



## HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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### PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article.

#### ***DON'T SPEAK UP! ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU***

***By Paul F. DeMeester***

On 3 December 2016, a Special IAAF Congress approved two new Constitutions, one to go into effect on 1 January 2017, the other on 1 January 2019. Both document drafts had been circulated to the Member Federations on 2 September 2016 and were the handiwork of new IAAF President Seb Coe, who had taken the reins in 2015. One hundred and eighty-two Member Federations voted to approve the changes; 10 voted no. (See IAAF Press Release of 3 December 2016, *Overwhelming vote for IAAF reform delivered by membership*; available at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-release/reform-vote-congress-2016>.)

Several of the 2019 provisions rendered the IAAF more authoritarian. Such provisions had never been seen before in any IAAF Constitution, going back to the first one in 1913 (then called the Statutes of the IAAF). The new Coe-inspired provisions imposed new duties upon members of the elected IAAF Council:

47.1 *Duties: The duties of each Council Member are to:*

...

- h. except for the President, not speak or make statements publically on behalf of the IAAF unless authorised to do so by the President, or in accordance with delegated authority in writing from the Council or the Executive Board;*

...

- k. not disclose information that the Council Member would not otherwise have available, other than in his or her capacity as a Council Member, to any person, or make use of or act on the information except:*

- i. as agreed by the Council for the purposes of the IAAF;*
- ii. as required by law;*

...

- m. use their best efforts to consult widely with Member Federations, Area Associations, athletes and others who participate and have an interest in Athletics, to keep abreast of the issues facing them. Nothing in this Article waives the duty of confidentiality in respect of information disclosed to them as Council Members under Article 47.1k ....*

(World Athletics Constitution effective 1 January 2019, Art. 47, subdivisions 47.1(h), 47.1(k) and 47.1(m) [the referenced provisions, as well as any constitutional provisions cited below, first went into effect on 1 January 2019 in an earlier version of the Constitution].)

Coe also provided for the suspension of up to 12 months of any Council member who is, in the Council's opinion, in breach of any of their Article 47.1 duties (including the three new duties mentioned above). Repeat or persistent offenders can be removed and their seat (Council members are elected for four-year terms) is not filled until the next election. (2019 Const., Art. 46, subdivisions 46.1(a) (ii), 46.1(c), 46.1(e), 46.2(a)(i) and 46.2(c).)

These provisions may make sense for an employee of World Athletics headquarters (IAAF changed its name after the current Constitution first went into effect). But World Athletics Council members are not employees. "*The role of Council is to govern the sport of Athletics ....*" (2019 Const., Art. 40.1.) Of 26 Council members, eighteen, including the President and the four Vice Presidents, are elected by the Member Federations, each having one vote, United Nations style, at an Election Congress. (World Athletics Rules of Congress, effective 1 November 2019, Arts. 7, 10 and 11.) The six Area Presidents are *ex officio* members; each one having been elected by their Member Federations of the respective Area Associations. The two others are the chair and one other member of the Athletes Commission. (2019 Const., Art. 41.1.) The Athletes Commission is composed of two-thirds membership elected by athletes at World Championships and one-third appointed by the Council; the chair selection is made by Commission members but must be approved by the Council. (World Athletics Governance Rules, effective 1 November 2019, Arts. 5.50 and 5.51; World Athletics Candidacy Rules, effective 1 November 2019, Appendix 3.) Candidates for President, Vice President, Council and Athletes Commission must have been nominated by their Member Federations. (2019 Constitution, Art. 36.2; 2019 Governance Rules, Art. 5.49.2.)

Sorry for the legalese but the point is that Council members are athletics politicians, nominated by their own Federations, elected by colleague athletics politicians and serving terms prescribed by World Athletics law. What the new Coe provisions do is to muzzle Council members from speaking out on issues before the Council. Once an agenda for the next Council meeting is sent to its members, the duty of confidentiality precludes the Council members from discussing it publicly. The secrecy we saw in early 2017 surrounding the proposed elimination of the Tokyo 2020 Men's Olympic 50K Race Walk Event is now the required constitutional norm. So much for the transparency Coe promised as a presidential candidate. Once elected, he introduced authoritarian, dictatorial tools that he first employed in our discipline of race walking. You may recall round two of the 50K elimination proposal in early 2019. Once again, just as had been the case in April of 2017, the Council stood in his way, and refused to rubber stamp the Coe proposals.

Issues of import to athletes should be fully aired. Athletes throughout the world have a right to know where their Council members stand on the topics of the day. Council members should be able to express their opinions without having to fear being suspended or removed when they oppose the President. Debate on those topics should be robust, open and free. Seb Coe should know what that means, having been a member of both Houses of Parliament at Westminster.

Athletics has already paid a heavy price for Coe having done the IOC's hatchet job (think of the proposed 50K elimination and the new World Rankings system as a way to reduce the number of track and field athletes at future Olympics). Previous IAAF Presidents stood up to the IOC. Coe does their bidding, in the so far vain hope that he may become a member of that august body, the International Olympic Committee (IOC). For the sake of athletics, it is important that Council members are allowed to speak out without being constrained by Coe's rules. Given that they are not at this time, I will continue to speak out, whether Coe likes that or not. Come to think of it, Seb Coe could have shut me up by putting me on the Council. Thankfully, I write for *Heel and Toe*, not *Heel to and Toe the Coe Line*.



*From now on, I'll do all the talking*

**ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 4, ACROSS THE WORLD**

The Virtual League Racing Series (<https://nationalendurancecentre.co.uk/challenges>), being coordinated by the National Centre for Race Walking in Leeds, continues to be the dominant weekly virtual walking competition. Round 1 saw 74 competitors from around the world, Round 2 saw 103 competitors and Round 3 saw 126 competitors and this week's round saw 143 walkers in action.

2km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6127>

3km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6128>

Here are the Australians who forwarded their performances.

**2km Age Graded Virtual Race Women**

1	Kelly Ruddick	W45	95.67%	08:33.4
5	Anna Blackwell	U20W	78.14%	09:41.0
10	Lyla Williams	U13W	78.39%	10:27.0
15	Amber Norton	U15W	74.74%	10:38.0
18	Gabriella Hill	U17W	72.00%	10:46.0
20	Emily Smith	U15W	72.58%	10:57.0
31	Milly Sharpe	U13W	67.89%	12:04.9
32	Nyle Sunderland	W50	70.55%	12:05.0
44	Elizabeth Leitch	SW	56.53%	13:23.0
56	Heather Lee	W90	91.33%	16:20.0
61	Paige Tkalac	U13W	27.12%	30:12.0
62	Harmont Tkalac	U13W	27.12%	30:12.0

**2km Age Graded Virtual Race Men**

2	Rhydian Cowley	SM	83.13%	08:18.0
9	William Robertson	U17M	76.29%	09:30.0
14	Owen Toyne	U15M	75.84%	09:51.0
15	Will Bottle	U17M	72.72%	09:58.0
17	Kai Norton	U17M	71.05%	10:12.0
18	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	76.19%	10:13.0
39	Oliver Morgan	U13M	64.51%	12:04.0
59	Shane Pearson	M45	56.17%	13:31.0
61	Rupert van Dongen	M45	54.42%	13:57.0
63	Eugene Gerlach	M45	54.03%	14:03.0
66	Haydn Gawne	M70	67.30%	14:22.0
71	Archie Dixon	U11M	55.28%	14:51.0
73	Sam Lindsey	U13M	51.95%	14:59.0
74	Wayne Fletcher	M60	57.32%	15:07.0

