would flourish better on their own. This resulted in Victorian men and women competing in separate associations until the late 1970's when they were finally amalgamated.

The 1930 Australian National Championships in Melbourne were the first without New Zealand and included 3 women's events - 100 yards, 80 yards hurdles and high jump. The 1932 Australian National Championships in Sydney also included a variety of events for women - 100 yards, 220 yards (invitation), 90 yards hurdles, high jump and 4x110 yards relay (invitation).

The 1930/31 season saw the start of inter-club for women in Victoria at 3 venues - Williamstown and Glenhuntly Cricket Grounds and the Royal Showgrounds. It was not until 1936 the the VWAAA was able to get Royal Park from the Melbourne City Council. By 1939 they had a proper cinder track and dressing accommodation there and they competed at that venue until the merger with the men in the late 1970s.

Nationally, the women went their own way, forming the Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Union (AWAAA) in 1932 and taking control of their own destiny. One could write a separate chapter about the prejudices and discriminations that women were forced to face and overcome in their struggle for athletics equality. Suffice it to say, they did overcome them!

1 *Fields of green, lanes of gold : the story of athletics in Australia* / Paul Jenes, Caringbah, N.S.W. : Playright Publishing, 2001

2 See https://athletics.possumbility.com/aust_tf/index.htm

Australian Womens Championships 1932-33
Amateur Sports Ground, Melbourne, 23 & 25 March 1933

One of the AWAAA's first tasks was to organise inaugural Australian Women's Track and Field Championships, which were held in Melbourne in March 1933. Now with a free rein, the program was much more comprehensive – 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 880 yards, 90 yards hurdles, 880 yards walk, high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin and 4x110 yards relay. Entries were small and the cost of travel and time from work during the Depression made it hard for athletes to participate. Nevertheless, the full program was completed, with Victoria and NSW winning five events each.

An 880 yards walk was included on the program and was won by [Mabel Moad](#), a tennis player who had joined Malvern Harriers more for fitness and who had entered a walk as a joke. However, she found she had ability at this event and started to train seriously for it. She finished second in the next three national championships and also won four Victorian track walk titles. She later married well known Victorian athlete and official [Alf Robinson](#) and together they committed a lifetime to athletics. She became president of both the State Association and the National Women's Union from 1962 until amalgamation in 1978. Both she and her husband Alf are life members of the Victorian Race Walking Club, as well as many other organisations. They remain two of the giants of Australian athletics.

880 YARDS WALK - Women - Saturday 25 March 1933			
1	Mabel Moad	VIC	4:00.3
2	Phyllis Hicks	SA	4:04.0
3	Eddie Smith	NSW	4:07.0
4	Elsie Edwards	VIC	4:12.0
5	Emily Neville	VIC	4:12.2
6	Nora Pierce	SA	4:20.0
	Dot Donaldson	NSW	DQ
	Dot Wiltshire	SA	DQ



Mabel Moad competing in the Victorian colours in the early 1930s. She was generally regarded as a near perfect stylist (photo Paul Jenes, Fields of Green, Lanes of Gold)

Mabel's winning 880 yards time of 4:00.3 was granted the status of an inaugural Australian record. However, she may well have heard of young Sydney based prodigy [Lorna Carrington](#) who had been regularly breaking 4 minutes for the 880 yards walks over the previous few years. Lorna had won the 1933 NSW Women's T&F Championships 440 yards walk in a State record of 1:40.3 in February but did not travel to Melbourne for the inaugural Australian Women's Championships the following month.

Australian Women's Track & Field Championships 1934-35
Lang Park, Brisbane, Queensland, 24, 26, 27 April 1935

Lorna Carrington and Mabel Moad finally met in competition at the 1935 Australian Women's Track & Field Championships in Brisbane, and it was Lorna who won out, her winning time of 3:49.0 noted in the papers as the best known time done anywhere in the world. Mabel also bettered her 1933 winning time when finishing second with 3:55.4.

880 YARDS WALK - Women - Saturday 27 April 1935

1	Lorna Carrington	NSW	3:49.0
2	Mabel Moad	VIC	3:55.4
3	Elsie Edwards	VIC	



Lorna Carrington on the left – competing in 1929 (photo Penrith City Council)

**Australian Women's Track & Field Championships 1935-36
Rushcutters Bay Oval 15 January, Sydney Sports Ground, 17 & 18 January 1936**

Positions were the same in the 1936 Australian Women's Championships 880 yards walk in Sydney, with Lorna beating Mabel by just 2.5 yards, with a time of 3:59.2. One of the major problems trying to track down performances in these early races was the practice of only timing the winner. This was the norm, not only in club events but also in championships and did not change for club events until the 1970s.