**3km Age Graded Virtual Race Women**

5	Anna Blackwell	U20W	79.79%	14:31.0
10	Lyla Williams	U13W	80.05%	15:40.0
14	Amber Norton	U15W	76.36%	15:56.0
16	Gabriella Hill	U17W	73.48%	16:09.0
19	Emily Smith	U15W	74.04%	16:26.0
28	Nyle Sunderland	W50	71.51%	18:15.0
36	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	75.91%	20:04.0
48	Heather Lee	W90	97.16%	24:30.8

**3km Age Graded Virtual Race Men**

2	Rhydian Cowley	SM	84.52%	12:27.0
9	William Robertson	U17M	77.57%	14:15.0
12	Will Bottle	U17M	74.02%	14:56.0
14	Owen Toyne	U15M	75.04%	15:11.0
15	Kai Norton	U17M	72.25%	15:18.0
16	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	77.51%	15:19.0
35	Rupert van Dongen	M45	64.33%	17:58.9
37	Oliver Morgan	U13M	65.59%	18:06.0
52	Shane Pearson	M45	57.74%	20:01.0
60	Eugene Gerlach	M45	52.37%	22:04.0
61	Wayne Fletcher	M45	50.99%	22:40.0

## MARCIADALMONDO ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 2 press releases for us this week.

- Mon 4 May - AtleticaViva Online - Presentations from Racewalking Seminar  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3791](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3791)
- Wed 29 Apr - The Italian racewaling community mourns 1960 Olympian Luigi De Rosso  
[http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3790](http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3790)

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles

- Sun 3 May - Congratulation Mexican great Carlos Mercenario on his 53rd birthday  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/evocando-carlos-mercenario-no-dia-do.html>
- Sat 2 May - Portuguese Women 2020 Indoor 3000m Walk rankings  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/3000-m-marcha-femininos-em-pista.html>
- Fri 1 May - Inês Henriques turns 40  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/ines-henriques-faz-hoje-40-anos.html>
- Fri 1 May - History of the Urgeiriça Grand Prix 1976-1991 (Portugal)  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/viajando-pelos-grandes-premios-de.html>
- Wed 29 Apr - Ana Cabecinha turns 36 today  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/ana-cabecinha-faz-hoje-35-anos.html>
- Tue 28 Apr - Portuguese Men 2020 Indoor 5000m Walk rankings  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/5000-m-marcha-masculinos-em-pista.html>

## OUT AND ABOUT

- Turkish steeplechase athlete Gülcan Mingir has been found guilty of committing an anti-doping offence at the London 2012 Olympics. Mingir, who just a month earlier had won the 3,000 metres women's steeplechase at the 2012 European Championships in Helsinki, failed to qualify from the heats at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Following a re-analysis of her sample from the event, a positive test for the prohibited substance dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, or turabinol, was revealed. Eleven Turkish athletes have been found guilty of doping offences at London 2012. Does this make them seconded only to Russia in drugs busts from that Games?. Reanalysis of London 2012 samples will continue until August, when the statute of limitations period is reached. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1093705/mingir-doping-offence-london-2012>.
- This is the big announcement we have all been waiting for - After belatedly obtaining the vast data archive from the Moscow anti-doping laboratory last year, WADA investigators focused on a 'target pool' of 298 athletes, putting together evidence packages for other sports authorities to prosecute. Of course the pool of suspect athletes could have been bigger except for the fact that the Russians manipulated the data before eventually handing it over. Don't let them back in! They don't deserve it. See <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-8275179/Up-298-Russian-sports-stars-face-possible-bans-doping-WADA-completes-investigation.html>.
- Kenyan runners Alex Korio Oliotiptip and Mikel Kiprotich Mutai are amongst 4 athletes given provisional suspensions by WADA. Oliotiptip ran as a pacer for Eliud Kipchoge when he broke the two-hour marathon barrier last year and is a 59 minute half marathoner. Nearly 50 Kenyan athletes are currently serving suspensions, according to the AIU database. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1093810/aiu-suspend-four-athletes>.
- UK Athletics has finally handed over to the UK Anti-Doping Agency its full internal 2015 review into Mo Farah's relationship with Alberto Salazar. The report, which is said to include detailed accounts of Farah's training and medical data, came after repeated requests from UKAD to see it as well as an extraordinary rebuke from Ukad's chief executive, Nicole Sapstead, to UK Athletics last month. It is interesting (perhaps coincidental and perhaps not) that Sarah Rowell, who led the UKA internal investigation, is to step down from the UK Athletics board a year earlier than planned. Further, one of the main report contributors, Neil Black, died several weeks ago so no further questions can be made regarding what ever his input may or may not have been. It's a murky world of secrets and there is no guarantee that we will ever get to the bottom of it all. See <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/apr/29/uk-athletics-ukad-review-mo-farah-alberto-salazar>.

## TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

I start with three amendments or clarifications to previous answers.

Firstly way back to question 2.

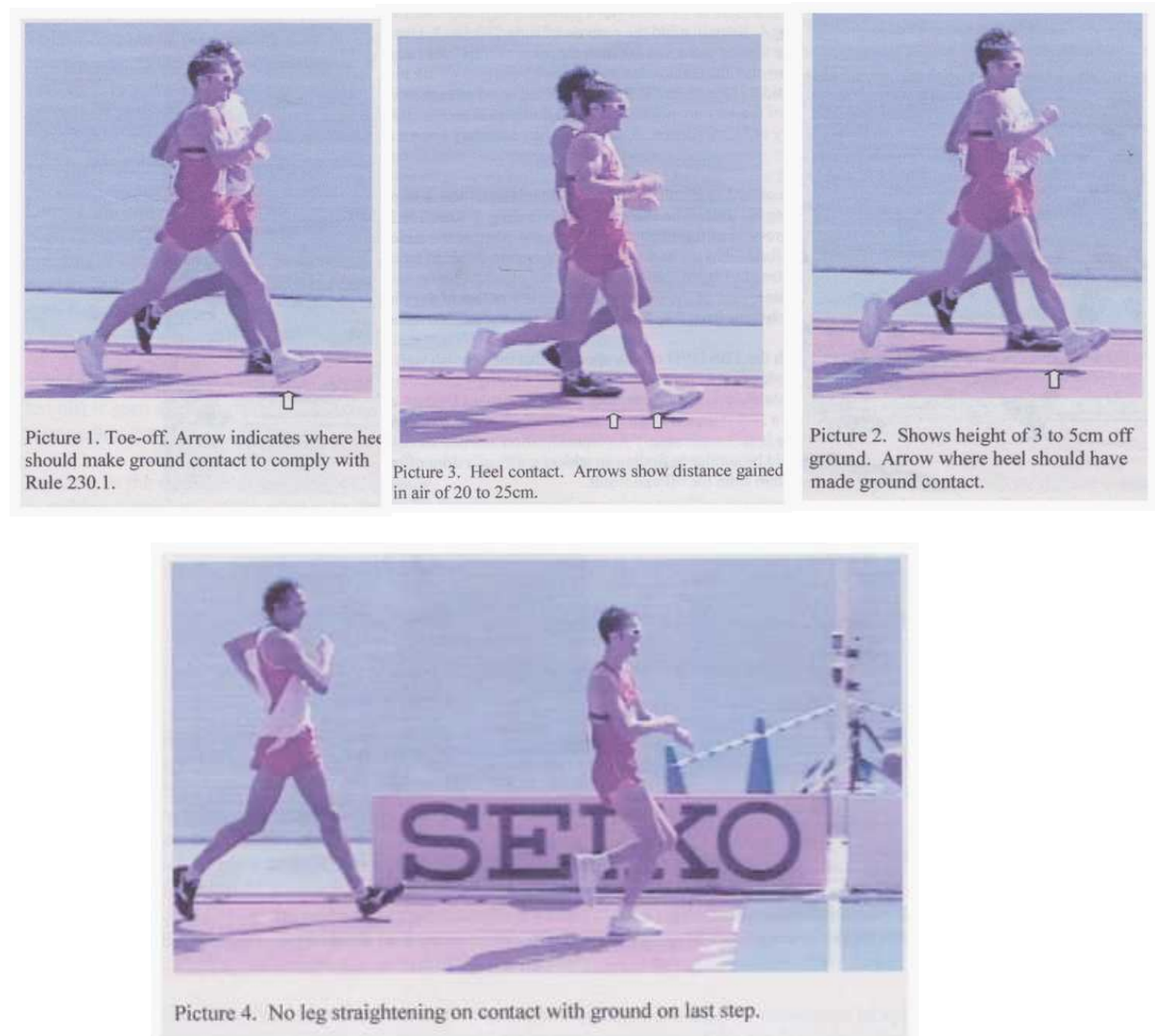
- 2. The 100m rule allows for a walker to be disqualified by the Chief Judge in the last 100m of a race. Did you know that in one major championship, this was done, the athlete lodged an appeal and it was successful, allowing the walker to take the bronze medal? Details please.**