This would be Lorna's last championship as she married later that year and soon started a family.

880 YARDS WALK - Women - Saturday 18 January 1936

1	Lorna Carrington	NSW	3:59.2	
2	Mabel Moad	VIC		2.5 yards
3	Edith Campbell	NSW		
	Thelma Allison	QLD		
	E.Sayers	NSW		
	Clare Smith	QLD		

**Australian Women's Track & Field Championships 1937-38
Royal Park, Melbourne, 8, 9, 11 December 1937**

With Lorna Carrington off the scene, Mabel might have expected to win the 1937 Australian Women's 880 yards walk in Melbourne, but she was beaten by fellow Victorian **Maisie James**, who won with a creditable 3:55.3. Maisie would go on to win the 1937-1939 Victorian 880 yards walks, with a best time of 3:48.6 recorded in 1938.

880 YARDS WALK - Women - Saturday 11 December 1937

1	Maisie James	VIC	3:55.3
2	Mabel Moad	VIC	
3	Jill Bond	VIC	
	Edith Campbell	NSW	DQ
	Ada Tanner	NSW	DQ

**Australian Women's Track & Field Championships 1939-40
Leederville Oval, Perth, 7, 9, 11 March 1940**

In February 1940, it was reported that Lorna Carrington had died as a result of complications associated with the recent birth of her third child. With this dampener on proceedings, the Championships went ahead. With Mabel Moad now retired, the title was up for

grabs and **Iris Dowsey** of Collingwood Harriers was up to the task. She also won the 1940-1942 Victorian 880 yards walk titles but had not further chance of competing nationally, with the Second World War about to take centre stage.

880 YARDS WALK - Women - Saturday 9 March 1940

1	Iris Dowsey	VIC	3:53.5
2	Elsie Capel	VIC	
3	Jean Gullan	WA	
	Phyllis Howe	WA	
	Emma Clifford	WA	

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2019/2020

Apr 10-13, 2020	Australian Masters T&F Championships, Brisbane (CANCELLED)
Apr 18-19, 2020	Australian Little Athletics T&F Championships, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Apr 18-19, 2020	Australian Centurions 24 Hour Qualifying Walk, Coburg, Victoria (CANCELLED)
Apr 25 (Sat), 2020	VRWC Winter Season Roadwalks at Middle Park (Season Opener) (POSTPONED)
Jun 7 (Sun), 2020	54 th LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne

International Dates

Apr 18 (Sat), 2020	International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (OBVIOUSLY POSTPONED OR CANCELLED)
Apr 19 (Sun), 2020	Hungarian 20km Race Walk Champs, Békéscsaba (OBVIOUSLY POSTPONED OR CANCELLED)
May, 2-3, 2020	29th World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships , Minsk, Belarus (POSTPONED)
May 16 (Sat), 2020	International Racewalking Meet, Naumburg, Germany (20km men and women) (CANCELLED)
May 20 (Sat), 2020	Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain
May 24 (Sun), 2020	Finnish Race Walk Championships, Lapua, Finland, (30km Men, 20km Women)
May 30 (Sat), 2020	Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain
Jun 5 (Fri), 2020	46 th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania
Jun 14 (Sun), 2020	Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km)
Jun 28 (Sun), 2020	Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)
July 17-20, 2020	18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships , Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED)
July 20 – Aug 1, 2020	23rd World Masters T&F Championships , Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)
Sep 26-28, 2020	Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China

Jan 17-23, 2021	Oceania Masters Championships , Norfolk Island
Apr 6-13, 2021	9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships , Edmonton, Canada
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021	32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo (POSTPONED FROM 2020)
Aug 8-19, 2021	World University Summer Games , Chengdu, China
July 15-24, 2021	18th World Athletics Championships , Eugene, USA (POSTPONED FROM 2021)
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022	XXII Commonwealth Games , Birmingham, GBR
Aug 7-17, 2022	24th World Masters T&F Championships , Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 11-21, 2022	European Athletics Championships , Munich, GER

Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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