Here was my initial answer:

*The men's 20 kilometres walk event at the 2007 World Championships in Athletics took place on August 26, 2007 in the streets of Osaka, Japan. The event featured a very controversial finish as Paquillo Fernandez, who finished second after overtaking Hatem Ghoula in the final straight, was disqualified after the race for lifting. However, following an appeal by the Spanish team the same day, video evidence was examined and Fernandez was found to have walked in compliance with the rules. He was thus awarded the silver medal.*

I would now like to revisit that question. Ron Daniel was the chief judge for that race and it was he who issued the last-100m disqualification call. In the aftermath of this controversial incident, Daniel wrote an incisive opinion piece labelled *An Expanded Understanding of IAAF Rule 230.3a*, in which he dissected the rule and made a number of very telling observations. But it was the final section, in which he analysed the final 100m as recorded by the Tokyo Broadcasting System, that is the clincher.

First to the four photos which he published.



Now to his analysis.



### An Example of an Advantage in Final 100m:

The following information and pictures are taken from a DVD provided by the Tokyo Broadcasting System of the finish of the men's 20km championship in Osaka.

- Overhead view of last 50m, it runs in real time (same view as on IAAF web).
  - Shows that the Spanish walker is 10m behind the Tunisian walker with 50m remaining.
  - Shows the Spanish walker off ground for last 50m. NQ change of gait but clearly 'straight-legged' running.
  - Shows the Spanish walker stepping on steeplechase start line, the distance from there to finish line is 35.5m and is covered with 25 steps in 6.8 sec.
- Side view close up and in slow motion; last 9 steps.
  - Stop action shows Spanish walker off ground by 3 to 5cm (Pic. 2)
  - Stop action shows Spanish walker gaining 20 to 25cm per step while displaying loss of contact (pic. 1 & 3)
  - Shows Spanish walker not straightening support leg before crossing finish line (Pic.4)

Based on 25 steps in the last 35.5 m, the Spanish walker gained between 7m and 8.8m over the last 50m while off the ground (violation of 230.1). At the finish the Spanish walker was 2m in front of the Tunisian walker; this is a net change of 12m in the last 50m. With a maximum gain of 8.8m off the ground, the Tunisian walker would have been at least 3.2m in front at the finish if the Spanish walker had NOT been off the ground. This is a clear measure of an advantage gained in violation of Rule 230.1 and easily a call for Rule 230.3a to be upheld. Furthermore, by covering 35.5 m in 6.8 sec, the Spanish walker's pace over the last 35.5m is 5.2m per sec. This is unreasonable considering that the Spanish walker's pace for the 20km was less than 4.1m per sec. By comparison, this is a pace of 15:58 for 5000m where the world record is 18:07. This is clearly a closing speed advantage created by the loss of contact step gain.

How easy is this infraction to see? The human eye has sensitivity to movement of approximately 0.02 seconds, Anything faster is invisible to the human eye. With the Spanish walker at a minimum of 3cm off the ground, it takes 0.08 seconds for him to 'fall' back to the ground. When including the time to rise to the 3cm, the total time off the ground of 0.16 sec is eight times longer than the minimum time to be visible; making it visible to the average untrained eye.

...

For Consideration: With the TBS DVD clearly showing that the Spanish walker gained a substantial advantage (in violation of Rule 230.1) during the closing 50m of the Osaka World Championship 20km race walk, one should consider Rule 119. Rule 119, Jury of Appeal, allows for the reconsideration of a Jury decision when "... new conclusive evidence is presented, provided the new decision is still applicable." A reconsideration and new decision would be applicable because it would be similar to finding an athlete guilty of a drug offense years after the competition and deleting him from the official result.

My conclusion – the chief judge's call should never have been overruled by the jury. The wrong man has the silver medal. This should have been re-investigated by the IAAF and rectified. It is a clear case of dereliction of duty. But it is the IAAF we are talking about so are we really surprised!

Secondly, back to question 19. In answering, I said there had only been 5 Australian Centurions who had achieved this dual feat. I forgot **John Smith** who became a centurion in 1978 and who was part of our 1979 World Racewalking Team in 1979. You can read more about John at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-john-smith.pdf>.

### **19. Which Australian Centurions have represented their country in major racewalk competitions**

Tim Erickson	(C13 1976)	Represented Australia 1976-1983
Bill Dyer	(C15 1977)	Represented Australia 1981-1991
John Smith	(C16 1978)	Represented Australia 1979
Robin Whyte	(C29 1996)	Represented Australia 1976
Michael Harvey	(C43 2001)	Represented Australia 1981-1999
Charles Arosanyin	(C46 2003)	Represented Nigeria in the 2006 Commonwealth Games

Finally, an amendment to Answer 20 from last week's newsletter, as per Dave Ainsworth. The question was

### **20. Which English Centurions have represented their country in the Olympics (hint – there are 8 of them)?**

The list of 8 walkers did indeed start with Bill Brown who competed in the 1908 Olympics. But it was not in the 10 MilesWalk but in the 3,500m Walk. Thanks Dave!

And now onto last week's answers.

**21. Who was the Australian woman who first fought local male authorities and completed her State 50km Championship? You won't see her name in the results as the officials of the day refused to acknowledge her performance and refused to put her name in the results.**

South Australian **Lillian Harpur** competed nationally from 1970 to 1983, winning lots of national titles over the shorter distances (overall she placed in national championships on 17 occasions and had 6 Australian Championship victories to her name).

However, her greatest walks were over the longer distances, and were generally unacknowledged and unrecognised. Lillian came to Australia in 1970 from Ireland and in her very first season at the age of 22 and with a young baby, she completed the SA 50 km event in 5:27:11. When I asked Lillian how she had done such a feat in her first season of racewalking, she acknowledged that she had a background of trekking in the dales of Ireland. George White in his book *Age is an Advantage: A History of Veterans Athletics in South Australia* writes

*Earlier in her native Ireland, even as a young child, distance meant little to her as she would often walk up to 60 miles in a day. In fact, on one rather momentous occasion, after a passing motorist had reported seeing a young girl and her dog early in the morning and the same girl about 30 miles away later in the day, the local police felt it was necessary to hold her and her dog in custody until a phone call established that she was just out for a day's walk.*

The officials of that era in SA refused to acknowledge her long walks and never put her performances in the results. Thus the papers never record her performances and the official results never mention her. How tunnel-visioned many people were just a short while ago.

Lillian did not carry on with distance events under such adverse circumstances, only completing the occasional one. What a shame! If she could walk so well over the 50 km distance in her first season, what could she have done if she had had the motivation to keep going. An indication her potential is to be seen in her 30 km time of 2:47:13, achieved on 23 Aug 1981 in the SA State Championship. She was in fact second overall to Peter Fullager and finished just ahead of George White.

Read the full story at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-lillian-harpur.pdf>.

**22. Which Australian walkers have represented Australia at 3 separate Olympics? Has anyone done 4 Olympics?**

Eight walkers have represented Australia at 3 Olympics (in date order)

<b>Ron Crawford</b>	1956, 1960, 1964
<b>Andrew Jachno</b>	1988, 1992, 1996
<b>Nick A'Hern</b>	1992, 1996, 2000
<b>Kerrie Saxby-Junna</b>	1992, 1996, 2000
<b>Nathan Deakes</b>	2000, 2004, 2012
<b>Luke Adams</b>	2004, 2008, 2012
<b>Jared Tallent</b>	2008, 2012, 2016
<b>Chris Erickson</b>	2008, 2012, 2016

Two walkers have represented Australia at 4 Olympics

<b>Jane Saville</b>	1996, 2000, 2004, 2008. She raced 10km in 1996 and 20km in the subsequent Games
<b>Simon Baker</b>	1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996

And special mentions to

**Bob Gardiner** who competed in 1964 and 1968. Was selected for 1972 but had to withdraw from the team with an injury.

**Ted Allsopp** who represented Australia at 2 Olympics (1956 and 1954) but it could just as easily been 5 Olympics. In 1952, 1960 and 1968, he was the unlucky one who missed out even though his performances seemed sufficient for selection.

**Noel Freeman** who took silver in the 1960 Olympic 20km final at 21 years of age, came fourth four years later in the 1964 Olympic 20km but was denied a third chance for Olympic gold in 1968 in circumstances that still wrangle over 40 years later.

**23. Which Australian walkers are/were champion open water swimmers?**

NSW/ACT walker **Ian Rayson** has been one of our top walkers for many years now and has a swag of Australian gold medals and international vests (see <https://athletics.possumbilly.com/athletes/athlete5205.htm>). What you may not realise is that Ian was also a top swimmer while a top junior walker and won a silver medal at the Australian Age Swimming Championships in the 17-18 yr 10km Open Water swim the same year as he represented Australia at the 2006 Racewalking World Cup. *"I had consistently placed in the top 10 at nationals in Open Water swimming but this medal was a highlight of my career, along with breaking the minute for 100m Backstroke."*

At the start of 2008 Ian was forced to make a hard decision. He now realised that he needed to train full-time as a walker if he wanted to keep improving. From 2004 until then, he had swum 5-6 mornings per week (4:30am start). *“People ask why I persisted with swimming for so long and I guess the answer is that I was still improving rapidly in my swimming until 2007, and I wanted to compete in the Olympic Trials. This I did in the 10k Open Water Swim, placing 21<sup>st</sup> and was 18<sup>th</sup> in the 5k. But the big time for swimming was the pool nationals. I retired from swimming after scoring a Bronze Medal at the State Championships in the 5km Open Water swim. This was in my opinion my best ever race, and it was on this note that I retired.”*

Read more about Ian at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-ian-rayson.pdf>.

**Kevin Cassidy** (VIC) has already been discussed in terms of his swim across the English Channel to France. It is one of a number of classic long distance swims that Kevin has successfully completed. In 2017, with his Manhattan Swim, he completed The Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming, a marathon swimming challenge which consists of the following three historically important swims:

- English Channel - 21 miles between England and France.
- Catalina Channel - 20 miles between Santa Catalina Island and the California mainland.
- Swim Around Manhattan - 28.5 mile circumnavigation of Manhattan Island, New York City

Check out his amazing career at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-kevin-cassidy.pdf>.

**Rebecca Henderson** (VIC) is Australia’s top female junior walker and represented Australia in the 2018 Racewalking World Team Championships as a 16 year old. Alas, the coronavirus has meant she has to wait for her 2020 World Team Championships and World Junior Championship walks but she has plenty to keep her occupied as she is also a top junior triathlete and a superb open water swimmer. She won the Victorian Open Water Swim (was it 5km or 10km?) a year or so ago and regularly finishes in the top echelon in the various Open Water swims around Melbourne. It has now come to my attention that I don’t have a profile document for Bec. This is an oversight I must rectify.

**24. What Australian walker lost out on an almost automatic selection for the 1940 Olympics when WWII intervened?**

From 1936 to 1939, NSW walker **Athol Stubbs** was unbeatable on the National arena and his times rewrote the record books. In 1939 he finally took Bill Murray’s long-standing 1 Mile walk record when on 25 February at the Sydney Show Grounds, he won the NSW State 1 Mile title in 6:18.2. This was not only a new State and National record but was the fastest 1 Mile walk time ever officially recorded in the world. Later that same year, he showed his versatility over the longer distances, recording a new National 10,000m walk record of 46:01.0 on August 19 in winning the Australian Amateur Walking Clubs championship ahead of George Knott who recorded 46:10.

At the time the 1940 Olympic Games were finally abandoned, Stubbs was the holder of the World Best for the 1 Mile walk and the Australian Record holder over 1500m (5:59.00), 3000m (13:02.8), 5000m (22:19.0) and 10000m (46:01.0).

Read his profile at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-athol-stubbs.pdf>.

**25. Which Olympic racewalking champion is quoted as enjoying the following eccentric training session: “When time permits, all clothing should be removed for a run round a secluded garden, especially if it be raining at the time.”**

English walker **George Larner** won both the 3500m track walk and the 10 Miles roadwalk at the 1908 Olympics, thus becoming the first Olympic racewalking champion. A policeman by trade, he is quoted in his 1909 book as having one particular eccentric training habit: *“When time permits, all clothing should be removed for a run round a secluded garden, especially if it be raining at the time.”*

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

**26. Which walkers have represented 3 Australian States at national level (in either RWA or AA championships)?**

**27. Which well known Australian racewalking identity was such a keen gambler that he produced a small booklet on how to win at blackjack?**

**28. Which Oceania walkers, currently living in Australia, have represented their native (non-Australian) country in international racewalking competitions?**

**29. Which brother/sister combination(s) have each won Australian Racewalking Championships?**

**30. Which Olympic silver medal winning walker was affectionately known as the “Alma Ata Hippy”?**

Forward your answers to me at [terick@melbpc.org.au](mailto:terick@melbpc.org.au). I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions. Remember you can check out past questions and answers at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.



## JOE MULCAHY – 1932 AUSTRALASIAN 3 MILE WALK CHAMPION

The Malvern Harriers Athletic, established in 1892, is one of Victoria's oldest athletics clubs. Over its long and proud history, it has had many good racewalkers, including the likes of Gordon Stanley, Jim McConchie, Ron Flint, John Salter and Frank Woods but one name stands out.

Malvern Harriers with long memories will remember a framed photograph in the club rooms at the rear of the Malvern Town Hall of a fiercely determined athlete powering along in a walking race. That picture typifies the style, courage and determination of **Joe Mulcahy**, Malvern's greatest-ever walker.<sup>1</sup>



Mulcahy was one of the dominant Victorians in the late 1920's and early 1930's, and represented his State in many of the Australasian Championships of that era. He won 4 medals in the Australasian T&F Championships, culminating in gold in the 1932 Australasian 3 Miles Track Walk, and represented Victoria in the Australasian 7 Miles Championships on 5 occasions, finishing sixth in 1924, second in 1925, fourth in 1927, third in 1929 and second again in 1931.



*The Victorian team at the 1929 Australasian 7 Mile Championships in Adelaide  
Back: Jack Coffey, Jim Gaylor, Frank Scully, Ron Hester  
Middle: Alan Hart, Mr Byrnes (judge), Joe Mulcahy, Alf Robinson (Manager), Aub Eve  
Front: Jack Pretty, Bert Gardiner*

<sup>1</sup> *Running Into History, the history of Malvern Harriers*, by Trevor Robbins, p123

The record books show that Mulcahy took the Victorian 10 Miles titles in 1931 and 1932 and the Victorian 3 Miles Track title on four occasions – 1928, 1929, 1932 and 1933. He also won the Victorian 5 Miles Championships from 1929 to 1932, making 10 Victorian gold medals in all.

He also won titles and handicaps with the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club (VAWC) over a long period.

He was a prolific record breaker. In one 1929 VAWC 7 Miles event, he smashed the Victorian 4, 5, 6 and 7 Miles records. He also set Victorian records during a number of his Victorian 5 and 10 Miles championship wins.

Mulcahy joined Malvern Harriers in the early 1920s and continued to compete at a high level until the mid 1930s. Annual reports during those years highlight his brilliance and consistency and note his 'fine showing' as a member of many Victorian teams.

Gone but not forgotten!

Tim Erickson  
Wednesday 29 April 2020

With special acknowledgement to Trevor Robbins' fine history of Malvern Harriers, *Running Into History*.

## VICTORIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1892 - 1920

A few weeks ago, I published a history of the early Australian Racewalking Championships, from 1890 to 1920 (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RWA-Results/Australasian%20Championships%20Men%201892-1920.pdf>). This week I complement that with the corresponding history of the early Victorian racewalking championships for that same period.

Victoria's first athletics club, the **Melbourne Harriers**, formed in 1890 at a meeting at the George Hotel, St Kilda, where the idea of forming an athletics association had first been raised.

In September the following year, a committee was formed by the Melbourne Harriers to draft the rules for a proposed association. On 8<sup>th</sup> October 1891, the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association (VAAA) was officially formed, at the Port Phillip Club Hotel on Flinders Street. Along with the Melbourne Harriers, the founding members of the VAAA were **Melbourne University, Hawthorn Harriers, Melbourne Grammar School and Wesley College**.

Over the next few years, more clubs were formed and the VAAA expanded across the colony of Victoria.

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1892

The VAAA held its first championships at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in the Easter of 1892, followed by an inaugural Men's 10 Mile Cross Country Championship at Caulfield Racecourse in October of the same year. This marked the official start of amateur athletics in Victoria. State T&F Championships were to be held annually, with the interclub competition that would evolve into today's AV Shield first taking place in 1913.

**Arthur Barrett** of Melbourne Hare & Hound won both walks. Alas, only the winner is recorded so we have no idea how many walkers in total contested these two events. Barrett would go on to become the first Australian racewalking superstar, his 14 Victorian championship gold medals and his 8 Australasian medals over a 12 year career making him one of the most prolific champions in local racewalking history.

Sadly, the results from these early Victorian Championships often only included the first few placings, if that! Further, as was the norm in those time, the winner's time was often the only one recorded for posterity.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 23 April 1892

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	7.55.0
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#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 23 April 1892

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb HH	24.00.2
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### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1893

It became obvious that an Australasian Championship was required, so in 1893 a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the Amateur Associations of NSW, New Zealand and Victoria to hold 'Australasian Championships' every two years, the venue being rotated between the three associations.

The first Australasian Championships were held at the MCG on 9 and 11 November 1893, in conjunction with the 1893 Victorian T&F Championships. With 7 victories, NSW finished ahead of Victoria and New Zealand. One of the notable winners was [Edwin Flack](#) who won the mile in 4mins 44.0secs. Flack was to become Australia's first Olympic competitor and double gold medallist at the 1896 Olympic Games.

Honours in the walks were shared, with **A. Bullock** of NSW winning the 1 Mile event and Arthur Barrett of Victoria winning the 3 mile event.

**3 MILES WALK, Thursday 9 November 1893**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	24.00.2
2.	G.Galloway	New Zealand	
3.	G.Elkington		
	T.Challinor	NSW	DNF

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 11 November 1893**

1.	A.Bullock	NSW	7.13.4
2.	G.Galloway	New Zealand	20 yards
3.	T.Challinor	NSW	

**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1894**

The 1894 Victorian Championships were held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground on the weekend of 15-16 December. The walks were contested as straight finals, with Barrett winning again, to make it 5 golds out of 6.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 15 December 1894**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	7.31.2
2.	Francis Garner	Melbourne	

**3 MILES WALK, Saturday 15 December 1894**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	24.11.4
2.	Francis Garner	Melbourne	1/2 yard
	J.Holt	Walkers Club	DNF

**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1895 (HELD IN 1896)**

The 1895 Victorian Championships were held at the Ballarat Oval in Ballarat on Sunday 27 January 1896. The walks were contested as straight finals, with Barrett again dominant – that made 7 golds out of 8.

**1 MILE WALK, Sunday 27 January 1896**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	7.02.5
2.	Jock Ashworth	Malvern	100 yards
3.	Francis Garner	Melbourne	50 yards

**3 MILES WALK, Sunday 27 January 1896**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	23.17.2
2.	Francis Garner	Melbourne	300 yards
3.	James Paterson	Ballarat	

**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1896**

The 1896 Victorian Championships were held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1896. Since the 1895 Victorian Championships had been held in January 1896, it meant two sets of Victorian Championships in the one Calendar year.

The second Australasian T&F Championships had been held in Christchurch in New Zealand in January 1896 and Barrett, as undisputed Victorian champion, had made the trip across the Tasman. There he had been soundly beaten by New Zealander Francis Creaner who won both walks in convincing style. Up till that time, Barrett had struggled to break 7 minutes for the mile but Creaner's graceful rhythmic style was a revelation to him and he came home determined to emulate it. Soon he was flowing with new found speed and his Victorian title wins that year set new Australasian records of 6:42.0 and 21:36.2 respectively.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 14 November 1896**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	6.42.0	Australasian Rec
2.	J.Holt	Walkers Club		

### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 14 November 1896

- |                   |         |                             |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Barrett | Melb.HH | 21.36.2 Australasian Record |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|

1896 was also significant in Victorian racewalking annals, as it marked the first ever Victorian Roadwalk Championship. The distance was 50 miles, the date was 21<sup>st</sup> April 1896, and the course was out and back along Sydney Road, north of the city of Melbourne. James (Jimmy) McDonald deserves some attention.

Born in Auckland in 1867, Jimmy McDonald learned rowing in New Zealand and achieved some success with the Ponsonby Rowing Club, Auckland. Once he moved to Australia, he joined the Yarra Yarra club about 1890. He was included in the club's crew that won the Victorian champion eights of 1891-92-93. During this period, the club boasted one of the most formidable eights ever brought together in Australia.

During his rowing career, he started in 23 races for 18 wins, 3 seconds and a third. Only once did he finish out of a place.

A versatile athlete and blessed with almost unlimited stamina, he turned his attention to pedestrianism in 1892, joining Hawthorn Harriers and becoming a foundation member of the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club.

He soon gained State honors as a member of Victoria's winning team in a five mile cross country championship in Sydney. But it was in walking that he achieved his greatest heights and this culminated in his great victory in the 50 mile walk in the Sydney Road in 1896 when he established an Australasian record of 10 hrs 9 mins 40 sec.

### VICTORIAN 50 MILES WALK CHAMPIONSHIP, Sydney Road, 21 April 1896

- |                    |             |                             |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. McDonald, James | Hawthorn H. | 10:09:4 (Australasian Best) |
| 2. Ashworth, H P   | Malvern     | 10:38:0                     |
| 3. Miller, William | Ballarat    | 10:58:0                     |
| 4. Haines, F       |             | 11:08:0                     |

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1897

The 1897 Victorian Championships were held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground on Saturday 23 October, with Barrett winning again, making it 11 golds out of 12 Victorian walk championships.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 23 October 1897

- |                   |           |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Arthur Barrett | Melb.HH   | 6.47.8    |
| 2. A.Greig        | Melbourne | 100 yards |
| 3. Reg Purbrick   | Melb.HH   |           |

#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 23 October 1897

- |                   |           |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Arthur Barrett | Melb.HH   | 21.53.0   |
| 2. A.Greig        | Melbourne | 300 yards |
| 3. Reg Purbrick   | Melb.HH   |           |

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1898

The 1898 Victorian Championships returned to the St. Kilda Cricket Ground but Barrett was a notable absentee. By now, he was heavily involved in administrative fields. He was the inaugural club secretary of the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club from 1894-95, and assumed the Vice-Presidency position in 1899 (he went on to hold this position till 1918). He was also a key figure in the new VAAA and one of the driving forces behind the Australasian Association.

In his absence, Nolan and Myers won the walks, albeit in much slower times than Barrett.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Friday 18 February 1898

- |                 |           |        |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. T.Nolan      | Melbourne | 7.06.2 |
| 2. Reg Purbrick | Melb.HH   |        |
| 3. C.Myers      | EMH       |        |

#### 3 MILES WALK, Friday 18 February 1898

- |            |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. C.Myers | MH        | 24.44.0   |
| 2. T.Nolan | Melbourne | 400 yards |

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1899

The 1899 Victorian Championships were held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in October of that year. For the first time, a serious racewalking controversy arose when, in the 3 Mile Walk, the first two finishers (Myers and McDonald) were disqualified. As four of the other walkers failed to finish, the officials had the embarrassing situation of only 1 competitor out of 7 starters completing the race successfully.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 7 October 1899

1.	Reg Purbrick	Melb.HH	7.18.4
2.	C.Myers	EMH	12 yards
3.	James McDonald	Auburn	

#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 7 October 1899

1.	J.Sevior	Malvern	27.56
	C.Myers	EMH	DQ (1st)
	James McDonald	Auburn	DQ (2nd)
	William Miller	Ballarat	DNF
	Reg Purbrick	Melb.HH	DNF
	F.Hedger	Clifton-Northcote	DNF
	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	DNF

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1900

The 1900 Victorian Championships, which were held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in November of that year, saw Arthur Barrett make a welcome return to the track to win a further Victorian Championship title. Unfortunately, his time is not recorded.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Monday 12 November 1900

1.	Reg Purbrick	Melb.HH	7.11.6
2.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	
3.	E.Nicholls	EMH	

#### 3 MILES WALK, Monday 12 November 1900

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	
2.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1901

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1901 was a hugely significant date for the Australian colonies as they collectively became states of the Commonwealth of Australia. Before this date, those who lived in the colonies could identify at 'Australians' at a conceptual level. Now they could state with certainty that they were Australians.

The 1901 Victorian Championships, held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground in November of that year, could now be billed as a State Championship rather than a Colonial Championship meet. This would have been a significant change to the athletes of that period.

For the record, Reg Purbrick won both walks to take his Championship gold tally to four.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Monday 11 November 1901

1.	Reg Purbrick	Melb.HH	6.56.8
2.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	
3.	James McDonald	Auburn	

#### 3 MILES WALK, Monday 11 November 1901

1.	Reg Purbrick	Melb.HH	24.28.2
2.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	
3.	James McDonald	Auburn	

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1902

The 1902 Victorian Championships, which returned to the St. Kilda Cricket Ground in November of that year, saw a significant change for walkers.



Arthur Barrett, along with fellow VAAA administrator R. H. Croll, realising that walking needed formal rules, had submitted a series of propositions to the Australasian Convention of all the amateur associations in Auckland in December 1901. They were there adopted as the formal rules governing racewalking.

1. *That a racing walker must have contact with the ground with one foot during a stride, and with both*
2. *feet at the end of a stride.*
3. *That the heel of the front foot must touch the ground before the back foot leaves it.*
4. *That as the heel of the front foot touches the ground the leg must not be bent, its knee must be locked.*
5. *That the body and head must be kept upright*

These rules stayed in effect in Australia for the next 55 years and the current racewalking rules have changed little in essence from this initial interpretation.

E. Gerlick, after dual silvers in 1900 and 1901, finally broke through to win both walks, showing that persistence does sometimes pay dividends.

**1 MILE WALK, Monday 10 November 1902**

1.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	6.56.4
2.	D.Gill	Melb.HH	60 yards
3.	L.Pomeroy	Melbourne	
4.	M.Dobie	East Ballarat	
	E.Strain	Coburg	DQ

**3 MILES WALK, Monday 10 November 1902**

1.	E.Garlick	Melb.HH	25.54.0
2.	E.Strain	Coburg	60 yards
3.	D.Gill	Melb.HH	
4.	M.Dobie	East Ballarat	

**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1903 (HELD IN 1904)**

The 1903 Victorian Championships travelled to Bendigo, where they were held on New Year's Day 1904. These would be the last Victorian Golds for Arthur Barrett, taking his tally to 14.

**1 MILE WALK, Friday 1 January 1904**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	7.05.2
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**3 MILES WALK, Friday 1 January 1904**

1.	Arthur Barrett	Melb.HH	24.41.0
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A second Victorian 50 Miles Walk Championship was held in 1904, this time on the Scotch College Track. Just as in 1896, Jimmy McDonald won, with a time of 9 hrs 43 mins 2 sec. Reports of the time state that he had a 7 minute refreshment break at the 25 mile mark, and that he was the only finisher. His 50 Miles performance was a Victorian State Record (Track) and an Australasian Best. Further, his intermediate distances for 15 miles upwards were also recognised as Victorian State records.

**VICTORIAN 50 MILES WALK CHAMPIONSHIP, Scotch College, 9 April 1904**

1.	McDonald, James	Auburn	9:43:02 (Aust Best)
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Amazingly, given the interest in long distance walking overseas, no further similar races were held until the 1920's and thus his time stood uncontested for nearly 20 years.

McDonald's interest in the sports of rowing and walking never waned but as time went on, walkers saw more of him as an official than did the oarsmen. When the Victorian Amateur Walking Club was formed in 1921, he immediately joined as an official and was, for many years, one of the Vice Presidents of the club.

**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1904 (HELD IN 1905)**

The biennial Australasian Championships finally returned to the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne in late January 1904 and they provided a fitting farewell for Arthur Barrett who finally broke through to win both the 1 Mile walk and the 3 Mile walk. His winning times of 6:43.8 and 22:53.6 were still competitive even though he was 34 years of age and now an administrator first and an athlete second. This same year, he was awarded life membership of VAAA and announced his retirement from racing.

Barrett was awarded the position of chief walking judge by the Council of the VAAA. In this and various other capacities, he continued in the sport as an administrator for many years and earned further life memberships of the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club (1918) and the Melburnian Hare and Hounds Club.

Victorian walkers had to wait over 12 months before the 1904 Victorian Championships were finally held at Melbourne Cricket Ground (in February 1905). With Barrett now finally gone from the track, the way was opened for new champions.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 25 February 1905**

1.	B.Harrop		7.19.2
2.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	300 yards
3.	Norman Purbrick	Melb.HH	
4.	M.Clark	Melb.HH	
5.	J.Greig		

**3 MILE WALK, Saturday 25 February 1905**

1.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	24.28.4
2.	A.Adams	Melbourne	300 yards
3.	Francis Ferguson	Melbourne	
4.	M.Clark	Melb.HH	
5.	J.Greig		
6.	Norman Purbrick	Melb.HH	

***VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1905 (HELD IN 1906)***

The 1905 Victorian Championships continued the trend of previous years, being held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the following calendar year. Harry Sanneman and A. Ryan won the walks. Alas, the times during these years were generally well outside the standard previously set by Barrett.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 10 March 1906**

1.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	7.14.8
2.	E.Morgan	EMH	
3.	A.Ryan	EMH	
	A.Tye	Unnattached	DNF
	W.Aitken	Essendon	DNF

**3 MILES WALK, Saturday 10 March 1906**

1.	A.Ryan	EMH	23.23.8
2.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	23.33.2
3.	A.Adams	Melbourne	
	A.Tye		DNF

***VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1906***

The 1906 Victorian Championships finally returned to the correct calendar year, being held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in November. Alas, it was a disappointing meet from a walks perspective, with Victor Aitken the only starter in the 1 Mile walk and with the two entrants in the 3 Miles walk failing to finish.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 10 November 1906**

1.	Victor Aitken	Coburg	walkover
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**3 MILES WALK, Saturday 10 November 1906**

The two entrants did not compete

***VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1907***

The 1906 Victorian Championships went to country Victoria, being hosted by Bendigo. Harry Sanneman won both walks, but in quite slow times. After one gold in each of 1905 and 1906, these wins took his gold count to four.

**1 MILE WALK, Wednesday 3 April 1907**

1.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	7.41.0
2.	Harry Abbott	EMH	150 yards

**3 MILES WALK, Wednesday 3 April 1907**

1.	Harry Sanneman	Bendigo	25.41.4
2.	Harry Abbott	EMH	440 yards

### **VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1908**

For the first time, the 1908 Victorian Championship results were more comprehensive and included what was probably a full list of finishers in the walk. The championships had returned to Melbourne and were hosted for the first time at the Melbourne University track in Parkville.

#### **1 MILE WALK, Saturday 25 April 1908**

1.	H.Wigg	Melb.HH	7.14.0
2.	J.Grigg	EMH	
3.	C.Bailieu	Melb.HH	
4.	Harry Abbott	EMH	
5.	J.Fink	Melbourne	
6.	N.Appleton	MUAC	
7.	A.Curtis	Clifton-Northcote	
8.	A.Ryan	EMH	
9.	W.Jennings	Melbourne	

#### **3 MILES WALK, Saturday 25 April 1908**

1.	J.Grigg	EMH	24.45.0
2.	Harry Abbott	EMH	
3.	A.Smith	East Ballarat	
	A.Adams	Melbourne	DNF

### **VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1909**

The Victorian Championships returned to the country in 1909, being held at the City Oval in Ballarat. Sadly, the walking community were still looking for a new talent to come to the fore.

#### **1 MILE WALK, Saturday 3 April 1909**

1.	E.Morgan	EMH	7.23.2
2.	J.Grigg	EMH	
	R.Greville	East Ballarat	DQ

#### **3 MILES WALK, Saturday 3 April 1909**

1.	R.Greville	East Ballarat	25.59.8
2.	J.Grigg	EMH	7 yards
3.	J.Langley	EMH	
4.	G.Dickenson	Ballarat	
5.	E.Morgan	EMH	

### **VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1910**

The Victorian Championships returned to Melbourne Cricket Ground the cricket ground in 1910, with bigger walk fields than previously. A new name appeared in the listings, with William Murray 5<sup>th</sup> in the 1 Mile Walk and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 3 Miles Walk.

#### **1 MILE WALK, Saturday 2 April 1910**

1.	E.Morgan	MUAC	7.05.2
2.	A.Ryan	EMH	5 yards
3.	T.Saxon	Euroa	25 yards
4.	E.Gilbert	SSH	
5.	William Murray	Melbourne	
6.	S.Ferguson	Melbourne	
7.	E.Barnard	EMH	
8.	W.Lewis	East Ballarat	
9.	R.Greville	East Ballarat	
10.	J.Grigg	EMH	
11.	R.Bain		

### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 2 April 1910

1.	A.Ryan	EMH	24.36.6
2.	R.Grevill	East Ballarat	50 yards
=3	R.Bain		
=3	S.Ferguson	Melbourne	
5.	E.Morgan	MUAC	
6.	J.Grigg	EMH	
7.	William Murray	Melbourne	

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1911

The 1911 Victorian Championships, held at the Albert Park Cricket Ground, saw [William Murray](#) winning both walk events in fine style, with times reminiscent of the great Arthur Barrett. Murray, then aged 28, had only swapped from running to walking the previous year and his improvement was quick. With these two wins, he now came to the attention of the wider community, especially since his 1 mile time was a new Victorian and Australasian record, beating Barrett's 1896 time of 6:42.0.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 27 March 1911

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	6.40.8 (Australasian Rec)
2.	E.Morgan	MUAC	
3.	A.Ryan	EMH	

#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 27 March 1911

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	22.38.6
2.	E.Sincock	Melbourne	
3.	J.Grigg	EMH	
4.	Bevan Purnell	Geelong Guild	

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1912

Murray's improvement continued with the 1912 Victorian Championships, held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This time around, he was even faster, winning the titles with records that the general sporting population could hardly credit - his 1 mile time was 6:22.8 and his 3 mile time was 20:56.0. The NSWAAA Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 1912 acknowledged these feats, along with a subsequent World Record time of 14:49.4 over the 3500m distance.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 24 February 1912

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	6.22.8 (Australasian Rec)
2.	R.Bonham	NSW	
3.	C.Bonham	NSW	
4.	A.Hume	Malvern	
5.	W.Millett	EMH	
6.	F.Symonds	Hawthorn	
7.	E.Morgan	MUAC	
8.	L.Welch	MUAC	
9.	M.Smith	EMH	
10.	E.Roberts	Melbourne	
11.	D.Gawler	Carlton	

#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 24 February 1912

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	20.56.0 (Australasian Rec)
2.	C.Bonham	NSW	
3.	R.Bonham	NSW	
4.	W.Millett	EMH	
5.	F.Symonds	Hawthorn	
6.	B.Purnell	Geelong	
7.	G A.Dickinson	Hawthorn	
8.	E.Morgan	MUAC	
9.	M.Smith	EMH	
10.	H.Shovelton	Essendon	

Controversy was quick to follow in his footsteps. The chairman of the Australian Amateur Athletic Union, Mr Richard Coombe had commented "*No man in the world can walk that fast*" and others had joined the chorus. But

Bill was strongly supported by A. O. Barrett, whose records he had just broken. Barrett was the founder of the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club (1884) and was a highly regarded official at this time. He actually judged in the 1912 races and had this to say about the performances:

*It was my pleasure to judge the Amateur Championships held on the St. Kilda Cricket Ground on 24th February, 1912, when W. Murray broke my records in the 1 mile and 3 miles Championships of Victoria, and set fresh records for Australasia. The day was sunny, no wind, and cool. In both those races he walked absolutely faultlessly, and the cheers of the spectators during the last laps must have been as gratifying to him as it was to all of us in the official part of the arena, and only proves what a valuable and noble contest a walking race is in our sports when it is exemplified by a properly trained athlete.*

*The new records he created were one mile in 6 min. 22.8 sec., and later on the same afternoon he walked the three miles in 20 min. 56 sec. For these details I am indebted to the Hon. Sec. of the V.A.A.A., Mr. F. H. Pizzey.*

These 2 performances were so ahead of their time that they withstood all challenges over the next 36 years. When the last Victorian 1 mile and 3 mile walk championships were held in 1948, they still stood as championship records. George Knott walked 21:29.0 to win the 3 mile in 1940 and walked 6:23.2 to win the 1 mile in 1948 – close to but not as good as Bill's 1912 performances.

His performances were duly recognised with 1912 Olympic representation, but he was disqualified in the 10,000m walk, one of a number of victims of overzealous judging.

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1913

Once Murray returned from the Olympics, he put the disappointment behind him and continued his local Victorian athletic career (there were few Australasian titles in those days). He won the Victorian 3 Miles Walk titles in 1913-1915 to make it 5 title wins in a row. He also showed good distance potential, winning the inaugural Victorian 25 mile walk in 1914 in 3:58:15 (a time that stood as the Australasian record for many years, finally being bettered in 1927).

Firstly to the 1913 Victorian Championships which were held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in late March. While Murray was disqualified in the 1 Mile Walk, he bounced back later in the day to win the 3 Miles Walk for the third time in a row, with a good time of 22:54.0.

#### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 29 March 1913

1.	E.Morgan	MUAC	7.11.0
2.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	
3.	J Kenealey	Carlton	
	William Murray	Melbourne	DQ

#### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 29 March 1913

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	22.54.0
2.	E Morgan	MUAC	23.16.2
3.	H Dooley	MUAC	

### VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1914

The 1914 Australasian Championships, held every 2 years, finally returned to Melbourne in January of that year, staged at a new venue called the Amateur Sports Ground. This was what had been previously known as the Friendly Societies Ground and stood on the banks of the Yarra River. This was eventually replaced by what became known as the Motordrome, before finally being redeveloped as Olympic Park. From its development into a world-class stadium in 1951 to its demolition in 2011, Olympic Park was considered the spiritual home of athletics in Victoria, serving as the administrative headquarters of the VAAA and then AV for much of that time.

NSW walker **Alfred Pickard** won both Australasian Championship walks, holding off title holder Bill Murray in each race, winning by 12 yards (1 Mile) and 3 yards (3 Miles) respectively. This was the only time his name appears in Australian championship results. He was a new walker on the block but his budding career was to be cut short by the coming war.

The 1914 Victorian Championships followed 2 months later, at the same Amateur Sports Ground venue.

**Lloyd Cox**, who had been second in the 1913 Victorian 1 Mile Walk, went one better in 1914, winning gold by the small margin of 1 foot from Murray. The positions were reversed in the 3 Miles Walk, with Murray first (his fourth win in a row in this event) and Cox second. Cox had finished behind Murray in third place in both the 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks in the 1914 Australasian Championships 2 months earlier, so it was no surprise to see him going head to head with Murray in the Victorian Champs.



**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 28 March 1914**

1.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	6.55.0
2.	William Murray	Melbourne	1 ft
3.	F. Lloyd	Hawthorn	

**3 MILES WALK, Saturday 28 March 1914**

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	23.02.0
2.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	
3.	N. Dooley	MUAC	

Two new Victorian walk championships were added in 1914, a track based 10 Mile and a road based 25 Miles. Both titles went to Murray, as expected. Never mind the distance, Murray was the master.

**10 MILES, Saturday 18 April 1914**

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:21.32.4
2.	Edward Drayton	VAWC	1:28.15.0
3.	J.Smirl	Hawthorn	1:29.07.5
4.	R.Hodgson	Clifton & Nth	
5.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	

**25 MILES WALK, Saturday 17 October 1914, Richmond**

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	3:58.15.0
2.	Edward Drayton	VAWC	4:05.10.5
3.	N.Dooley	MUAC	4:09.07.6

<b>VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1915</b>
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The 1915 Victorian Championships were once again held at the Amateur Sports Ground and, once again, it was Cox and Murray who spared the spoils in the walks. Murray, now only 1 month short of 33 years, showed that he had lost little of his speed with another very good 3 Miles Walk time of 22:24.2.

**1 MILE WALK, Saturday 27 March 1915**

1.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	6.57.5 2
2.	R.Russell	Carlton	

**3 MILES WALK, Saturday 27 March 1915**

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	22.24.2
2.	W.Pitt	Hawthorn	
3.	H.Dooley	MUAC	

The Victorian 10 Miles walk, contested two weeks later, saw yet another title to Murray.

**10 MILES WALK, Saturday 10 April 1915**

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:19.08.3
2.	Edward Drayton	VAWC	1:23.55.0
3.	J.Smirl		1:24.42.5

With Australia entering the First World War in August 1914 and with the Anzac Cove debacle to hit the headlines later in April 1915, the athletes must have guessed that this would be the last Championship meet for quite some time. But few of them would have guessed correctly that the hiatus would last 5 years.

The first casualty of war was the 1915 Victorian 25 Mile Walk which was scheduled for later in the year. It did not proceed.

<b>VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1916 - 1919</b>
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There were no Victorian Championships conducted between 1916 and 1919 due to World War 1

"Lest We Forget"

## VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1920

The outbreak of World War 1 had put an end to further sporting aspirations for Murray and all other Australasian walkers, and he was one of the many who enrolled in the Armed Forces. It was not until 1920 that Victorian Championships were resumed, but by then, Bill was 38 years of age. The venue chosen on this occasion was Scotch College.

Despite his age, he still won the 1920 State 1 Mile Walk and 3 Miles Walk championships, albeit in slower times (7:05.8 and 24:20.6) than in previous years. That made six Victorian 3 mile titles in a row (1911-1915, 1920). He now stood second only to Arthur Barrett who won that same title on 8 occasions between 1892 and 1903.

### 1 MILE WALK, Saturday 13 March 1920

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	7.05.8
2.	Leslie Mudge	Melbourne	
3.	Thomas Radich	Carlton	

### 3 MILES WALK, Saturday 13 March 1920

1.	William Murray	Melbourne	24.20.6
2.	Leslie Robinson	Carlton	
3.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	

## 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

Jun 7 (Sun), 2020	54 <sup>th</sup> LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

### International Dates

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 (POSTPONED - TBA)
May 24 (Sun), 2020	Finnish Race Walk Championships, Lapua, Finland, (30km Men, 20km Women)
Jun 5 (Fri), 2020	46 <sup>th</sup> International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (TENTATIVELY POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
Jun 14 (Sun), 2020	Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km) (CANCELLED)
Jun 28 (Sun), 2020	Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)
July 17-20, 2020	18 <sup>th</sup> World Athletics U20 T&F Championships, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED - TBA)
July 20 – Aug 1, 2020	23 <sup>rd</sup> World Masters T&F Championships, Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)
Sep 26-28, 2020	Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China
Sep 26 (Sat), 2020	International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)

Jan 17-23, 2021	Oceania Masters Championships, Norfolk Island
Apr 6-13, 2021	9 <sup>th</sup> World Masters Indoor T&F Championships, Edmonton, Canada
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021	32 <sup>nd</sup> Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo (POSTPONED FROM 2020)
Aug 8-19, 2021	World University Summer Games, Chengdu, China

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

Aug 2023 (TBC)	19 <sup>th</sup> World Athletics Championships, Budapest, Hungary
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